Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 23, 2017
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 5:30 p.m.

Present Board Members:
William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chair (arrived 5:47 p.m.)
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Frank Infante
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand
Mary Minor (arrived 7:07 p.m.)

I. Call to Order - 5:30 p.m.
W. Oros called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag
W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

III. Workshop: Goal Setting with Jonathan Costa
J. Beausoleil arrived (5:47 p.m.).
The Board reviewed the current mission statement and goals with Mr. Costa and the Superintendent, Mr. Petrone. The group discussed how the district would move forward.
M. Minor arrived (7:07 p.m.).

7:20 p.m. there was a short break.

Also Present:
Ben Urbanski, Student BOE Representative

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

Audience Members Present: Josh Murphy, CHS Band Teacher; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; several students; the Wesoloskie family; the Journal Inquirer was represented

IV. Audience of Citizens - 7:30 p.m.
There were none.
V. Report of Superintendent

Mr. Petrone reviewed district events that have taken place over the past few weeks. In addition, he talked about various workshops and association meetings he attended. He also reviewed the current search for a new CGS principal.

V.A. Student Recognition: Nick, Charlotte, and Caroline Wesoloskie - PJ Day for CCMC Fundraiser

Mr. Petrone recognized Nick Wesoloskie for his work in fund raising for CCMC with PJ Day. This event, which now goes beyond Coventry, entitles people to wear PJs to school if they donate $1. Mrs. Wesoloskie spoke about the ongoing efforts and thanked the staff, administrators and the Coventry community for their support. Mr. Petrone presented the family with a token of appreciation.

V.B. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Mr. Urbanski talked about what has been going on at the high school, including students signing up for next year’s classes.

M. Kortmann noted that the CHS Boys Track Team was a Class S Runner Up and also had a State Champion in the 1000 and the Boys Sprint Medley and 2nd Place in the 1600.

VI. VOTE: Consent Agenda

J. Beausoleil asked that the first item be removed from the consent agenda and added to New Business.

VI.A. Approve CHS March Field Experience to New York, NY

MOTION: Approve the remaining item on the consent agenda

By: J. Beausoleil  Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Report of Chairman

W. Oros talked about the CABE Day on the Hill event. He also noted that March is Board Appreciation Month.

VII.A. Committee Assignments

W. Oros noted he would participate as a Board representative on the CGS Principal search’s paper screening committee on March 15.

VII.A.1. Town CHS Walls Code Compliance Building Committee (1 - BOE Representative)

W. Oros said E. Marchand has agreed to serve.

VII.A.2. Secretary Negotiations (3)

J. Beausoleil, E. Marchand, and M. Kortmann all agreed to serve.

VII.A.3. Nurse Negotiations (3)

J. Beausoleil, F. Infante, and M. Minor agreed to serve.
VII.A.4. Para-educator Negotiations (3)
M. Sobol, M. Kortmann, and M. Minor agreed to serve.

VIII. Communications
W. Oros reviewed the items that were listed.

J. Beausoleil talked about the Town Council’s discussion of the Preschool Fund and noted no decision was made. She said there was talk about having the fund handled a certain way. Mr. Petrone said the item, with that as a focus, will be brought forward to the Fiscal Committee and the full Board in March.

IX. VOTE: Approval of Minutes
IX.A. VOTE: Approve Special Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2017
MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 19, 2017
By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (F. Infante abstains)

IX.B. VOTE: Approve Minutes of January 26, 2017
MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 26, 2017
By: M. Minor Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes 5-0-2 (E. Marchand and M. Sobol abstain)

IX.C. VOTE: Approve Special Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2017
MOTION: Approve special meeting minutes of February 16, 2017
By: M. Minor Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. Old Business
X.A. VOTE: Approve the following policies as revised
J. Beausoleil did a brief review of the policy process and thanked staff for their work on the policies and members of the Wellness Committee.

MOTION: To approve the following policies for revision 1330, 3430, 3541, 4118.5, 5131.4, 5140.1
By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.B. VOTE: Approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar
Mr. Petrone reviewed the changes made to the month of November. He said they surveyed grades 5-11 parents and there was a good response. In addition, he said they surveyed 6-12 staff. He noted the majority of both groups surveyed agreed with the change in conferences. He said with that information, the administration did move the 6-12 November conferences to October to align with the K-5 conferences.

