

Coventry Board of Education

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Approved Minutes of Thursday, March 28, 2019
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
William Oros, Secretary
Mary Kortmann

Board Members Absent:

Frank Infante
Peter Larson
Kelly Sobol

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: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Audra Leach, CNH Teacher; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Beth Giller, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Cathie Drury, Director of Education Technology; and several 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

Nikolaj Freschlin, student, said he was present to represent the Baseball Team and the student body of CHS. He said he is here to speak regarding rumors of CHS Physical Education teacher Ryan Giberson leaving Coventry as a teacher. He asked that the following statement be included in the minutes, "Mr. Ryan Giberson has been one of if not the most influential person of my entire Coventry High School tenure. However, this is not only due to my presence on the baseball team under him. He has been a steadfast presence within this school that many have relied on to make them feel welcome within this school. He is adept at ensuring the comfort of our students as well as educating them. He is almost definitely one of the most well respected and trusted members of faculty within our school. He not only educates his students within our school but gives them an opportunity to feel welcome in CHS. Removing him will not only greatly disrupt the daily mood within the school but will also be getting rid of one of the most treasured members of CHS."

Joe Mansella, CHS student, said he was here to speak on behalf of Mr. Giberson. He asked that the following statement be included in the minutes, "Hi my name is Joey Mansella and I am a tenth grader at the high school. I am here to speak about the reduction of the physical education teacher at the middle school, which could ultimately affect the high school. I have heard that Mr. Giberson, or "Gibe" as his students call him, could lose his job to the middle school gym teacher due to the

teacher contract. I would just like to say that I think Mr. Giberson deserves to keep his job at the high school. He is more than just a physical education teacher; he is also a mentor. Gibe has helped out many students with just about anything they have a problem in. That's the type of guy he is. He is willing to listen and tell you the truth when you ask for his help. He will initiate conversations with you and make your day when he can tell you are feeling down. Gibe tries to make a connection with all of us. I know when I'm having a bad day if I find Mr. Giberson he will cheer me up in no time at all.

In addition to being one of the physical education teachers at the high school, Mr. Giberson is also the head coach of our volleyball and baseball programs and has been very successful in the recent years. Personally, he has helped me become a better baseball player both on the field and off. I can also say the same for my sister, who has played volleyball for him the last 3 years. So all in all, I think you should do all you can to keep Mr. Giberson as the high school gym and health teacher. Thank you."

Leah St. Onge, CHS student, was here to speak on behalf of the Volleyball Team. She shared a collaborative supportive statement in support of Mr. Giberson.

Brooke Dutton, a senior of CHS, was here to speak on behalf of the Volleyball Team. She spoke in support of keeping Mr. Giberson at Coventry High School and about his dedication to the students.

Cole Futoma, a 2010 graduate, of 514 Brewster Street was present to speak on behalf of Ryan Giberson, as a role model for all students.

Ian Jellinek, CHS student, spoke on behalf of all students at CHS. He said Mr. Giberson has had a positive impact on his academic career and also many other areas.

Jennifer O'Neil, parent of two students on the baseball team said she was present to speak in support of Mr. Giberson and his positive impact on students and athletes.

Tom Williams, 95 Sam Green Road, said he worked as a coach with Mr. Giberson and spoke in support of him and how he connects with the students. He said it would be a big mistake to let him go.

J. Beausoleil said she has the authority to comment as Chairman during the Audience of Citizens. She explained that the current budget proposal has a reduction to one of the Physical Education teaching positions at the middle school. She explained that when this happens, there are rules that are outlined in the Teachers' Agreement that must be followed. She said they are very specific. She went on to cover the details of the process, which includes items such as seniority and previous certified teaching. She said the Board of Education does not have the ability to override the procedures outlined in the Agreement. She said Mr. Giberson will have the ability to stay, but at the middle school.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed happenings taking place around the district. He noted that the report came in regarding the issues with the walls at the high school and that the Walls Committee will be meeting to discuss the results. He stressed that the buildings are safe.

He talked about the dangers of vaping and how it has been more prevalent in the schools, and that they have been trying to keep parents informed.

Dr. Petrone mentioned CHS Portfolio Night, which was held this week. E. Marchand also commented on the event and gave kudos to the students.

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

Ryan Hayes talked about Portfolio Night, noting it was a big success. He said the location of the Senior Prom has changed to a country club in Hebron, due to the original location going out of business. He commented on the support that was shown tonight on behalf of Ryan Giberson.

IV.B. Staff Recognition - Audra Leach, CNH Teacher, for Presenting at NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) Annual Conference

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Leach who presented last week at NELMS. Ms. Leach said a few words about her presentation. J. Beausoleil thanked Ms. Leach for presenting.

IV.C. Information: Superintendent Goal Achievement Report 2018-2019

Dr. Petrone shared his presentation showcasing highlights of the Goal Achievements for the 2018-19 school year. (The full report and presentation are available on the website.)

Dr. Petrone noted that all of this is possible through the team that is in place, which includes all staff members.

W. Oros thanked Dr. Petrone for all of the hard work.

M. Kortmann asked about the Goodwin College partnership. Dr. Petrone gave an update noting that there are interested students and we are in good shape.

J. Beausoleil said "great job" and noted that the highlights do not do the full report justice.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

J. Beausoleil asked that Mr. Dillon's retirement be removed from the Consent Agenda.

V.B. Accept Retirement of Timothy Dillon, CHS Teacher

MOTION: To accept the retirement of Timothy Dillon

BY: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: J. Beausoleil said what a phenomenal science teacher Mr. Dillon has been for the high school. She noted his recent involvement in the Geo-dome. She said she wanted to recognize the work he has done.

J. Beausoleil wanted to note the number of resignations and the one retirement and that these were all submitted after the budget was submitted.

E. Marchand commented on the positive work of Mr. Dillon as well.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.A. Accept Resignation of Pei-Pei Champion, CNH Teacher

V.C. Accept Resignation of Courtney Gagne, HEEC Teacher

V.D. Accept Resignation of Anna Glowacki, CNH Teacher

V.E. Accept Resignation of Gary Hall, Custodian

V.F. Accept Resignation of Diane Kuzmeski, Para-educator

V.G. Accept Resignation of Vita Pinelli-Beebe, ELA Specialist

MOTION: Approve the remaining items on the consent agenda

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil said the Town Council will discuss the budget proposal that they will send to the Town meeting on Monday evening. She encouraged folks to attend the meeting if they have comments. She also noted the annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m. She recommended that folks pass on opinions to legislators regarding state-level funding.

She said the CGS Arts Festival is May 24, which is a highlight in town.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of March 14, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 14, 2019

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: F. Infante

Discussion: M. Kortmann asked that a spelling error be corrected in the vote to approve a transfer.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. New Business

IX.A. Discussion: Policy up for Revision - Policy 3541 Transportation (to be warned for a VOTE of revision at a future regular BOE meeting)

E. Marchand noted the one change to the policy, which will give the Administration flexibility in making decisions. The Board discussed the process that was followed in coming to the decision. J. Beausoleil said this would be voted on at the next meeting.

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

Dr. Petrone reviewed the legal reason for the non-renewal process.

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 2018-2019 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent 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 9:04 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:20 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: April 11, 2019