

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Special Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 18, 2018
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Mary Kortmann
William Oros
Peter Larson

Board Members Absent:

Frank Infante

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Ronda Lezberg, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; the Chronicle Newspaper was represented.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Old Business

J. Beausoleil reviewed the budget meeting dates. She continued and noted that the Town Council met this week and voted to approve the FY18 Budget Remediation Plan.

IV.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Registering Coventry Academy as a school with the CT State Department of Education

J. Beausoleil noted this item was discussed last week and asked if there were any questions. She added that there is a pending motion to approve registering Coventry Academy as its own school.

E. Marchand restated his concerns that these students might not see themselves as part of the high school. He added that he has full trust in the Administration and their reasoning behind taking this avenue.

Dr. Petrone talked about the program and when it was first named Coventry Academy. He said the students feel connected to the Academy.

M. Minor shared the same concern as E. Marchand and added that she trusts the administration as well.

Dr. Petrone noted the idea has been fully vetted. He continued and said it has taken a considerable amount of time to get to this point.

E. Marchand talked to how important and needed the program is to students in Coventry. Dr. Petrone expanded on that.

VOTE: The pending motion from January 11, 2018 made by W. Oros and seconded by E. Marchand to Approve Registering Coventry Academy as a school with the CT State Department of Education passed unanimously 6-0.

IV.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY19 Budget

Mr. Carroll reviewed the first change made to the budget under insurance (CIRMA).

The Board discussed the Board's share vs the Town's share in relation to the CIRMA property and liability costs.

M. Kortmann referred to the assumptions page. Mr. Carroll reviewed in detail each item and when the Board might have a solid number on any of them. M. Kortmann noted it is the February/March ones that we are hopeful to get solid figures before the budget is put to bed.

M. Kortmann noted page 3, enrollment projections. She focused on the birth figures vs the kindergarten figures. The Board talked about people making decisions to move into town.

Mr. Carroll said the adjustments made this past week have pushed the overall FY19 increase to 1%.

M. Kortmann asked about the Warehouse budget. Mr. Carroll noted the "assumption" in electricity.

E. Marchand began by saying the budget format has been great over the years and this year is even better. He said the format is very helpful. E. Marchand noted the racial survey information provided through state reporting, adding he wished there was more diversity in Coventry.

E. Marchand asked about the Teaching and Learning section and specifically the professional development line. Dr. Petrone said the administration wants to add back to that very important line as much as possible, but in small portions.

M. Kortmann asked about the TEAM item in Teaching and Learning and if it could be added to the assumption page, pointing out that it is the assumption that the State will not return this funding away and put it has been put on the districts.

The Board talked about the importance of professional development.

E. Marchand asked for clarification on the ALEKS math program in the PSSS budget. Mr. Giansanti spoke to that item.

E. Marchand asked for clarification on the salary notes. Dr. Petrone talked to those points.

E. Marchand talked about the AP training costs at CHS. Mr. Blake explained how those are figured.

E. Marchand asked if there were any other funds put back in to the budget from the cuts made to the FY18 budget. Dr. Petrone said no.

The Board talked about magnet school costs, E. O. Smith students, and athletic transportation costs.

J. Beausoleil reminded Board members to email questions ahead of time.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: February 8, 2018