Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 13, 2016
Administration Building Conference Room

Attendance Taken at 7:29 p.m.:

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

Board Members Absent:
Michael Sobol, Secretary

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

Audience Members Present: Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Anne Burke, GHR teacher; Brian Maltese, Athletic Director; Laura Boates, CEP teacher; several CHS student; several citizens; Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairman; Richard Williams, Town Council member and BOE candidate; Mary Minor, citizen and BOE candidate; Matthew O’Brien, Town Council member; Tom Pope, Town Council member and Chairman of the Republican Town Committee; and 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
Matthew O’Brien, Town Council member - 98 Timber Trail - said he was present to urge the Board to name Richard Williams as the replacement for Michael Griswold. He submitted his comments, which are attached to these minutes.

Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chair - 763 Wrights Mill Road - said she was present to support Richard Williams as the candidate to be on the Board of Education. She dittoed everything Mr. O’Brien said.
Casandra Slossar - 485 Daly Road - said she was present regarding two issues. She said she is concerned with the legality of the use of Infosnap and also Islam in the school system. She stated she believed that Islam is being mentioned more and more in the schools.

Tom Pope, Town Council Member and Chairman of the Republic Town Committee - 683 Brigham Tavern Road - said he was present to support Richard Williams as the candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board. His comments were submitted and are attached to these minutes.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. Information and VOTE: Fill the Unexpired Term of Michael Griswold

W. Oros gave a review of the process for the evening.

IV.A.1. Statements by Candidates

Mr. Williams made a statement on his own behalf, noting he is not a stranger to the Board members. He continued talking about his past experience as a Board member and all of the things he learned. He said what he learned helped shaped his role as a parent. He said he believes he can contribute a lot.

Ms. Minor said when she learned about the vacancy she felt compelled to put her interest in. She said she feels she has a civic responsibility to serve. She added that her family and both of her children have benefited from the education system in Coventry. She talked about her past experience on the Board and that she would like to participate and contribute once again. She said she believes she could put aside party politics and put the best interest of Coventry’s students first.

W. Oros asked about Ms. Minor’s schedule and her availability. Ms. Minor said her schedule has changed and she does recognize the challenges and would not have a problem committing her time to the Board.

IV.A.2. Nominations and VOTE

E. Marchand nominated Mary Minor

F. Infante nominated Richard Williams

W. Oros read two statements received in. One was very brief from Mr. Griswold supporting Richard Williams. The second statement was from Mr. Sobol who supported Mary Minor. Mr. Sobol’s statement is attached to these minutes.

J. Beausoleil thanked both candidates for stepping up and volunteering. She noted that having a variety of people on the Board is good and having parent advocates at the table is good and gives the Board perspective. She said while both candidates have experience, Mary Minor has more recent and relevant experience and she supports Mary Minor.

W. Oros asked for a vote and a show of hands for those who would support Richard Williams. Frank Infante was the only Board member who raised his hand.
W. Oros asked for a show of hands for those who supported Mary Minor. W. Oros, J. Beausoleil, M. Kortmann and E. Marchand raised their hands in support of Mary Minor. Mary Minor was the chosen candidate.

**IV.A.3. Swearing in of New Member**

Justice of the Peace, Joan Oros, swore Mary Minor in as a Board member. M. Minor took her seat at the table.

**IV.A.4. Fill Committee Vacancies: Alternate for Expulsion; Fiscal; Grievance; and Residency**

W. Oros assigned M. Minor to the sub-committee vacancies left by M. Griswold.

**V. Report of Superintendent**

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

**V.A. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report**

Mr. Petrone noted that Ben Urbanski was the new Student BOE Representative. He said, unfortunately, Ben was unavailable to attend this evening, but said all looked forward to his service.

**V.B. Recognition: Community Member, Ginney Dilk**

Mr. Petrone talked about the years of support and involvement that Ginney has given to the schools. Anne Burke said a few words about the history of the programs that Ms. Dilk has been involved in. All gave a round of applause.

**V.C. Administrator 2016-2017 Goal Presentations**

**V.C.1. Athletics**

Mr. Maltese reviewed the Athletic Department goals for the 2016-17 school year. Those goals can be found on the district’s website.

E. Marchand asked about the emergency protocol. Mr. Maltese explained that. E. Marchand continued asking about the irrigation system. The Board talked about the possible use of wells and other irrigation options. Mr. Petrone noted this idea is in its very early stages.

**V.C.2. Capt. Nathan Hale School**

Ms. DeJulius shared the CNH goals for 2016-17 school year. Those goals are available on the district's website.

M. Kortmann asked about the Alternative Program. Ms. DeJulius said it is very new and at this point all feedback received had been very positive. M. Kortmann wanted to know how the goal would be measured for success or not. Mr. Petrone said at the end of the year, both Ms. DeJulius’ and the Superintendent’s goal achievement reports will have those details.
J. Beausoleil asked if it was year one or two of the new world language curriculum resources. Ms. DeJulius said it was year one and kinks are being worked out as far as the materials received in.

E. Marchand asked about the JRB and how often the group meets. Ms. DeJulius said they meet as needed and when students are referred.

V.C.3. Coventry High School

Mr. Blake reviewed the CHS goals for the 2016-17 school year. Those goals are available on the district’s website.

