

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, March 28, 2018
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mary Minor, Secretary
Peter Larson

Also in attendance:

Ben Urbanski, Student BOE Representative

Administrators in attendance:

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

Audience members in attendance: Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Ronda Lezberg, CGS Principal; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Elisa Haveles, GHR Teacher; Teachers from Coventry's Early Leadership Academy: Vicki DeVeau, Erin Hazzard, Heather McPeck, Megan Mensinger, Sara Nilsen, Lisa Mclean, Tim Barry and Samantha West; Jeff Spivey, Educational Technology Coach; Jennifer Trueman, Math Specialist; Coventry parents and students.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone noted the additional snow days that have affected the school calendar. He also reviewed items taking place in the district.

IV.A. Information: Recognition of the Board of Education

Dr. Petrone noted that March is Board Appreciation Month. He said this is a great opportunity to recognize the Board members for all of their efforts and many hours of volunteering.

The following students were in attendance to present gifts to the Board members: Grade 2, Jaishaun King and Mia Belsito; Grade 5, Rachel Bushnell and Camden Harrington; Grade 8, Eileen Anderson and Connor Sharp.

J. Beausoleil said how much the Board appreciates the students being present.

IV.B. Information: Staff Recognition - Coventry's Early Leadership Academy

Dr. Petrone recognized the first Cohort of Coventry's Early Leadership Academy. He thanked these teachers for their dedication and willingness to participate in the academy. He presented each teacher with a token of appreciation.

IV.C. Information: Program Recognition - Second Grade, 3-D Printing in Math with Jeff Spivey, Technology Coach and Jennifer Trueman, Math Specialist

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Spivey and Ms. Trueman, who shared a presentation on 3-D printing in math in second grade. Two second grade students Mia Belsito and Tyler LaBella were in attendance to share their experiences with the lesson.

Mr. Spivey and Ms. Trueman went on to explain the project from start to finish. They presented each Board member with a 3D "medal" of thanks.

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

Mr. Urbanski reviewed happenings taking place at the high school.

IV.E. Information: Superintendent Goal Achievement Report 2017-2018

Dr. Petrone reviewed the Goal Achievement Report via a SlideShow presentation. That presentation along with the entire report are available on the district's website.

When discussing the STEM track goal, M. Kortmann talked about the scholarships available for students who have taken Project Lead the Way courses.

Regarding the ECSU courses offerings, M. Kortmann asked if there was a student fee. Mr. Blake answered saying it was quoted at \$50.

E. Marchand and W. Oros commented on the UCONN intern projects and noted these interns could be future Coventry teachers.

M. Kortmann asked about the Alternative Education program at CNH and asked how many of the students would be going mainstream next year. Dr. Petrone answered that all of the students would be, with some supports in place.

Dr. Petrone thanked all members of the Coventry team who work so hard all year. He added, by "team" he means everyone, all staff members.

J. Beausoleil said this report shows there is a long term plan. She added it is nice to see this information shared with the community.

M. Kortmann asked about the K-5 alternative education proposal. Dr. Petrone said the administration has been reviewing this idea and noted there has been an uptick in behavioral

issues. He said there is a need beyond what is already in place. He said a more comprehensive overview of this will be conducted next year.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept retirement of Kim Licata, GHR Teacher

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted we are still in the midst of budget season. She said the Council will come up with the final numbers. She noted the annual meeting is being held on April 28 and Referendum will be May 8.

J. Beausoleil said she appreciates the community reaching out regarding the calendar issues.

She thanked Dr. Petrone and Chief Palmer for presenting the recent School Security Forum.

She continued and said she has asked the Superintendent to start thinking about the next phase of school security. She said the Superintendent and his team have a great track record for doing a thorough review.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of February 22, 2018

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 22, 2018

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B. Approve Minutes of March 12, 2018

MOTION: Approve Minutes of March 12, 2018

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information and VOTE: 2017-18 School Calendar Revision

Dr. Petrone said parents have shared interest in supporting reducing the calendar to 180 days. J. Beausoleil noted that the State only requires 180 days.

