

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Approved Minutes of February 28, 2019  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman  
Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairman  
Peter Larson  
Frank Infante  
Mary Kortmann  
Kelly Sobol

Board Members Absent:

William Oros, Secretary

Also Present:

Ryan Hayes, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Several students and parents; Dhilan Shah, Prudential Financial Representative; Timothy Ackert, State Representative; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator; Cathie Drury, Director of Education Technology; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Hillary Walsh, HEEC Teacher; Samantha West, HEEC Teacher; Jessica Harris, CHS Reading Consultant; and Christina Ziegler, CNH Reading Consultant.

**I. Call to Order**

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Workshop: Contract Negotiations**

Jessica Ritter from Shipman and Goodwin shared a presentation with the Board, discussing contract negotiations.

**III. Salute to the Flag**

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag at 7:30 p.m.

**IV. Audience of Citizens**

There were none.

**V. Report of Superintendent**

Dr. Petrone began by relaying good news. He noted the district was able to purchase a baby grand piano for \$50 through a state auction and due to the watchful eye of John Elsesser. He continued to note other items as well.

#### **V.A. Student Recognition: CHS Student Nicholas Wesoloskie Winner of a Prudential Spirit of Community Award**

Dr. Petrone introduced Mr. Shah. Mr. Shah read a statement commending CHS student, Nicholas Wesoloskie, as a recipient of a Prudential Spirit of Community Award. He spoke about "Pajama Day," the fundraiser Nick started in second grade and how it has grown in the past seven years, raising funds for Cancer research at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. He noted that Nick is the high school winner for the entire state of Connecticut. He added that Nick is invited to go to Washington DC for the National Awards.

Nick said a few words of appreciation.

J. Beausoleil said how amazing this has been, it shows what a great family this is and what a great community Coventry is.

#### **V.B. Information: Innovative Grant Update: HEEC Technology Ticket with Hillary Walsh and Samantha West, HEEC Teachers**

Dr. Petrone introduced Dr. Hasty, who talked about the work that the teachers are doing. Dr. Hasty introduced Ms. Walsh and Ms. West who shared a presentation on the Bee-Bots, which are a part of the "Technology Ticket" Innovative Grant. HEEC students Allison Rouillard and Keaton Abo joined them for a demonstration.

#### **V.C. Information: Reading Intervention Program with Jessica Harris, CHS Reading Consultant and Christina Ziegler, CNH Reading Consultant**

Dr. Petrone talked about the intervention work that is taking place in the district. He introduced Ms. Harris and Ms. Ziegler who shared information on the Reading Intervention Program.

J. Beausoleil commended the program and the work the teachers are doing.

E. Marchand asked if the work was factored into the Student Led Conferences. Ms. Harris said yes, she works with the students on what to share. E. Marchand said the attention to the individual is wonderful.

M. Kortmann asked about the intensity of the program and does it cause chronic participation. Dr. Petrone said there is now entrance and exit criteria. He, Ms. Ziegler, and Ms. Harris talked about the details of the program. K. Sobol talked about her extremely positive experiences with the intervention programs at the elementary level.

#### **V.D. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report**

Ryan Hayes talked about events taking place at the high school.

#### **V.E. Mid-Year Updates**

##### **V.E.1. Facilities**

Mr. Trudelle shared a mid-year update on the Facilities projects.

M. Kortmann asked about the security projects; Mr. Trudelle said all of those items are complete.

The Board talked about the details surrounding floor projects and possible asbestos.

The Board talked about the increase in the use of work orders and the benefit of tracking work being done. Dr. Petrone said the department is becoming more efficient.

### **V.E.2. Technology Department**

Ms. Drury shared a mid-year update presentation for the Technology Department.

M. Kortmann asked about the financial software we currently have and if we will be using it for the foreseeable future. Mr. Carroll said yes, it has been around for a long time, and he expects it to continue.

M. Kortmann talked about the CIP and how fiber was listed, but now it is outdated. Mr. Carroll said the conversations are continuing.

### **V.E.3. Teaching and Learning**

Ms. Mullaly shared a presentation containing a mid-year update for Teaching and Learning.

## **VI. Report of Chairman**

J. Beausoleil reminded the Board that the Town Budget Hearing is scheduled for March 7 in the Lecture Hall at CHS. She noted the Board had a workshop earlier in the evening and commented on how important the session in contract negotiations was. She also reminded the Board of the budget discussion meeting with the Town Council on March 11.

## **VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes**

### **VIII.A. Approve Minutes of February 14 2019**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 14, 2019**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: P. Larson**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **IX. Old Business**

### **IX.A. Possible VOTE: Affirmation of the FY20 Budget**

J. Beausoleil said at the last meeting it was unavoidable that some Board members had to miss the meeting when the budget was voted on. She said the item is on the agenda tonight to give the opportunity to those Board members to publicly show their support or other thoughts regarding the budget.

She read the following comments submitted by William Oros for the record:

"I must say: kudos, to you all for the excellent work on the creation and development of the Coventry School Budget for 2019-2020 year. While I was unable to attend board meetings I was able to follow budget discussions, presentations and get answers to some of my concerns regarding budget items through the use of modern technology. Well done, an excellent budget that meets our student needs and safety. Provides for program growth and supports our facilities as well as keeping tax payers in mind. Please know I totally support this budget and I am looking forward to seeing it pass on the first vote."

**MOTION: To Affirm the FY2020 budget**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: E. Marchand**

Discussion: E. Marchand said for the many years he has been a part of this process. He said the Board has always voted unanimously and that is commendable.

J. Beausoleil said this is an opportunity for folks to voice their opinions one way or another.

K. Sobol said she appreciates the opportunity. She said she thinks it is a great budget

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **X. New Business**

### **X.A. Information and possible VOTE: Approve Partnership with Goodwin College**

Dr. Petrone shared a presentation with the Board outlining the program proposal with Goodwin College, in partnership with Bolton and Vernon. He said the main objective is to have a manufacturing track available to students at CHS. He added that the students will be able to obtain Goodwin College credits as well.

The Board talked about the details of the proposal. E. Marchand said he is excited for Coventry students to have this opportunity.

**MOTION: Authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Goodwin College**

**By: E. Marchand**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **XI. 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 9:49 p.m.**

**By: M. Kortmann**

**Seconded: P. Larson**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

## **XII. Open Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:40 p.m.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.**

**By: F. Infante**

**Seconded: K. Sobol**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Arey Delorme  
Board Clerk

Approved: March 14, 2019