

**Coventry Board of Education**  
Coventry, Connecticut

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, December 08, 2016  
Administration Building Conference Room

**Attendance Taken at 7:30 p.m.:**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mary Minor

Others 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: Steve Ozga, CEA Representative; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Todd Giansanti, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Brian Maltese, Athletic Director; CHS Soccer Coach Paul Strycharz and Team Members; and CNH and CHS students being recognized and family members

**I. Call to Order**

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 reviewed the condition of the "old" CHS gym floor, due to the recent sprinkler malfunction, and the costs associated with replacing it.

E. Marchand asked when the work would start. Mr. Petrone said it would not be until January. E. Marchand continued and asked what the impact would be on the students' and teams' schedules. Mr.

Petrone said the administrators are working together to make the necessary arrangements so there is minimal impact.

M. Kortmann asked about using the 1% account for the insurance deductible and the protectors. Mr. Petrone said he would add that to the next Board agenda.

Mr. Petrone continued with his report, noting the leadership award the Board was presented with at the CABE/CAPSS Convention.

He mentioned other items happening around the state and in the district. He took special note of the Lutz Museum program that was in place today at both CGS and GHR due to the Staff Development Early Release Day.

#### **IV.A. Recognition: CHS Boys Soccer Team - CIAC Class S Champions**

Mr. Petrone recognized the high school boys soccer team. He introduced Mr. Maltese, the Athletic Director, who introduced the head coach and the players. Coach Paul Strycharz talked about how proud he is of this team.

E. Marchand noted how hard this team plays and the excellent sportsmanship they have.

M. Kortmann noted how proud she is of the team.

Mr. Petrone gave the team a token of appreciation and thanked the players for representing Coventry so well.

#### **IV.B. Recognition: CAPSS Superintendent Student Awards - CNH 8th Graders - Emma Murphy and Jaden Ellis; CHS 12th Graders - Justine Winiarski and Trevor Brierley**

Mr. Petrone talked about the awards program. He introduced the principals to talk about the students specifically. Ms. DeJulius recognized both Emma and Jaden. Mr. Petrone showed the Board's appreciation and presented both students with a small gift.

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Blake who talked about the two Coventry seniors, Justine and Trevor. Mr. Petrone also presented the CHS students with gifts.

#### **IV.C. Information: Receipt of the Northrop Grumman Grant Funds**

Mr. Petrone said he wanted to publicly note that the funds have been received and that the AdHoc committee will be meeting in the morning.

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

Mr. Urbanski said that this can be a stressful time for seniors as college applications are being reviewed. He continued to talk about different items taking place, including the CHS band concert.

#### **IV.E. Information: FY2018 Budget Dates**

Mr. Petrone noted the draft of the budget dates are attached.

#### **V. VOTE: Consent Agenda**

J. Beausoleil asked that items B and F [retirements] and G [policies] be removed from the consent agenda.

**MOTION: To approve the remaining items on the consent agenda**  
**By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Kortmann**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To accept the retirements of Virginia Dimmock and Deborah Russell**  
**By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil wanted to publicly note that these retirements would be accepted with regret as both individuals are valued members of the district.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To approve the new and revised policies as listed on the agenda; 1231, 1252, 4116.11, 5131.72, 1350, 4110, 4116.1, 4116.34, 4116.35, 4130, 4151.2, 4216.2, 5110, 5122.2, 5125, 5131.7, 5131.71, 5135.1, 5141.21, 5144, 5145, 5145.4, and 6157**  
**By: J. Beausoleil Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil said she asked these be voted in separately to be sure there were not any questions. E. Marchand verified these were updates from Shipman and Goodwin. J. Beausoleil said some were new due to laws and others are updates from Shipman and Goodwin.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **VI. Report of Chairman**

W. Oros said the budget season is upon us. He thanked Mr. Petrone, Mr. Carroll and the administration for their hard work in developing a fiscally sound budget. He said this will be a very challenging year. He said this Board has been very successful for many reasons and he talked to those points of positive collaboration.

## **VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

### **VIII.A. Approve Minutes of November 10, 2016**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 10, 2016**  
**By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **IX. New Business**

### **IX.A. Information and VOTE: Approval of Additional 2017-18 Courses at CHS: Sustainable Agriculture - Aquaponics, Aviation, Probability and Statistics, UConn ECE Individual and Family Development Mr. Blake**

Mr. Petrone introduced Mr. Blake who shared a presentation on the new courses being recommended for 2017-18. The Board asked questions about the Aquaponics course. Mr. Petrone and Mr. Blake said the Board could take a tour of the dome in the spring. The presentation continued and the Aviation course was discussed. J. Beausoleil asked for an item to be added to the newsletter looking for community support. J. Beausoleil asked for clarification on the Statistics course and how it was different from the current ECE course through UConn. Mr. Blake said it was different and he could get further information on that item.

