Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Approved Minutes of February 14, 2019
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Peter Larson
Mary Kortmann

Board Members Absent:
William Oros, Secretary
Frank Infante
Kelly Sobol

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

Audience Members: Christian Marcinczyk, Dean of Students; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Elisa Haveles, GHR Teacher; CGS student Olivia Diaz and family; the Journal Inquirer was represented.

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.

III. Audience of Citizens
There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent
Dr. Petrone noted that Mr. Richard Bednarz, a veteran teacher in Coventry recently passed away. He said how dearly Mr. Bednarz would be missed.
Dr. Petrone continued and reviewed happenings taking place around the district, region, and state.

IV.A. Recognition: CGS Student Olivia Diaz Winner of Senator Murphy’s Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest
Dr. Petrone introduced Olivia Diaz. Mrs. Diaz spoke about the experience that Olivia had receiving her award at Senator Murphy’s office. Dr. Petrone presented Olivia with a special award recognition from the Board of Education.

IV.C. Information: NEASC Two-Year Update
Mr. Blake reviewed details of the favorable two-year report that was received from NEASC.

E. Marchand asked about the privacy issue noted at the nurse's office. Mr. Blake said this was fixed with the reconfiguration of the front offices as now the guidance office is directly next door, which provides a space for private conversations.

E. Marchand asked about the work on the weight room. Dr. Petrone said it is on the Capital Improvement Plan and it is at least three years out. Mr. Blake added that this is within the time frame allowed by NEASC.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda
V.A. Accept the retirement of Janean Heckman, CHS Nurse

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman
J. Beausoleil talked about the passing of Mr. Bednarz. She said this is the end of an error.

She talked about the anniversary of the Parkland Florida tragedy and asked for a moment of silence.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes
VIII.A. Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 24, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 24, 2019
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VIII.B. Approve Minutes of January 31, 2019

MOTION: To approve Minutes of January 31, 2019
By: P. Larson Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business
IX.A. VOTE: Adopt the following Policies
IX.A.1. 1250 - Visitors and Observations in Schools

MOTION: To approve 1250 - Visitors and Observations in Schools
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX.A.2. 3120.1 - Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers - Preschool

MOTION: To approve 3120.1 - Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers – Preschool
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX.A.3. 5127 - Graduation Requirements

MOTION: To approve 5127 - Graduation Requirements
By: P. Larson Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously
IX.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY20 Budget

Mr. Carroll distributed the latest copies of updated budget book pages. Mr. Carroll spoke to the adjustments that have been taken into consideration regarding salaries based on recent resignations and retirements. Mr. Carroll also spoke about the adjustments to excess cost and also tuition. He said the transportation line has been increased to 4.95%, from 3%.

He said with all of these adjustments, we are now at a 1.17% increase over the current year. Dr. Petrone commented that we wanted to have the most accurate and current information reflected in the budget proposal. He said everything is based on known information.

E. Marchand said he hasn’t seen any town come in close to what Coventry is proposing. M. Kortmann said she saw maybe one.

J. Beausoleil commented that none of the outstanding information is of a concern. Dr. Petrone agreed.

M. Kortmann said the budget looks wonderful.

E. Marchand said it is extremely thorough.

MOTION: To approve the FY20 Budget at a bottom line of $27,601,597 which is an increase of 1.17% over FY19

By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: Both J. Beausoleil and E. Marchand expressed how far the district has come and how well we are doing. Board members agreed.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. New Business

X.A. Assign Members to the Following Committees

X.A.1. EAC Negotiations (3-7)

J. Beausoleil said she would like to go with past practice, where the Board serves as a whole. M. Kortmann agreed. J. Beausoleil said a Town Council member will be invited to join the committee.

X.A.2. Cafeteria Negotiations (3)

J. Beausoleil asked that K. Sobol be asked. M. Kortmann said she would serve. J. Beausoleil said she would serve.

X.A.3. Scholarship Committee (3)

E. Marchand volunteered. J. Beausoleil asked that W. Oros be asked. P. Larson volunteered.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of February 14, 2019

M. Kortmann said there is nothing in the various categories of concern. She said the per pupil is a little different than expected.

Mr. Carroll explained the budget transfer that is on the agenda, noting a School Psychologist at CGS resigned in November. He said, despite numerous efforts, PSSS has been unable to find a replacement, and it has been decided that we will contract with CREC for a psychologist for the remainder of the school year.
He said the Management Report is up by over $40,000 from the prior month, leaving us with an anticipated total amount of $225,000 in the black by the end of the year. He said this is due mostly to vacancies in the certified salaries accounts.

J. Beausoleil noted the different resignations, retirements, and one death.

XI.A.1. Possible VOTE: Approve Budget Transfer

MOTION: To approve a budget transfer of $60,278 from account 100 certified salaries to account 300 Purchased Services
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI.A.2. Possible VOTE: Request Use of the 1% Non-Lapsing Account

M. Kortmann said there was a consensus at Fiscal to move this item forward. She reviewed the repairs that needed to be done to the complex generator and the hot water storage tank at CNH.

MOTION: To authorize the superintendent to send a letter to the Town Council requesting use of the 1% non-lapsing account to pay for expenses related to the repairs of the generator and the hot water storage water tank
By: P. Larson Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Administrator Interviews and 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 Administrator Interviews and the Superintendent’s Evaluation w/Superintendent present at 8:26 p.m.
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIII. Open Session

XIII.A. Possible VOTE to authorize the Superintendent to enter into Employment Negotiations

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to enter into Employment Negotiations with a new Assistant Principal at the Capt. Nathan Hale School
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.
By: E. Marchand Seconded: P. Larson
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: February 28, 2019