

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Special Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 19, 2017
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:22 p.m.:

Board Members Present:

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

Board Member Absent:

Frank Infante

Administrators in Attendance:

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

Audience Members Present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Todd Giansanti, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; and one CHS student - Anthony Tata.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

Anthony Tata, CHS Student, led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Information and Discussion: FY2018 Budget Presentations Continue

IV.A.1. Coventry Grammar School

Ms. Moyer shared the Coventry Grammar School proposed budget for FY18.

W. Oros asked about the administrator professional develop funds that were eliminated. Ms. Moyer said she has found alternative and less expensive professional development. Mr. Petrone noted much of this is happening in-house to the credit of Ms. Mullaly and Ms. Drury.

J. Beausoleil asked how much the RazKids math program costs. Ms. Moyer said just about \$3,000 and noted it is covered by the PTO. J. Beausoleil said this should be in the Board's budget. M. Sobol agreed. J. Beausoleil asked for further information so the Board could consider it.

M. Sobol agreed saying it is not right that the PTO is funding a curriculum item. He would like to see it moved to the Board's budget.

E. Marchand noted many of the parent funded items are important. He does not want to rule out that the PTO funds it, if they feel strongly about it .

Mr. Petrone added that this aligns to the reading program and is curricular.

E. Marchand asked for explanation of the SRBI intervention reduction. Ms. Moyer talked about that item and she adjusted the line according to the actual needs in all areas.

M. Kortmann asked about the FTE shifts. Ms. Moyer said there is a possibility of shifts due to special education needs.

IV.A.2. G. H. Robertson School

Dr. Giller reviewed the proposed G. H. Robertson School budget for the 2017-18 school year.

M. Kortmann asked about the copier increase. Mr. Carroll noted this addresses the need for a larger machine. The Board talked about this item and Mr. Petrone also addressed the need.

IV.A.3. Capt. Nathan Hale School

Ms. DeJulius reviewed the proposed FY18 budget for the Capt. Nathan Hale School.

M. Minor asked about the FPS line and what items the budgeted amount funds. Ms. DeJulius talked to that point and that it covers registration. J. Beausoleil said that she is glad to see the FPS as a regular budgeted program.

E. Marchand asked about the 430 account decrease. Ms. DeJulius said the cost is shared with the high school so that is now reflected in the budget.

IV.A.4. Coventry High School

Mr. Blake shared the proposed FY18 Coventry High School budget.

E. Marchand asked about the weight room. Mr. Blake said it has been cleaned up and he, Mr. Petrone, and Mr. Trudelle have been working through the issue and trying to develop a plan. Mr. Petrone talked to the equipment that has been purchased but noted the room needs a new location.

J. Beausoleil asked about the Virtual High School line item reduction. Mr. Blake noted that is the computer education program, not VHS. The Board talked about the VHS seats and needs.

J. Beausoleil asked about the reduction in the tuition line item. Mr. Carroll talked about that item and said the number of students attending out of district schools has decreased. The Board talked about the vocational agricultural program requirements.

W. Oros thanked the administrators for their presentations and hard work.

J. Beausoleil asked about materials for upkeep at the CGS playground and if it is covered in the facilities budget. W. Trudelle confirmed it was.

IV.B. Information: Revenue Discussion (ECS/MORE Info)

W. Oros reviewed the situation regarding reduced funding from the State and that the Town Council is looking for options from the Board to assist in covering the shortfall.

J. Beausoleil reviewed the recent information regarding Town Council expectations and possible discussion meetings. She noted there hasn't been any new information from the Council or the Town Manager on any new options, since the last Board meeting. W. Oros said M. Sobol has made efforts to schedule a face-to-face meeting with Town Council members.

W. Oros noted the suggestion that Mr. Petrone put together based on the Board's discussion at last week's meeting.

Mr. Petrone reviewed further the current situation and where the Board is now and probable expectations of the Town.

The Board talked about the funds from special education tuition reimbursement that the Town received and the Board did not recoup even though the Board incurred the expenses. J. Beausoleil further explained that the Board decided to "let it go" based on the year end totals.

J. Beausoleil said she believes a decision is not needed tonight. She said she would like to see a joint discussion happen.

M. Sobol also referred to the funds the town kept last year. He noted several other items and said in his opinion the town has the money to cover this reduced funding.

Mr. Carroll confirmed, by accessing the audited ED001, that the Town received \$87,901 and that these are the funds that should have been passed through to the schools.

W. Oros said we cannot promise anything from the operating budget.

The Board talked about the 1.5% fund the Town has and if the Council could choose to use those funds.

M. Minor said she would like to see the Board rise above the town politics. She said it is all of the town's money and that it is in the best interest of the town for the Council and the Board to come together to find a solution.

E. Marchand agrees, however he says there has been an innuendo that the Board is not transparent and that he has an issue with that.

M. Minor continued saying that she is looking for a fresh start and would like to see the groups work together. She would like to see an end to "us vs them." She said she would like to see the Board model the positive behavior.

E. Marchand would also like to have an open discussion and understand where the bar is.

The Board continued this line of discussion.

J. Beausoleil asked W. Oros to contact the Town Council Chair to schedule a joint meeting of the full bodies - not committees. W. Oros said he would.

J. Beausoleil asked that any budget questions be emailed and that the full Board would get the answer. Mr. Petrone agreed.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: February 23, 2017