Dr. Petrone said he did do some homework and looked at various options. He reviewed the complications regarding different options.

J. Beausoleil said she likes the recommendation of going with 180 days for K-12, 182 for PK and keeping graduation at June 23.

Dr. Petrone talked about professional development and the remaining days that will be owed to teachers.

MOTION: To wave BOE practice requiring having 182 school days and have 180 days for students in grades K-12 and not waiving this for preschool students

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to work with staff and union representatives to develop a plan to address remaining staff hours that are contracted for professional development purposes

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX.B. Discussion and VOTE: Building and Energy Efficiency Committee - Approve Project Specifications

Mr. Carroll reviewed the process for this part of the work to be done.

F. Infante asked what the total cost is. M. Kortmann said the Town Council has the total figure, which has been sent to the bond folks. She added that the item will be its own question on the referendum.

The Board talked about the details of the projects.

MOTION: To approve the specifications as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX.C. Possible Discussion: FY2019 Budget

J. Beausoleil said the administration did a great job preparing the budget. She added there have not been any official questions forwarded by the Council to the Board regarding the budget.

Mr. Carroll said there is no other new information.

X. New Business

X.A. Information: Assign Members to Scholarship Committee (3)

J. Beausoleil asked for volunteers for the Scholarship Committee.

E. Marchand, F. Infante, and M. Kortmann volunteered.

X.B. VOTE: Annual Non-Renewal of Listed Teachers

MOTION: The contract of employment of teachers, named on the provided list, not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the current 2017-2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.C. Information and Possible VOTE: Coventry Academy Enhancements

Dr. Petrone reviewed location options for the Coventry Academy. He said he prefers the option of being able to stay on campus. He said they looked into having an addition added on to the back of the current building. He talked about the other improvements that the building needs. He said the work needs to be done, no matter what the use of the building is.

He said he wanted to see where the Board was leaning in their desire for the Academy and the current location.

J. Beausoleil said she would like to see the Coventry Academy stay on campus, adding the benefits are great.

Dr. Petrone went on to review what improvements need to be done at the current location.

M. Kortmann said she prefers it to stay on campus.

There was consensus for the Superintendent to move forward exploring ways to enhance the current Coventry Academy location.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Discussion: Policy Committee Meeting of February 22, 2018 - Policies up for Adoption and Revision (To be warned for a VOTE at a future regular Board Meeting)

XI.A.1. Information and Discussion of NEW Policy up for Approval

XI.A.1.a. 4111 - Plan for Minority Staff Recruitment

XI.A.2. Information and Discussion of Policies up for Revision

XI.A.2.a. 1231 - Non-Discrimination (Community)

XI.A.2.b. 4110 - Employment Checks

XI.A.2.c. 4116.1 - Non-Discrimination (Personnel)

XI.A.2.d. 4116.34 - Abuse or Neglect of Disable Adults

XI.A.2.e. 5122.2 - Non-Discrimination (Students)

XI.A.2.f. 5125 - Confidentiality and Access to Education Records

XI.A.2.g. 5141.21 - Administration of Medication in Schools

XI.A.2.h. 5144 - Student Discipline

XI.A.2.i. 9368.11 - Regular Business Meetings

XI.A.3. Information and Discussion of Policies up for Revision - Internal/Legal Reference Changes Only

XI.A.3.a. 4116.35 - Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees

XI.A.3.b. 5110 - Attendance and Truancy

XI.A.3.c. 5118.1 - Homeless Children and Youth

XI.A.3.d. 5143 - Restraint and Seclusion

XI.A.3.e. 6157 - IDEA Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities

The Board discussed various changes to the presented policies. Specifically they discussed the Administration of Medications policy changes.

There was consensus that all could be moved forward to a regular meeting for a vote.

XI.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of March 12, 2018

There was a brief review of figures from the March 12 Fiscal Committee meeting.

XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent's Evaluation)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent's Evaluation at 10:20 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIII. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:50 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

By: W. Oros

Seconded: F. Infante

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: April 12, 2018