**MOTION: To Approve the Additional 2017-18 Courses at CHS: Sustainable Agriculture - Aquaponics, Aviation, Probability and Statistics, UConn ECE Individual and Family Development**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Sobol**

Discussion: J. Beausoleil said she does not approve of the Statistic class, as it seems to be a duplicate of the UConn AP course and due to that it could drain resources. E. Marchand asked how it would be draining resources. J. Beausoleil said she cannot wrap her head around supporting two classes that are the same. J. Blake said it is an opportunity for students to get the exposure that is not as challenging as the AP course. E. Marchand said he thinks this is a great idea and he thinks it should be supported.

J. Beausoleil asked for a friendly amendment to the motion and asked that the Board vote on just three of the four courses - "Sustainable Agriculture - Aquaponics, Aviation, UConn ECE Individual and Family Development.

That amendment was accepted by E. Marchand

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To approve the Probability and Statistics Course**

**By: J. Beausoleil**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

Discussion: M. Sobol asked about the financial impact. Mr. Blake said other textbooks would not be bought and did not believe there would be a significant financial impact. Mr. Urbanski talked about his thoughts on the three courses already approved. He said they all sounded interesting. Regarding the Statistics course, he said, if it is a "lower level" or "pre" course, then it would be worthwhile. Mr. Blake agreed, and said that is what it would be like. M. Kortmann agreed saying some students will need to have taken this type of course for college.

**Result: Motion passes 5 yes** (including Mr. Urbanski) **2 no** (J. Beausoleil and F. Infante voting against)

J. Beausoleil added she is a big supporter of math programs.

**IX.B. Information: ENCON Proposal of Carport Solar Panels at CHS**

Mr. Petrone introduced Tim Sadler. Mr. Sadler reviewed the proposal and options in front of the Board this evening.

The Board reviewed the high school information in detail and asked questions about size, location, style, and production. M. Kortmann suggested a larger location by the athletic field. Mr. Petrone said he wanted to be sure we did not limit the access of plow trucks. Mr. Sadler said he would be in contact with the Department of Public Works. M. Kortmann furthered that discussion saying that it would be preferred if the poles could be kept off the parking lot all together. J. Beausoleil said the height should be enough so any truck can go under.

Mr. Sadler talked about the savings the district would see. He said the plan for these rates for these panels would be even lower than the previous panels that have been installed. He said the dollar amount would be a \$10,000 savings per year.

The conversation turned to the middle school installation. J. Beausoleil asked about timing of when you apply and when you hear. Mr. Sadler said the timing is set through the rate bidding process.

J. Beausoleil said she had no objection to the proposals.

F. Infante asked about the carpports and if they were separate or part of the deal. Mr. Sadler said they are part of the deal, with no cost to the district.

M. Kortmann reiterated her request to adjust the location of the high school proposal. She also said that she has a problem with adding carpports to the front of the middle school - aesthetically.

Mr. Sadler said he would look at the back part of the high school for space for the middle school and other options discussed.

The Board agreed this item would come back in the new year.

## **X. Report of Board Members**

### **X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report - Meeting of December 8, 2016**

M. Sobol reviewed the Fiscal Committee meeting discussion items. He noted that the coop costs of \$2,500 for the swim program would be funded.

He continued by reviewing the preschool items. He said the discussion was good and the figures noted the program would be self-sufficient and also the proposal shows preparation for when the grant funds run out.

The Board discussed different options on how to move forward with presenting this item to the Town Council.

**MOTION: Authorize the Superintendent to send a request to present the preschool merger plan and MOA to the full Council**

**By: J. Beausoleil**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

Discussion: M. Sobol agreed with that avenue. J. Beausoleil asked that CECC be involved, in case there are questions. M. Kortmann agreed saying there should be only one presentation and it should include the whole Council. F. Infante said he thinks reviewing the entire package is a good idea and confirmed that it will not affect the public budget at all. The Board agreed.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

M. Sobol went on to review the remaining items discussed at the Fiscal meeting, including special education tuition. It was noted those accounts are still in the red, due to unexpected special education costs. The Board continued to talk about planning for unexpected increased costs coming down the pike.

M. Sobol reviewed the items the Town Finance had on the agenda. Specifically he focused on the discussion about the big ticket "unknowns." M. Sobol continued and said this was a good comparison because the Committee had just talked about the special education situation. He said the Committee was able to validate that the Board is already doing those types of preparation tasks.

M. Sobol also said the Council had distributed a list of information requests in preparation for budget development. It was noted these items would be added to the Fiscal Committee minutes.

J. Beausoleil wanted it noted that the excel report sent to the Town Council is large, but usable.

M. Kortmann reviewed what the procedure may look like for what information is sent to the Town Council and how.

### **X.A.1. Discussion and VOTE: Capital Improvement Plan**

