

**Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut**

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, June 9, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:31 p.m.:

Board Members Present:

William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chairman
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Michael Griswold
Frank Infante
Eugene Marchand

Board Members Absent:

Mary Kortmann

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Beth Pratt, Food Services Director; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; and Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed all of the different activities taking place throughout the district at the end of the year. E. Marchand asked about the Future Problem Solvers group. Mr. Petrone said we will be recognizing the group on June 23.

IV.A. Information and Recognition: Student Board of Education Representative Report (Last of the School Year)

Mr. Petrone thanked Emily publicly for her hard work this year.

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

IV.B.1. Food Service

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. Pratt who shared the goal achievement report for the Food Service Department for 2015-16. (This document is also available on the district's website.)

M. Griswold asked about food additives and if there are any plans to reduce those. Ms. Pratt talked about using more plant-based items and scratched cooked items. She said unfortunately when those items are on the menu, the participation has gone down. M. Griswold continued to advocate for the health benefits behind removing additives. Ms. Pratt said that could be an item to address.

J. Beausoleil asked that the Board members be added to the wellness emails that are sent weekly.

F. Infante talked about sodium and Ms. Pratt also added to that, saying right now the school nutrition folks say we are at a good place.

M. Sobol asked if the social media utilization was new this year. Ms. Pratt replied yes. M. Sobol said it was a great initiative.

J. Beausoleil said the department is leagues ahead of other districts. She gave Ms. Pratt commendations.

IV.B.2. Coventry Grammar School

Ms. Moyer shared the CGS Goal Achievement report for the 2015-16 school year. That document is available on the district's website.

M. Sobol noted the outstanding work that is done at the kindergarten level.

W. Oros noted the professional development that is being provided and that it makes a true difference.

IV.B.3. G. H. Robertson School

Dr. Giller reviewed the GHR Goal Achievement presentation for the 2015-16 school year. That document is available on the district's website.

W. Oros talked about the TEAM program.

F. Infante asked about parent participation over the past few years. Dr. Giller said she believes it is good, especially the celebration events. Mr. Petrone talked about the positive parent turnout and support of the schools.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the resignation of Kristine Person, Speech and Language Pathologist

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

W. Oros noted that school closes tomorrow. He also added that graduation is Saturday at 10:00 a.m. He recognized the hard work that went into the CHS Senior Awards Night. He thanked Frank Infante for presenting as a Board member; noted that over \$52,000 was raised; and that the Dollars for Scholars group is looking for volunteers.

VII. Communications

J. Beausoleil thanked the parents and community members working hard on Project Graduation. She said it is a yearlong effort and she thanked them for their efforts.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of May 26, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 26, 2016

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes 5-0-1 (M. Griswold abstains)

IX. Old Business

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

Mr. Petrone noted the Town Council moved the item to their Finance Committee for consideration. He recommended that the Board table the item until there is more information from the Council.

E. Marchand asked about the initial reaction from the Council.

J. Beausoleil said she was at the meeting and noted that the Council wanted more information on the original creation of the account. She also said there were questions about why the Board was wanting to take this on. She said the decision of the Council was to move it to the Finance Committee and for that Committee to report back to the Council.

M Sobol asked if there was a deadline for things to move forward. Mr. Petrone said if you get too deep into July it can be problematic.

J. Beausoleil asked if we could authorize, by consensus, the superintendent to send communication to the Town noting the appreciation of due diligence, but the Board must have a decision by a certain date. The Board continued to discuss this scenario. Mr. Petrone said the MOU is thoughtfully written and is in the spirit of the language of the original Town Council motion regarding the account.

Mr. Petrone said he could touch base with the Town noting that a decision is needed so the Board can move forward or not.

F. Infante said he believes the Council wants to make an informed decision and review what possible concerns there are.

The Board continued to discuss different costs and how those might be addressed. Mr. Petrone talked to those items saying the program would be self-sufficient with no burden to the tax payer. F. Infante wondered what the future would bring to the tax payers if a future Board voted to eliminate the tuition portion. J. Beausoleil said if the budget allowed such a huge increase, there would be so many other programs that would come before a public provided preschool. She said it would be highly unlikely that tuition would be removed and she would not support that.

The Board discussed mandates from the state and noted there is not a current pending mandate to provide preschool.

Mr. Petrone wanted to make sure everyone knows that special education costs related to preschool will always be in the district's public budget; that is the law.

J. Beausoleil reviewed the MOU that is before the Council for approval. W. Oros also added to that saying it is a safe way to be sure everyone is on the same page. J. Beausoleil added that it clarifies the intent behind the details of the meetings and all agree to those details of how that account should be managed.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report - Meeting of June 9, 2016

M. Sobol began to review the meeting of the Fiscal Committee.

MOTION: To add to the agenda a discussion and possible vote of sending a request to the Town Council to add to the 1% non-lapsing account

By: J. Beausoleil

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

M. Sobol said one of the items discussed at Fiscal was looking at the bottom line for the year. He said one recommended option is to add to the 1% account. F. Infante asked where the funds were coming from. M. Sobol and Mr. Carroll reviewed the areas and accounts that have resulted in un-expended funds. W. Oros and J. Beausoleil reviewed the benefits of transferring funds to the 1% account.

MOTION: To give authorization to the Superintendent to send a letter of request to the Town Council asking to transfer \$100,000 into the Board's 1% non-lapsing account

