

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda
Approved Minutes of Thursday, September 08, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:32 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 of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience Members Present: Wenming Gu, Visiting Teacher; Gabe Kendall, CHS Teacher; Meredith Kirkpatrick, CHS Teacher; Kristen Sparks, CHS Teacher; CHS Students; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; and Todd Giansanti, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 the school year has had a great start. He talked about opening day and thanked the Police Officers who were at the schools welcoming students back.

Mr. Petrone talked about the ECSU internship program and that there were 5 student teachers on deck. E. Marchand said this is a great program; W. Oros agreed.

Mr. Petrone continued and talked about the different events happening around the state and district.

IV.A. Recognition: Certificated Board of Education Member Achievement - Jennifer Beausoleil and Mary Kortmann

Mr. Petrone recognized both J. Beausoleil and M. Kortmann who obtained special status with CABE for their participation in Board of Education professional development. He talked about the program and congratulated them publicly.

J. Beausoleil said it is a labor of love. She said it is worth it when you see the dedication of the staff and the students. M. Kortmann agreed.

W. Oros said this honored earned is a testimony to the dedication to these two women and to the Board as a whole. He added that when the members of the Board work together the product is better than if one worked alone.

IV.B. Welcome: Wenming Gu - Teachers of Critical Languages Program Fellowship

Mr. Petrone briefly talked about the TCLP grant award. He introduced Mr. Gu and noted the excitement of the Coventry community. Mr. Gu said he is very happy to be here to teach Mandarin. He said the students are active and dynamic and are learning well. He said he is glad to be here and he is happy the students want to learn. He noted the Coventry citizens are very kind.

M. Sobol noted it is a great program to offer. J. Beausoleil said she remembers when the Chinese exchange program was just beginning over 10 years ago. She said this is now such an exceptional honor for Coventry to have Mr. Gu here.

IV.C. Recognition: CHS Advanced Placement Teachers - Gabe Kendall, Meredith Kirkpatrick; and Kristen Sparks

Mr. Petrone noted these three teachers go above and beyond with our students every day and he said how important it is to recognize these teachers. He said that both Mr. Kendall and Ms. Sparks were AP Readers this summer and Ms. Kirkpatrick spent time training on the AP Capstone program. Mr. Blake added a few commendations about the teachers. Mr. Petrone presented all three teachers with a token of the Board's appreciation.

Mr. Kendall noted his appreciation of the administration and the support that is given. Ms. Meredith thanked the Board for the opportunity to do the training.

J. Beausoleil thanked all three teachers. She said the students get so much out of it. She added that the support the teachers provide is phenomenal.

IV.D. Information: 2016-17 Opening School Report

Mr. Petrone said the start to the school year was great. He showed a short video clip of staff opening day.

Mr. Petrone noted that the district now has a Twitter account and he invited all to follow the schools on Twitter by searching @SchoolsCoventry.

IV.E. Information: Superintendent's 2016-2017 Goal Presentation

Mr. Petrone shared a slide show with the goals for the 2016-17 school year. (The goals are available on the website.)

Board members asked various questions about the Smart Start program including about student participation and eligibility.

J. Beausoleil noted there are a lot of really good goals in line for the year. She said she likes that there are long range plans and there is strategic planning in the goal process.

M. Sobol said he likes the ideas surrounding retaining students within the district.

E. Marchand said he likes the efforts that are being made to join the school system with the community.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Approve the resignation of Leslie Kendig, HEEC Para-educator

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

W. Oros gave kudos to the tech crew and the school administration for the iPad distribution events held recently.

He also noted a few upcoming events, such as the joint Town Finance/BOE Fiscal meeting on September 12. He added that Steve Merlino is being awarded the Assistant Principal of the Year award and that the recognition is happening on October 20 as part of a CAS event.

CCJEF decision was also mentioned and W. Oros said there will be much more to follow. Mr. Petrone added a few comments of what is being said state-wide.

VII. Communications

J. Beausoleil noted the Open Houses and the excitement levels. She said she has heard positive feedback from parents.

VIII. Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of August 11, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 11, 2016

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: M. Sobol

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. OCR/ADA Compliance Issues - Update

Mr. Trudelle gave an update to the Board including re-configuring drainage and tempered water for the eyewash stations. Mr. Petrone noted much of what Mr. Trudelle is exploring will save the town and district money.

Mr. Trudelle continued and talked about the softball field and what is left to be done there.

IX.B. Natural Gas Conversion Project - Update

Mr. Trudelle said all of the lines have been run to the schools. He said there were no problems with the crew working on the schools. He noted there was one electrical line that was cut to parking lot lights, which was fixed immediately. He continued and talked about where the new gas lines were laid.