VI. VOTE: Consent Agenda

VI.A. Approve the CNH April 2017 Field Experience to Mansfield, MA
VI.B. Approve the CHS April 2017 Field Experience to Orlando, FL
VI.C. Approve the CHS June 2017 Field Experience to Jackson, NJ

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented
By: J. Beausoleil  Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Report of Chairman

W. Oros talked about a new STEM bus that will be available to travel to area districts.

He also mentioned that Mr. Merlino will be honored by CAS as the Assistant Principal of the Year for Connecticut on October 20, 2016.

W. Oros also mentioned the enrollment increase for this year from our projected amount. Mr. Petrone said the increase is a result of a little bit of everything. W. Oros said it is because we have a good quality school system and people are recognizing that. Mr. Petrone agreed and said he hears stories of people choosing Coventry because of the schools.

IX. Approval of Minutes

IX.A. Approve Minutes of September 29, 2016

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 29, 2016
By: E. Marchand  Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (M. Minor abstains)

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of October 13, 2016

M. Kortmann reviewed the Fiscal meeting that took place earlier in the evening. She explained the discussion with the Booth and Dimock Library. The Board discussed the details of the discussion and the history of the original agreement. J. Beausoleil made it clear that the BOE budget cannot cover this expense for the Library, because it is not a school expense.
M. Kortmann asked all board members to review the CIP and noted that the VOTE will take place in November to finalize what will be submitted to the Town Manager.
M. Kortmann also noted the unexpected expenses in special education needs.

XI. VOTE: Executive Session (Bargaining Unit Negotiations)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Bargaining Unit Negotiations with the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations Present at 9:12 p.m.
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board left Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 9:43 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.
By: F. Infante Seconded: M. Minor
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: October 27, 2016
I am here tonight to urge you to name Richard Williams to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of Michael Griswold.

I was on the committee of the Republican Town Committee that recruited, supported and helped to elect Mike Griswold. Mike is a good man who is committed to quality education and to looking out for the taxpayers of Coventry. We were sorry to see Mike resign but we understand the responsibilities of having a young and growing family.

I believe that Richard will be a wonderful addition to the Board and will bring strong knowledge and prior experience on the Board and the Council where he has served at least 2 terms on each.

Richard has been elected by Coventry residents several times and like Mike Griswold, is committed to providing a high quality education to our children and to being responsible to our taxpayers.

Please appoint Richard to fill Mike’s open seat.

Matthew O’Brien
98 Timber Trail
Coventry, CT 06238
Tom Pope – 683 Brigham Tavern Road

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening concerning the resignation of Michael Griswold from your Board. Service on the Board of Education requires time and dedication to the community. Michael Griswold was a dedicated volunteer to our community as are all of you, for that I thank him and each of you for your service. While his resignation was regretful, it is understandable and commendable that he recognized his commitment to excellence in service could not be maintained and chose to step aside for the good of your Board and our community.

I speak tonight as the Chairman of the Coventry Republican Town Committee. Since Michael Griswold was serving as a Republican endorsed official the Republican Town Committee would like to offer another endorsed candidate to fill the vacancy created by Michael’s resignation. I am proud to inform you the Republican Town Committee unanimously endorsed Mr. Richard Williams as our candidate to fill the current vacancy on the Coventry Board of Education.

Mr. Williams has served two terms on the Board of Education and acted in the past as your Vice-Chair, he is currently serving his second term on the Town Council in Coventry. Richard offers a wealth of knowledge, unique perspective and experienced understanding that would be a valuable asset to have available on the Board of Education. Richard has always had a demonstrated interest and commitment to improving educational opportunities for students in Coventry.

While commenting about the Board of Education and the recent NEASC accreditation report during a Town Council meeting Richard said, “they have improved their high school standards over the years. I am proud as a citizen to see the improvements made.” Richard would like to contribute his skills and talents toward the goal of continuing those improvements to better facilitate educational opportunities for our students enrolled in Coventry schools. He is a man of proven skills and talents able to provide a positive contribution to your Board.

Richard’s passion for educational excellence is reflected in his willingness to resign his current elected office if appointed to the Board of Education. The citizens of Coventry have recognized his past contributions with strong consistent support at the polls. Richard Williams’ candidacy is a unique opportunity to have a proven experienced community supported individual fill the remaining term created by the resignation of Mike Griswold on the Board of Education.

On behalf of the Republican Town Committee and Party I ask that the Board of Education recognize the unique experience and positive role Mr. Williams can bring as a member of the Board of Education and urge all current members to vote for his appointment. We look forward to your vote and are confident that Richard Williams will, if appointed, serve the students and the citizens of Coventry with distinction.
All,

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a work conflict. I would like to take the time to express my appreciation for both Richard Williams and Mary Minor for their interests in filling the void left by Mike Griswold on our BOE. While both are wonderfully qualified candidates, I feel strongly that Mary Minor is best suited to take the vacant seat. Mary's direct and recent history with our board and this school system lends itself to a seamless transition into position. Additionally Mary Minor's direct and vested interests in this BOE can be attributed to the opportunities offered to the children of Coventry, but specifically her own children as they go through our school systems. They, and all children stand to gain or loose from the decisions this board makes. I trust that Mary has the right intentions and will support the specific and known needs of our district.

I would ask that my comments be read into the minutes this evening.

Mike Sobol

Sent from my iPhone