Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, April 27, 2017
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:30 PM:

Board Members Present:
William Oros, Chairman
Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice Chairman
Michael Sobol, Secretary
Frank Infante
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand
Mary Minor

Also Present: Ben Urbanski, Student Board of Education Representative

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

Audience Members Present: Principal Candidates; Parents; Angela Puccia, CGS Teacher; William Vanderrest, CHS Coach; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Laura Boates, CEP Teacher and CNH Drama Advisor; and CNH Drama Club Students.

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
Sandy Loalbo of 310 Hannah Lane, said she is a mother of two students at Coventry schools. She said she was present to show support of the music program. She said she appreciates the support the Board and Superintendent show for the music programs. She talked about her specific concerns in cutting support to general music. She suggested other options for budget cuts. She thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Oros asked if she wanted to submit anything for the minutes; that document is attached to the end of these minutes.

Eugene Marchand, 46 John Paul Lane, said as a citizen he appreciates when parents come out and speak to support the Board. He said it pains all of us when we make cuts to the budget. He said he strongly suggests that any concerned citizens share these with the Town Council.

IV. Report of Superintendent
Mr. Petrone reviewed various events taking place around the district. He said the focus of the administration has been on the budget.

**IV.A. Recognition: William Vanderrest, Outstanding Coach of the Year in Girls Track**

Mr. Petrone said he was honored to recognize Bill Vanderrest for receiving this award. Mr. Blake added a few words of recognition.

Mr. Marchand said both of his children participated on the track team and he noted that the life lessons that the coaches provide the students are so important. He said he was very proud to have Coach Vanderrest as a Coventry coach.

M. Kortmann said the track team is one of those sports that accept everyone. She said it is a great participation sport. She congratulated Coach Vanderrest.

Mr. Petrone presented the coach with a token of the Board’s appreciation. Mr. Vanderrest said it has been an amazing experience and he said it has been and always will be about the kids. He thanked the Board for the opportunity.

**IV.B. Information: CNH Drama Production "The Masked Musketeer" Preview**

Mr. Petrone said Ms. Boates does an awesome job with the drama club. He noted students are present to share a portion of "The Masked Musketeer" production that will take place next week. The students were given a round of applause.

**IV.C. Information: 2016-17 Innovative Grant Update - Science Technology Energy Matter Science Museum**

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. Puccia who talked about the STEAM program she coordinated through the Innovative Grant opportunity. She shared a video of the day’s event. Mr. Petrone commented there was a lot of energy that day and that it was a high quality opportunity for the students.

**IV.D. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report**

Mr. Urbanski also talked about “The Masked Musketeer” production. He said the students have put a lot of time and effort into the play. He continued and talked about happenings at the high school.

**V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

**V.A. Accept the Resignation of Haleemah Hall, CNH Teacher**

**V.B. Accept the Resignation of Joshua Murphy, CHS Teacher**

**V.C. Accept the Resignation of Allison Welz, CGS Teacher**

**V.D. Approve the CNH June Field Experience to LaCrosse, WI**

**V.E. Approve the CGS June Field Experience to Mendon, MA**

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as presented

*By: E. Marchand  Seconded: M. Sobol*

*Result: Motion passes unanimously*

**VI. Report of Chairman**

Mr. Oros said the last day of school is June 15 and graduation is June 17.

He continued and shared information about EASTCONN’s search for a new director.

**VII. Communications**
Mr. Oros asked Mr. Petrone to review the communications that were available for the Board. Mr. Petrone gave a brief review.

The Board discussed one item, which was the preschool fund. Mr. Petrone stated that a meeting has been set for Friday morning to hopefully answer a few remaining questions. The Board talked about what questions might be asked and how to move forward if the Council does not agree to the MOA.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of March 30, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 30, 2017

By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes 5-0-2 (J. Beausoleil, E. Marchand abstain)

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: Natural Gas Conversion Update

Mr. Petrone said there was some miscommunication regarding the dates of the conversion versus the prep work. He said Mr. Trudelle is present to explain the status of the project.

J. Beausoleil said, based on her personal experience of the conversion project in her neighborhood, some of her fears were realized. She said she believes there was poor management of the project, but this is no reflection on Mr. Trudelle.

W. Trudelle explained the new scheduled and the hope is the conversion will be done by mid-May.

MOTION: To take the old business IX.B. and B.1. and move to after XI.A. the Fiscal Committee Report

By: J. Beausoleil
Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. New Business

X.A. Discussion: Policy 6120 Parent and Family Engagement up for Revision (to be warned for a vote of revision at a future regular BOE meeting)

M. Kortmann asked for some specifics regarding the parent meetings that were held, how many Title I and Title II students Coventry has, and also about the sample letter that was noted in CABE-meeting. Mr. Petrone said those could be shared at the next meeting.

