

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, May 12, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chairman
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Michael Griswold (arrived 7:56 p.m.)
Frank Infante
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand

Administrators Present:

David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Also Present:

Emily Oliver, Student Board of Education Representative

Audience Members Present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; and one citizen.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

W. Order led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

Kelly Young of 35 Tedford Drive came as a member of the Board of Directors of the CECC. She read the mission statement of CECC. She reviewed the most recent history of the relationship between the preschool and the Coventry Public Schools. She said the CECC Board believes the adoption of the program into the schools would benefit the children and community. She continued to talk in favor of the program and of the Board considering its inclusion in Coventry Public Schools.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone talked about the passed referendum and the amount of effort that goes into the budget process. He thanked staff and the Board. He continued to give thanks for the efforts given on behalf of the NEASC accreditation visit. He also noted other items taking place in and around the district.

IV.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Miss Oliver said that Friday is the last day of the AP testing, the Junior Prom is Saturday and she also talked about upcoming sporting events.

IV.B. Information: 2015-2016 Administrators' Goal Achievement Update

IV.B.1. Business Office

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Carroll, who reviewed the goal achievements for his department (which are available on the district's website).

(M. Griswold arrived at 7:56 p.m.)

J. Beausoleil talked about the athletic expenses for parents. She also commended Mr. Carroll for the outstanding budget preparations this year. She noted the extra work that went into the development of the budget and answering additional questions this year.

IV.B.2. Technology

Ms. Drury presented the Technology Department's goal achievements for the 2015-16 school year (available on the district's website). She shared a slide show presentation that highlighted several areas of focus.

W. Oros gave kudos to Ms. Drury and the entire department for all of the efforts and advancements made. J. Beausoleil said the department is light years ahead of where it was five years ago. M. Kortmann said the amount that has been accomplished during the first year of Ms. Drury's leadership is amazing. Mr. Petrone also agreed with all of those comments.

J. Beausoleil asked about back up strategy and plan for the district's data and also the security infrastructure for that data. She also added that there is a lot of professional development for teachers and wants to be sure that IT staff members also have the training they need.

M. Griswold noted that technology is a huge part of the world we live in. He asked about the difference between students who have accessibility to technology at home vs those who do not. Ms. Drury talked about the assistance that is provided to students who might be in need. Mr. Petrone noted the percentage of students who do not have access at home is very low.

Ms. Drury said the district is doing things that will build up the skill set of all of our students. Mr. Petrone added further thoughts on how Coventry is keeping students up to speed. M. Kortmann talked about professional development for teachers and how important it is in working with the students.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

W. Oros asked if any Board member wanted to discuss an item separately. J. Beausoleil asked that the GRIDIRON item be removed for discussion.

V.A. Approve the 2015-2016 Tuition Rate for Non-Resident Students at \$14,044

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda without the GRIDIRON item

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.B. Approve the Annual GRIDIRON Sponsorship Advertising Proposal

MOTION: Approve the annual GRIDIRON Sponsorship Advertising Proposal

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted banners are not consistently removed after games. M. Kortmann asked that the request be updated for next year to reflect current businesses.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

W. Oros noted upcoming dates for Board members to remember, including the spring staff recognition celebration on May 26. He also talked about the progress the schools have made in the last few years. He thanked all of the parents for their support and for getting people out to vote.

VII. Communications

Mr. Oros noted that the Board has been invited to the grade eight promotion ceremony on Friday, June 10 at 8:15 a.m.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of April 27, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 27, 2016

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: M. Sobol

Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted page 2 of 6, the third paragraph under the 3D Printing item, and asked that the sentence read as follows: "J. Beausoleil noted how rewarding it is to see young women excited to be involved in the program, especially since this is the age when young women start to leave technology."

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted change passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information and possible VOTE: CECC Board of Directors' Request

Mr. Petrone noted different areas of the CECC operations for the Board to consider. Mr. Petrone added that he suggests the Board wait on a vote to have time to digest all of the information presented.

M. Kortmann asked about the insurance line. Mr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll explained the cost of insurance for the CECC staff and how it would look if they became part of Coventry Public Schools. M. Kortmann talked about the pension plans. The Board talked about tuition costs for residents vs non-residents.

W. Oros reiterated that this is supposed to be a stand-alone unit that should be self-sufficient financially. J. Beausoleil said, if there is a shortfall it cannot come out of the BOE operation budget. She also wants to be sure the funds are separate and the Board has full access to those.

J. Beausoleil and M. Kortmann said there will need to be some Board level policies created for the preschool level.

The Board members gave their individual levels of positive support noting what information they would like to see before a vote happens and before a school year is chosen in which this could take place.

J. Beausoleil continued to talk about how a transition would need to take place and if this does happen there would be a morphing of the program into the next "generation" of the program; it would not look exactly the same as it does now.

W. Oros asked Board members to email questions to Mr. Petrone.

The Board continued to talk of how the program would work financially.

IX.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: iPad Replacement Plan

Ms. Drury was introduced to share her slideshow presentation on the district's iPad replacement plan. The Board discussed the difference between a 3rd party buying older iPads vs CHS seniors buying the iPads they have been using.

F. Infante talked about the added costs of the iPads to the budget annually and asked if there was any savings realized with the addition of the iPads. Mr. Petrone talked to that point, noting several items.

E. Marchand said this is the cost of education and it is what the world is doing; it is not an option.

J. Beausoleil talked about the savings that is seen, like printing and hours staff spent on items that are now handled through this technology.

M. Griswold asked about the option of students purchasing the iPads at year one. Mr. Petrone said the district needs to maintain control of the devices and what is on the devices.

The Board thanked Ms. Drury for her time.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Meeting of May 12 Report

M. Sobol reviewed the discussion of tonight's Fiscal meeting. He noted the Open Gov item and that the Board would wait a year, because it has not been budgeted for and to see how it works for the Town. In addition, the Board would ask for data related to users of the system over the year.

J. Beausoleil summarized the Open Gov program and noted that the Board is already required to have transparencies and this would just be an additional item that may not be worth it financially.

M. Sobol talked about the changes to CEN. Mr. Carroll said, what has been at no cost to districts, will now require districts to pay for internet access.

Mr. Carroll wanted to note that the Food Service Director has asked to combine May and June as the last operating month of the fiscal year. The Board was in agreement.

XI. VOTE: Executive Session (Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to discuss Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non Union Employees

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session - The Board will return to Open Session to VOTE on the Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 11:34 p.m.

MOTION: To Authorize the Superintendent to enter into terms of conditions of employment for the following non-union positions Director of Finance and Operations, Executive Assistant, Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Educational Technology, Educational Technology Project Manager, Data Management Specialist, Athletic Director, Food Service Director, Network Administrator/Systems Specialist, Senior Technology Technician, Database and Systems Specialist, Director of Physical Plant

