

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, June 23, 2016  
Administration Building Conference Room

**Attendance Taken at 7:20 p.m.:**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Michael Griswold

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Jeff Spivey, CEP Teacher; Parents; Students. The Journal Inquirer was represented.

**I. Call to Order**

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 noted that graduation went incredibly well. He also thanked parents and volunteers for their work on Project Graduation. He talked about the 5th and 8th grade promotion ceremonies. He thanked all of the staff members for all of their efforts. He continued talking about other events happening in and around the district.

J. Beausoleil thanked the custodians and high school staff for their extra effort in packing up graduation after the rain started.

**IV.A. Recognition: Coventry Future Problem Solvers with Jeff Spivey, CEP Teacher**

Mr. Petrone congratulated the Future Problem Solvers team and this year's accomplishments. He introduced Mr. Spivey who spoke about the trip Coventry students took to Michigan to participate in the International Competition for Future Problem Solvers. Mr. Spivey talked about the students and the different activities they took part in.

J. Beausoleil noted the hard work the students put into the program and Mr. Spivey's efforts. She also talked about the FPS program and how special it is.

E. Marchand said he is proud and impressed with the extra effort that Coventry educators make.

Mr. Petrone presented each student with a small token of the Board's appreciation.

#### **IV.B. Information: Teaching and Learning Goal Achievement Update 2015-16**

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. Mullaly who thanked her fellow administrators, Mr. Petrone and the Board of Education. She shared the Teaching and Learning Goal Achievement Update for the 2015-16 school year. That document is available on the district's website.

M. Kortmann talked about the goal ratings. Ms. Mullaly talked about the work of the Math Improvement Plan team. Mr. Petrone said that this is a learning process and the State is making changes continually.

There was further discussion about the process and what the administrators are focusing on as the district moves forward.

Ms. Mullaly's presentation also included a video that was created by Coventry's teachers and administrators who were involved in the coherence workshops this school year.

J. Beausoleil commented on the greater focus of collaboration of classroom staff over the past few years.

#### **V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

J. Beausoleil asked that item B the retirement of Theresa Bitwinski be removed from the consent agenda.

**V.A. Accept the resignation of April Arpin, CGS Teacher**

**V.C. Accept the resignation of Sally French, CNH Cafeteria Worker**

**V.D. Accept the resignation of Jeremy Lapointe, CHS Teacher**

**V.E. Accept the resignation of Katie Nelson, CEIS Para-educator**

**V.F. Accept the resignation of John Wetmore, CHS Teacher**

**V.G. Accept the resignation of Emily Wilk, CHS Teacher**

**MOTION: Approve the remaining consent agenda items**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**V.B. Accept the retirement of Theresa Bitwinski, CGS Teacher**

**MOTION: To approve the acceptance of the retirement of Theresa Bitwinski with regret**

**By J. Beausoleil**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil commented on the number of years of outstanding service of Ms. Bitwinski. W. Oros talked about the level of hard work that is done by kindergarten teachers.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **VI. Report of Chairman**

W. Oros reviewed upcoming dates and also commented on graduation and his message to graduates.

W. Oros also noted various accomplishments of the district throughout this school year, including the CAFE award received by the Board, the budget referendum passing on the first vote, the number of grants received in relation to the size of our district, the curriculum work being done, Coventry High School being ranked as one of the most challenging districts in the state, partnerships with different universities, and the growth of the technology department.

## **VIII. Approval of Minutes**

### **VIII.A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of June 9, 2016**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 9, 2016**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Sobol**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **IX. Old Business**

### **IX.A. Information and VOTE to adopt the final 2016-17 budget**

**MOTION: To adopt the final 2016-17 budget of \$27,141,365 a 1.23% increase**

**By: J. Beausoleil**

**Seconded: M. Sobol**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

### **IX.B. Information and possible VOTE: CECC Board of Director's Request**

J. Beausoleil said she accompanied Mr. Petrone to the Town Council meeting on Monday evening. She said questions were answered in advance of the meeting, with the hope additional items could be answered that evening and the proposed MOA could move forward. She continued to review the discussion at the Town Council meeting. She said in the end the item was moved back to the Town Finance Committee.

J. Beausoleil noted that the Board does not need the Council's approval, but just wanted to be sure all were in agreement in how the existing preschool account would be used.

The Board considered different reasons why the Council may not have approved the MOA and wished there was an answer one way or another.

Mr. Petrone further reviewed the reason for the MOA.

M. Sobol asked who might be comfortable with moving forward without the MOA. There were several Board members who were not comfortable with that. J. Beausoleil said the intended use of that account needs to be assured.

M. Sobol asked about the implementation date if the Board is not able to vote an approval in June or July; would a mid-year takeover be an option. Mr. Petrone said he would truly have to look at all of the details, but a mid-year switch over would not be a viable option.

Mr. Petrone said we are no longer in a position to thoughtfully plan out a merger to have the right structures in place for 2016-17.

E. Marchand noted there is no liability to the town or the budget and it is disappointing that the MOA was not approved in a timely fashion - especially knowing there did not seem to be any outstanding questions left unanswered.

## **X. Report of Board Members**

### **X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report Special Meeting of June 23, 2016**

#### **X.A.1. Discussion: 2015-16 Budget**

#### **X.A.2. Discussion: 2015-16 Tuition Revenue from Nexus Districts**

#### **X.A.3. Discussion: 2016-17 Special Education Outplacements**

#### **MOTION: To add a vote for transfers to the agenda**

**By: M. Sobol**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

M. Sobol reviewed the Fiscal Committee meeting, including his recent communication to the Town Finance Committee Chair asking for dates for a joint meeting. He said he is looking forward to collaborative discussions.

#### **MOTION: To transfer a total of \$68,000 from 100 salaries divided as follows: \$12,000 to 200 benefits; \$35,000 to 600 supplies; \$21,000 to 700 property**

**By: M Sobol Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: W. Oros said this is due to Board policy and that certain categories cannot be overspent by the end of the year. F. Infante asked for more specifics regarding the transfers. M. Sobol talked to those items. M. Kortmann noted that the salaries account was able to cover the other line items. J. Beausoleil talked about budgeted vs actual items and that the budgeted figures are not changed, but the actuals are. W. Oros talked about the different reasons for overages.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

M. Sobol went on to review the remaining items that the Fiscal Committee discussed including the unanticipated revenues that the Town will receive due to tuition funds coming in that the schools invoiced to the districts for special education services we provided. He noted the Town did not approve for the schools to receive these funds.

E. Marchand noted this is the first time the Town Council has not approved to push through tuition revenue to the school budget; funds due to the schools for invoices sent to other towns for services the schools provided.

Mr. Petrone noted the amount of time that is spent on invoicing the towns.

J. Beausoleil asked that once the final figures are set, the Board could respectfully request that the Town Council unfreeze CIP items equal to the same invoiced amount. She said we should wait to see what the real number is and forward a request at that time.

F. Infante asked for clarification regarding how and why the reimbursement process works. Mr. Petrone, Ms. Beausoleil and Ms. Kortmann answered those questions.

Mr. Petrone noted the projections for 16-17 indicate we are possibly looking at a deficit due to unexpected placements in the amount of \$160,000. J. Beausoleil said this could change, but we have not even started the school year.

The Board talked about different scenarios if the outplacements do not change.

## **XI. VOTE: Executive Session (Bargaining Unit Negotiations)**