X.B. Information: Potential Tuition-in Students

Mr. Petrone reviewed briefly that Coventry has been approached by a consultant who is working with Windham Public Schools. He said Windham is looking at options for the future of their high school students and asked if Coventry would be interested in taking in tuition-in students. Mr. Petrone noted they are looking at the 18-19 school year for the transition. He said at this point he is just informing the Board that the interest is there and that he would need to know if the Board is interested in exploring the option.

M. Kortmann said she would want to know how the tuition money coming in will work.

E. Marchand said he thinks we cannot pass this up and the Board needs to explore it.
M. Petrone said there is much work to be done, but before he did anything he wanted to get guidance from the Board and wanted to be sure it was okay Coventry is mentioned publicly.

E. Marchand asked Ben Urbanski for his thoughts. Ben shared those thoughts and said he may be concerned with class sizes increasing.

The Board continued and discussed different scenarios and reasons for taking in tuition students. There was agreement that Mr. Petrone could move forward with obtaining more information.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report - Meeting of April 27, 2017

M. Sobol reviewed the Fiscal meeting highlights. He said the outplaced students who were added late in the year is the biggest highlight with unanticipated costs, which are effecting the end of the year figures.

The Board continued and talked about other Fiscal items, such as the insurance money coming in for the gym floor and the discrepancy with the Town Hall on how to account for it.

J. Beausoleil suggested a letter be sent from Chair to Chair to get clarification on the frozen CIP funds. The Board agreed. W. Oros said he would do that.

M. Sobol noted that Food Services made money two months in a row.

J. Beausoleil commented on the age of the BOE financial information the Town Finance Committee and the Town Council have in front of them during their meetings and it seems they are making decisions based on older information than what is available. The Board talked about why this may be.

E. Marchand asked that the Board Chair request that when the Board's material is sent it be added to the next Finance or Council meeting. J. Beausoleil agreed but noted the request should be to add the information not only to the next Finance meeting, but also the next Town Council meeting so when they are deliberating they have the most up to date information and the Council would not have to wait for Finance to meet. W. Oros said he would take care of that.

IX.B. Information and Possible VOTE: FY2018 Budget

IX.B.1. Discussion and VOTE: Increase in FY18 Appropriations due to Special Education Outplacement Costs

Mr. Petrone talked about what happens legally if there is not a budget in place by July 1. The Board talked about what next steps might be taken by the Council. J. Beausoleil reviewed the Council's agenda for May 1, which includes possible dates.

The Board turned the conversation to the additional costs incurred due to the outplacements received in after the budget was submitted to the Town.

MOTION: Authorize the Superintendent to Officially Notify the Town Council of an Increase in FY18 Appropriations Due to Special Education Outplacement Costs
By: M. Sobol  Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: J. Beausoleil asked for clarification regarding what exactly the number is and what it includes. Mr. Petrone talked to that point.

M. Minor said it needs to be clear that this is a reminder of what you have already been notified of; the letter is the second notification. M. Kortmann said the intention is not to
reopen the budget, but simply note regarding the number that was voted on, there was a significant change to our costs due to special education outplacements and this is the new number.

Mr. Petrone said this is an opportunity to make the education budget accurate.

The Board continued to clarify the intent and content of the notification.

J. Beausoleil said she will vote no on the motion as it stands. She said she would like to start with 1.86% number and adjust it by all of the "knowns" and that final number should be the new request, which will have all of the accurate up to date information.

M. Kortmann said she would prefer to wait a meeting for that.

M. Minor said the special education figure will get lost in all of that. She said these are special education services we are legally responsible for. She said if the Board sends the request as the whole big budget, the special education costs will get lost. She said the point is very real and if the special education costs are not accounted for, we will be short.

M. Kortmann said the next Fiscal meeting would be the time to give a new bottom line. At that time a separate letter could be sent.

The Board agreed it could be two steps.

Result: Motion passes 6-1 (J. Beausoleil against)

XIII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Administrative Level Interviews, Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees, Superintendent’s Evaluation)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session at 9:16 p.m. for discussions related to Administrative Level Interviews, Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees, and the Superintendent’s Evaluation with a brief recess and with the Superintendent in attendance.

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

XIV. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session temporarily at 10:50 p.m.

MOTION: To waive Board policy 9362 and extend the Board meeting past 11:00 p.m.

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

MOTION: To return to Executive Session

By: E. Marchand
Seconded: J. Beausoleil
Result: Motion passes unanimously

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 11:45 p.m.

