

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

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

Present Board Members:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
William Oros, Secretary
Peter Larson
Frank Infante
Mary Kortmann
Kelly Sobol

Also present: Ryan Hayes, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Education Technology; Torrie Phillips, Library Media Specialist; Marybeth Murdoch, Library Media Specialist; Bryn Mutch, Library Media Specialist; parents and students.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:38 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 reviewed various items taking place around the district, region, and state.

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

Dr. Petrone talked about all of the hard work and many hours that the Board members volunteer to the district. He reviewed their many accomplishments over the past few years.

He introduced the students who were present to give each Board member a gift of appreciation.

J. Beausoleil thanked everyone on behalf of the Board.

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

Ryan Hayes talked about the different activities taking place at the high school.

IV.C. Information: Innovative Grant Update - K-12 STEAM Night with Torrie Phillips, Marybeth Murdock, Bryn Mutch our Library Media Specialists

Dr. Petrone talked about the event and how great it was. He introduced the three Library Media Specialists, Mr. Mutch, Ms. Phillips, and Ms. Murdoch who shared a presentation about the event. They noted the family participation was outstanding. They also thanked the many volunteers.

E. Marchand said it was great to see the parents involved in all of the activities.

J. Beausoleil said it was nice to see a variety of ages there and that they could participate no matter their age.

W. Oros gave kudos to the three specialists for the quality of the work they do.

K. Sobol said it was the most enjoyable event.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Resignation of Caitlyn Barclay, CGS Teacher

V.B. Accept the Retirement of Leanne Moran, GHR Para-educator

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil said there are many things going on, including the Scholarship Foundation fundraiser, Preschool Information Night, the CHS drama production of Newsies!; the Town Hearing and the Town Council meeting regarding the budget; and she noted it is Pie Day.

VII. Communications

VII.A. Information: Naming of Town Owned Property and Features

VII.B. Information: NEASC Two-Year Progress Report Letter

J. Beausoleil mentioned the two items posted under Communications. She noted that these are included for the Board's reference.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of February 28, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 28, 2019

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Budget FY20

J. Beausoleil said the budget is on the agenda as a place holder, in case discussion or action is needed. She noted the attachment that is available containing answers to questions made by a member of the Town Council.

J. Beausoleil said the Town Manager talked about the renewal rate of ECHIP and that it will be less of an increase and he will include that in his recommendation to the Council.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of March 7, 2019

E. Marchand reviewed the discussions of the Transportation Committee which included a review of the Transportation Policy. He said one minor word change is being recommended. He commented that the Committee also discussed that the bus contract is up soon. He said the recommendation of the Committee is to continue with M&J. He thanked Dr. Petrone for the negotiation work he did with M&J. E. Marchand continued saying, they are very pleased with service provided by M&J. He said they look forward to bringing a contract proposal to the full Board.

X.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of March 14, 2019

Mr. Carroll summarized the reports. He said the current amount of unexpended funds is \$250,000. He said this amount is after a deficit of \$100,000 in Special Education outplaced tuition. Dr. Petrone said a good amount of the unexpended funds is due to personnel adjustments which effect certified salaries. He added that these personnel adjustments cannot be planned for - they just happen mid-year, uncontrollably.

MOTION: To add a discussion and VOTE to the Agenda regarding the WANRack Fiber WAN Proposal

By: M Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

M. Kortmann explained the proposal on the table. She said the district has been waiting for this type of opportunity. Mr. Carroll reviewed the financials of the proposal. J. Beausoleil said, currently, we are using Charter/Spectrum and there is a concern that viable service will not be continually available. Dr. Petrone is also concerned that a sizable fee increase could come from Charter at any moment.

The Board talked about the physical installation of the fiber.

M. Kortmann said the current proposal will be negotiated and fine-tuned.

W. Oros said this gives the Board a long term solution to a current serious concern. Dr. Petrone said there is a lot of insecurity with the current service.

M. Kortmann clarified that the district will not pay any money until the job is complete and the E-Rate funding is confirmed.

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to negotiate with and enter in to an agreement for a Wide Area Network with WANRAC

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

M. Kortmann updated the Board on information from the School Building and Energy Efficiency Building Committee. She said there is discussion regarding energy saving equipment and related rebates. She continued that there is an opportunity for a company to come in and analyze equipment that is needed and what energy rebates are available. She has been tasked to see if there was any objection by the Board for this analysis to take place. She said there is absolutely no obligation on the Board's end. There was no objection.

X.B.1. Possible VOTE: Approve Budget Transfer

M. Kortmann talked about the reason for the budget transfer.

MOTION: To Transfer \$25,000 from account 100 Salaries to account 600 Supplies

By: W. Oros

Seconded: P. Laron

Discussion: Mr. Carroll explained that the overage in the maintenance supplies is due to performing work in-house as opposed to hiring a contractor. Some of the larger jobs that attribute to this include materials needed for the fire wall between the warehouse and the Academy, converting key areas at CNH to emergency power, and remodeling the Patriots Park location. These three large projects are not part of a typical school year budget. Funds are available under salaries due to a recent retirement of an elementary school teacher.

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 8:52 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board of Education came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 9:49 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: F. Infante

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: March 28, 2019