Mr. Petrone went on and talked about the Veterans holiday and stated that the local Veterans groups were in support of having school in session on the holiday with a focus on what the day
means. He said he was unable to get agreement from the union groups, so that item will have to wait.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2017-18 school calendar  
*By: M. Sobol  Seconded: M. Kortmann*

Discussion: M. Kortmann asked about the afterschool programs taking place during the early release staff development days. Mr. Petrone talked about that program. M. Kortmann asked if the information about the program could go out with the calendar release. Mr. Petrone said yes. M. Minor added that the alignment of the fall conferences will help parents a lot.

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously

**X.C. VOTE: Discussion and possible VOTE - FY2018 Budget**

W. Oros asked if there was a discussion with the Town Finance Director regarding the State funding concerns. Mr. Carroll said yes, and she was in agreement in that the teachers' retirement and the proposed special education grant would be on the Town side of the budget and that the excess cost grant would be removed from the BOE side, if the governor's proposal went through.

J. Beausoleil noted that it is important to note the actual figures for the public. Mr. Carroll said this means the budget will go up by $769,233 from the original presentation. M. Sobol said this is a reduction in revenue from the State, not an increase in spending. Mr. Carroll agreed, noting this is a total increase of $1,273,860 over last year, a 4.69% increase.

Mr. Petrone reviewed the details of these figures.

E. Marchand said he is very concerned about presenting this percentage to the community. M. Kortmann said it will need to be communicated well to the taxpayers.

J. Beausoleil discussed the State issues and how the costs are being passed to the municipalities.

M. Sobol asked what happens if the governor’s proposal does not go through as presented, after our budget is approved. M. Kortmann said it is easier to reduce than to increase.

The Board talked about how to move forward.

**MOTION:** To approve our FY2018 budget at a 1.86% increase with an accommodation for the excess cost revenue being removed at the state level, bringing the percentage to 4.69% an increase of $1,273,860 over FY17  
*By: M. Sobol  Seconded: M. Kortmann*

**Result:** Motion passes unanimously

**XI. New Business**

**XI.A. Accept the retirement of Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal**

**MOTION:** To accept, with great reluctance, the retirement of Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal  
*By: M. Kortmann  Seconded: J. Beausoleil*

Discussion:

J. Beausoleil said she is very sad to see Ms. Moyer go.

M. Minor said we are indebted as a district for Ms. Moyer bringing all-day kindergarten to Coventry.
E. Marchand said he was impressed from his first meeting as a Board member on how Ms. Moyer presented herself and the causes she stood for.

W. Oros noted CGS is a good place to start and a good place to learn, because of the work Ms. Moyer has done.

M. Sobol said the acceptance is with much regret.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.B. Discussion: FTE Reporting Information

Mr. Petrone talked about how FTEs are calculated. M. Kortmann asked if the issue could be summarized.

Mr. Carroll reviewed the reports the Town Hall has to complete, which are included in the annual audit. He said one of those are the FTEs. He continued to explain how the issue rose up this year. He said he has been working with the Town Finance Director to come to an agreeable solution. He continued to talk about differences in reporting and who is counting, what. He added, unfortunately, even the state had different figures depending where you look, even though what was reported did not change.

The Board talked about different details. Mr. Petrone and Mr. Carroll said there will be a procedure put in place before the Town Finance Director retires. Mr. Carroll said comparative data for Coventry will look better going forward.

XI.C. VOTE: To Continue Participation in the Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Petrone noted due to new State submission requirements this item needs to be voted on publicly by the Board. Mr. Petrone reviewed other reasons why this certification is needed.

MOTION: To approve Coventry’s continued participation in the healthy food option and to allow food exemptions as noted in the Healthy Food Certification

By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: M. Kortmann said there is discussion about the reduction in this amount. Mr. Petrone said it is not an extra challenge for Food Service to move forward.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.D. VOTE: Approve Budget Transfers

MOTION: Approve budget transfer of $32,000 from 100 Salaries to 500 Purchased Services to cover projected shortfall in telephone expense due to the installation of a new VoIP system

By: M. Sobol Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: Approve budget transfer of $53,000 from 100 Salaries to 200 Employee Benefits to cover projected shortfall in Social Security ($32K), Medicaid ($6K), and Unemployment compensation ($15K)

By: M. Sobol Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously
XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent’s Evaluation)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent’s Evaluation at 8:43 p.m. with the optional inclusion of the Superintendent in attendance

By: J. Beausoleil
Seconded: M. Sobol
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIII. Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:13 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

By: F. Infante
Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: March 30, 2017