

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, February 22, 2018
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Mary Kortmann
Frank Infante

Board Members Absent:

Peter Larson
Mary Minor, Secretary
William Oros

Also Present:

Ben Urbanski, BOE Student Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience members present: Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Jennifer DeRagon, ELA Specialist; Jennifer Trueman, Math Specialist; Meredith Kirkpatrick; several CHS students; one parent; and Jim and Ann Donahue, Coventry business owners.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

J. Beausoleil asked for a moment of silence in remembrance for those who lost their lives as a result of the Florida school shooting last week.

III. Audience of Citizens

There was none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed happenings taking place in the district and area.

Dr. Petrone shared information and reviewed the Next Generation Accountability Report released recently by the State.

IV.A. Recognition: Community Members - Owners of Wicked Slice, James and Ann Donahue

Dr. Petrone publicly recognized Ann and Jim Donahue, owners of Wicked Slice. He noted their continuing contributions and the support they show the school community. He presented them with a plaque noting the Board's appreciation of their efforts. The Board thanked the Donahues. Mr. Donahue thanked the Board and said how Coventry has become their new "home town."

IV.B. Information: Student-Led Conferences Update

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeJulius who shared information, including a video, on the Student Led Conferences that took place in the fall at CNH. Ms. DeJulius noted 96% of parents participated in the conferences. Dr. Petrone said parents are excited to be a part of the process.

IV.C. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

B. Urbanski talked about events taking place at the high school.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

M. Kortmann asked for the item to be removed.

V.A. Approve the CHS March Field Experience to North Haven, CT

MOTION: Approve the CHS March Field Experience to North Haven, CT

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: M. Kortmann asked about the details of who was going and when. Dr. Petrone and B. Urbanski reviewed the schedule for the middle and high school students.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted she attended the Town Council meeting earlier in the week. She reported that they received the letter regarding the condition of the boilers.

She added that they discussed the security grant and how much the town would match.

She also thanked Beth Pratt for her efforts in working with the Senior Center in possibly providing a lunch for seniors.

She added that the flow of budget questions from the Town Council have been discussed and determined; it should be an easier exchange of information this year. She reviewed the meeting schedule for March 8 and added the Board will meet to review their budget with the Council on March 12.

In light of recent events that took place in Florida, she thanked staff for providing an environment where students feel comfortable in talking about current events.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of February 8, 2018

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 8, 2018

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. School Security and Climate

Dr. Petrone did a review of the security grant, the work to be done, where and when.

He continued and noted, in light of recent events in Florida, he reviewed next steps the district will be taking in reference to security concerns in general. Dr. Petrone talked about what Coventry has already done to address security concerns over the years. He named just a few - adding social workers, cameras, badge access doors, police officers have badges to gain access to the schools, alarmed doors, table top exercises, and thorough security audits.

E. Marchand noted his appreciation for the review of this information. He said Coventry has done an outstanding job at addressing concerns.

J. Beausoleil said Coventry has done great things. She said there is no place that is 100% safe, so we continue to make changes where we can. She said it is important to get the correct information out to the public.

E. Marchand said he is extremely impressed with the voice of the students.

J. Beausoleil asked for the administration to think of ways to continue to support staff, who are so supportive of our students and their families. Dr. Petrone agreed.

X. New Business

X.A. Information: Alpine Presentation

Dr. Petrone said the product Inform was previously used for student data management. He said much research was done when considering Alpine and the Administration is excited to present it as the new product. He introduced Ms. Drury who shared a Google Slides presentation on the Alpine program and its provisions. Ms. Trueman and Ms. DeRagon also presented how they have worked, assisting teachers with Alpine. They noted the ease of use and presented various reports as examples. Ms. Kirkpatrick shared a few slides from the teacher perspective.

Ms. Drury talked about the next steps for the program.

E. Marchand asked for an example of an intervention. Ms. Drury talked about how she is working with literacy interventions and how that works and how interventions are tracked.

M. Kortmann confirmed that student grades were being imported. Ms. Drury said yes. J. Beausoleil asked if certain custom reports could be created. Ms. Drury said yes. J. Beausoleil asked about security. Ms. Drury talked to that point, noting how secure the data is.

X.B. Information and Possible VOTE: 2017-18 School Calendar Revision

J. Beausoleil reviewed the current calendar and noted there have been numerous snow days.

Dr. Petrone reviewed the suggested changes, which include moving the March 9 staff development day to June 22 and rescheduling graduation to June 23. He said the last day for students would be June 21.

The Board talked about different scenarios. It was made clear that there could be more snow days, so it is possible there could be more changes.

B. Urbanski said he thinks students would approve of the noted changes.

MOTION: To approve the 2017-18 School Calendar revision, making March 9 a full day for students, moving graduation to June 23, making the last day of school for students, June 21