XIV.A. Possible VOTE to authorize the Superintendent to enter into Employment Negotiations with a new principal for the Coventry Grammar School

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into Employment Negotiations with a new principal for the Coventry Grammar School
XIV.B. Possible VOTE on the Terms of Conditions of Employment for Non-Union Employees

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, Dean of Students, Technology Technician, Preschool Special Education Coordinator, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapist, Vocational Trainer, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
By: M. Sobol Seconded: F. Infante
Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To approve the Contract of Employment of the Superintendent of Schools and the Coventry Board of Education through June 30, 2020
By: M. Sobol Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m.
By: F. Infante Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes unanimously

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: May 11, 2017
Why is Music important in Coventry?

- **We reach 100% of students grades K-8:**
  - General Music grades K-5
  - Chorus and Band electives for grade 5
  - Chorus, Band, or General Music (including piano keyboarding component) grades 6-8
  - Students also have the opportunity to participate in select ensembles grades 6-8:
    - Jazz Band
    - Select Choir
    - Pep Band during Enrichment time

- **We reach a large part of the student body grades 9-12**
  - Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble
  - Chorus
  - Music theory and technology courses

- **Students have the opportunity to perform within the school community:**
  - Grades 8-12 Winter Band Concert
  - Grades 8-12 Winter Chorus Concert
  - Grades 6 and 7 Band and Chorus Concert
  - CNH Grades 6-8 Spring Band Concerts
  - CNH Grades 6-8 Spring Chorus Concert
  - Veterans Day Assembly
  - Pep Rallies
  - Coffee Houses
  - 6th Grade Orientation
  - Various Ceremonies and Celebrations (for example when Chinese exchange students visit more recently the Chinese New Year Celebration)

- **Students have the opportunity to perform within the larger community**
  - Hartford Wolf Pack game
  - Harford Yard Goats game
  - Eastern Regional festivals, Chart Oak festival, CMEA Elementary Honors ensembles

- **Students have the chance to collaborate with fellow students:**
  - Band students collaborate in the following ways:
    - Grade 8 and CHS perform a combined piece at the Winter Concert
    - Grade 6 and GHR Grade 5 combined piece at the Spring Concert
    - CNH and CHS Jazz Bands combined piece at the Jazz Dance concert
  - Chorus students collaborate in the following ways:
    - Grade 8 and CHS perform a combined piece at the Winter Concert
    - Potential for Grade 6 and GHR Grade 5 combined piece at the Spring Concert
    - Potential for Select Choir to perform a combined piece with the CHS Honors Chorus
  - Potential for a K-12 Music Concert in coming years
- General Music students work together on keyboard skills, various projects, and
  music development as it connects to other subjects and life experiences
- **Students have the opportunity to build a strong community with one another**
  - Fundraisers
    - Bowling Nights
  - Concerts
  - Volunteering at other concerts or shows:
    - CHS and CNH Concerts
    - CHS Drama productions
    - CNH Drama productions
    - Coffee Houses @ CNH and CHS
    - Potential to have CNH and CHS volunteers at GHR concerts
  - CHS Music Dept. overnight performance trips

**Why is Music important to the families of Coventry?**
- **Coventry Board of Education Policy 6163** states: “Music instruction shall be provided as part of the regular classroom program for grades K-8 in order to encourage and develop musical skills, music appreciation and musical talents.”
  - [Link](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/uploaded/boe/policies/6000s/6163_Additional_Instruction.pdf)
- **Music develops various skills:**
  - Improves test scores
  - Communication
  - Creativity
  - Collaboration
  - Movement
  - Brain Development
  - A sense of community
- **Benefits of Music Education from NAfME:** [Link](http://www.nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/)

**Why is Music part of every student's education in Connecticut?**
- **CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Position Statement on the Implementation of the Connecticut Arts Standards:**
  - [Link](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/Board/ArtsStandards.pdf)

**Why is Music part of every student's education in the U.S.?**
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) [S. 1177].**
  - Music is included as part of a well-rounded education per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) [S. 1177].
- Title VIII: General Provisions
SEC. 8002. DEFINITIONS:
“(52) WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION.—The term ‘well-rounded education’ means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.”.

- Full Legislative Analysis of All Key Music and Arts Provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) [S. 1177]. This is a document provided by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME): http://www.nafme.org/wp-content/files/2015/11/NAfME-ESSA-Comprehensive-Analysis-2015.pdf
- Here is the link for the ESSA: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf
- Here is the link for the ESSA and the Arts: http://www.aep-arts.org/essa/
- Here is a flyer for families about the ESSA and the Arts: http://www.nafme.org/wp-content/files/2015/08/Concert-Program-flyer-for-parents-on-ESSA_2-1.pdf


OTHER LINKS
http://www.nafme.org/advocacy/5-ways-to-support-your-music-program/


http://www.nafme.org/advocacy-inserts-for-concert-programs/
