

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 25, 2018
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary (arrived at 7:25 p.m.)
Mary Kortmann
Peter Larson
William Oros

Board Members Absent:

Frank Infante

Administrators Present:

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

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Information: Board of Education Workshop "Board Roles and Responsibilities on School Building Committees" with Rebecca Adams, CABA Attorney

Ms. Adams was present and shared information on the responsibilities of the Board of Education in regards to School Building Committees.

The Board took a break at 7:18 p.m.

M. Minor arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Audience Members Present for the 7:30 p.m. portion of the regular meeting: Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Cathie Drury, Educational Technology Director; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Ronda Lezberg, CGS Principal; Steve Merlino, CHS Assistant Principal; Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; Jeff Spivey, Technology Coach; Karyn Deptula and Elizabeth Carroll, CNH Teachers; several CHS Students; a community member; the Chronicle Newspaper was represented.

J. Beausoleil reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

III. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

IV. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

V. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed happenings taking place throughout the district and around the region. He recognized CNH for being named a *NELMS Spotlight School* and noted what an honor this is.

V.A. Recognition: Karyn Deptula and Elizabeth Carroll, CNH Math Teachers - Presentation at the ATOMIC Conference "Guiding Instruction Through the Use of Interim Assessment Blocks"

Dr. Petrone recognized Ms. Deptula and Ms. Carroll for their work at the recent ATOMIC Conference. They were presented a token of the Board's appreciation.

VI. VOTE: Consent Agenda

VI.A. Approve the CHS April 2018 Field Experience to Boston, MA

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil mentioned the workshop that was presented by CAFE earlier in the meeting regarding School Building Committees. She noted the Board's appreciation of the administrators attending the Board meetings for budget discussions.

IX. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

IX.A. Approve Minutes of January 11, 2018

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of January 11, 2018

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion:

M. Kortmann asked for the following adjustments:

Page 3 of 5, paragraph that discusses the additional course approvals: add details, such as answers to the questions asked.

Page 4 of 5, second paragraph under the Coventry Academy discussion, the last two sentences should read: "Dr. Petrone said it would not cost the district any additional funds. He added, just the existence of program will save the district money."

Page 4 of 5, second paragraph, first sentence should read: "E. Marchand asked if cuts made in June to the FY18 budget were brought back to this budget."

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted adjustments passes unanimously.

X. Old Business

X.A. Facilities Update

Dr. Petrone reviewed facilities items, such as the age of the boilers at CGS and GHR. He said they are either at life expectancy or past the life expectancy. He noted there are continuing concerns with the heating systems at these two schools.

M. Kortmann asked about the complex's heating system. Dr. Petrone talked about the recent software issue noting it has been resolved.

J. Beausoleil asked if the Town should be made aware of the now more urgent boiler issues. Dr. Petrone said he could review this with Mr. Elsesser.

X.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: One-to-One Program Conversion

Dr. Petrone talked about the changeover from iPads to Chromebooks and the cost and time comparison. He also noted they are still researching the various electronic textbooks and the compatibility of those with Chromebooks. He added, overall, the educational environment is moving to Chromebooks.

The Board discussed the durability differences between iPads and Chromebooks, noting Chromebooks are much more durable and less expensive to repair.

E. Marchand brought up the insurance for parents for the one-to-one program. Dr. Petrone said the insurance would be brought back for a separate discussion, whether iPads were kept or the decision was to migrate to Chromebooks.

Ms. Drury reviewed the many advantages of switching to Chromebooks.

J. Beausoleil asked if the Chromebooks will give the district greater control over the one-to-one device program. Ms. Drury said, definitely, yes.

J. Beausoleil asked if special parent information sessions will be held. Ms. Drury said these would be scheduled. Dr. Petrone said it would be a big roll-out like when we started with the iPads.

The Board discussed details of introducing Chromebooks.

MOTION: To approve the proposed technology plan of migrating the one-to-one devices from iPads to Chromebooks

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.C. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY19 Budget

Mr. Carroll distributed the changes made since the last meeting. Dr. Petrone addressed the TEAM program, which is still mandated by the State, but no longer funded.

Dr. Petrone said insurance and oil are the two larger outstanding numbers that we are waiting to firm up.

J. Beausoleil asked about the insurance figure. Mr. Carroll said waiting is better, and we do not expect an increase.

J. Beausoleil asked for further questions from Board members.

M. Minor asked about the Second Step program at CGS. R. Lezberg said it is a lesson plan that is already in place at the preschool and it will be implemented in kindergarten this year. She continued and reviewed the kits and noted it is focused on social, emotional learning. She further expanded on the program.

J. Beausoleil asked for further questions from Board members regarding the budget, there were none.

XI. New Business

XI.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar

Dr. Petrone shared the calendar draft with the Board. He noted that adjustments were made to November which make it less choppy. He said this reflects what the Board wanted to see.

The Board talked about the importance of professional days for staff. M. Kortmann asked if there has been talk about moving April break to March. Dr. Petrone said not in our area.

MOTION: To approve the 2018-2019 school calendar

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.B. Assign Three Members to Custodial Negotiation Committee

J. Beausoleil asked for three volunteers. E. Marchand, W. Oros and M. Kortmann volunteered to serve. J. Beausoleil said she would be the alternate.

XII. Adjournment

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

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: February 8, 2018