

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, June 13, 2019
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

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

Administrators Present:

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

Audience Members Present: Christina Williams, Board Candidate; Sean Gallagher, Board Candidate; Dorothy Grady, Justice of the Peace; Representative Timothy Ackert; Brian Cohen, Positive Expressions; Alison Blair, CHS Teacher; Laura Boates; CEP Teacher; Mike Casey, Frisbee Club Coach and CHS Teacher; Elizabeth Crowl, CNH Teacher; Anne Tindal, CHS Teacher; Jennifer Faenza, CHS Teacher; Angela Puccia, CGS Teacher; Carolyn Bennett, CGS Teacher; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Beth Giller, PSSS Director; Patrick Cox, Athletic Director; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; students; parents; and the Chronicle newspaper was represented.

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

Elizabeth Wolf, 653 Flanders Road, said she came to voice her support of Sean Gallagher to fill the vacancy left by Peter Larson. She said she was also present to speak on behalf of the Democratic Town Committee who fully endorsed Mr. Gallagher. She continued to speak in support of Mr. Gallagher.

Kathleen Ryan, 18 Maryanne Drive, said she was present to support Sean Gallagher to fill the vacancy. She talked about his role as a young parent and noted he is a qualified candidate.

Robin Gallagher, 984 Main Street, said she was present to support her husband Sean Gallagher to fill the vacancy. She continued to talk about why he is qualified as a candidate.

MOTION: To move the Recognition portion of the meeting ahead of filling the vacancy
By: W. Oros Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. Report of Superintendent

IV.A. Recognition: CHS Ultimate Frisbee Club - Division II State Championship Winners with Coach, Mike Casey

Dr. Petrone introduced Mike Casey and the Frisbee Club. Mr. Casey talked about the team and winning the State Championship.

J. Beausoleil said she remembers when the team started out very small and she said it is phenomenal that it has grown so much. She noted how proud the Board is of this accomplishment.

IV.B. Recognition: CNH and CHS Winners of the CAS Challenge to Educational Citizenship Contest with Lisa McClean and Elizabeth Crowl, CNH Teachers and Anne Tindal and Jennifer Faenza, CHS Teachers

Dr. Petrone introduced Elizabeth Crowl who introduced members of her student group. The group explained the philosophy of the group.

Elizabeth Crowl was also there with students who spoke on behalf of Lisa McClean's group.

Dr. Petrone introduced Anne Tindal and students who explained their project.

Dr. Petrone introduced Jennifer Faenza and her students who explained their project.

There was congratulations from the Board.

IV.C. Recognition: Positive Expressions 2019, Away with Negativity with Alison Blair, CHS Art Teacher and CHS Students Nancy Conti, Alex Mirante, Julia Brown, and Ruijie Lu

Representative Ackert was present to present CHS art students with Citations. Brian Cohen, from Positive Expressions, explained this project and that student artwork lined the hallways of the Capitol Building. He noted that Coventry High School students were chosen this year and they were model students to work with. Ms. Blair and the four students were presented with citations, certificates of appreciation, and Board appreciation.

IV.D. Recognition: Institute of Living, Mental Health First Aid Training - Angela Puccia and Carolyn Bennett, CGS Teachers

Dr. Petrone recognized Ms. Bennett and Ms. Puccia for their dedication in volunteering their time taking this special training.

IV.E. Recognition: CABA Student Leadership Awards - CNH Students Paige Belsito and Gabriel O'Neil

Dr. Petrone introduced Gabe O'Neil and Paige Belsito, this year's CNH recipients of the CABA Student Leadership Awards.

Ms. DeJulius spoke positively about each student.

J. Beausoleil talked about the award and congratulated the students.

IV.F. Recognition: Future Problem Solvers with Laura Boates, CEP Teacher

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Boates. Ms. Boates talked about the program and the International Competition.

J. Beausoleil said this program is a creative way for students to expand beyond the traditional setting. She said it is great to see the level of participation.

IV. Old Business: Information and VOTE - Fill the Unexpired Term of Peter Larson

J. Beausoleil said it is nice when multiple members of the community show interest in serving. She reviewed the process of selecting someone to fill the vacancy.

IV.G. Statements by Candidates

Each candidate selected a number to decide who would speak first.

Sean Gallagher was first and spoke about his history in Coventry. He continued and reviewed his schooling and work experience. He also noted he is a parent in town and how important he believes education is.

Christina Williams spoke next and talked about her history in Coventry. She continued and reviewed her work experience and how it would relate to being a Board member. She noted she is a parent in Coventry as well.

E. Marchand asked Ms. Williams if she would have time to devote to being a Board member. She said this would be a priority.

M. Kortmann asked about the Board's roles and responsibilities. Ms. Williams said it is important to keep and retain good teachers.

Mr. Gallagher said the Board is the community's role in the schools. It is a way of having the community involved.

E. Marchand asked what the important qualities are for Board members.

Ms. Williams said it is the willingness to get involved. She said to think creatively and innovatively.

Mr. Gallagher said it is being able to listen and work with others.

W. Oros asked what the role is of an individual Board member.

Mr. Gallagher said to bring their experience and understanding to the Board.

Ms. Williams said to bring experience and guidance in how to best prepare the students. She said it is important to be listening at the ground level; to continually be active and listening to the teachers.

J. Beausoleil said the Board is bound by and restricted by a number of state mandates. She asked both candidates to mention one that the Board may struggle with.

Mr. Gallagher said the budget is always an issue and towns have limited resources. He also mentioned the laws surrounding special education and the Board's duty to serve every student no matter the need.

Ms. Williams said the mandatory state assessments are a concert. She said she wants more than just teaching to the assessment, but we should be preparing students for life.

IV.H. Nominations and VOTE

MOTION: To nominate Sean Gallagher to Fill the Unexpired Term of Peter Larson

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

E. Marchand asked if the Walkthroughs were unannounced. Ms. Mullaly said yes. The Board talked about the benefits of the walkthroughs.

V.B. Information: 2018-2019 Administrators' Goal Achievement Updates

V.B.1. Coventry Grammar School

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Carrie who shared the CGS Goal Achievement presentation for 2018-19. The entire report is available on the district's website.

V.B.2. G. H. Robertson School

Ms. DeRagon shared the GHR Goal Achievement presentation for 2018-19. The entire report is available on the district's website.

V.B.3. Pupil and Staff Support Services

Dr. Giller shared her presentation of the Pupil and Staff Support Services goal achievements for 2018-19. The entire presentation is available on the district's website.

VI. VOTE: Consent Agenda

J. Beausoleil asked that Mr. Apicella's resignation be pulled from the consent agenda.

K. Sobol asked that Ms. Gauthier's resignation be pulled from the consent agenda.

VI.A. Approve the 2021 CNH Field Experience to Pennsylvania and Washington, DC

VI.C. Accept the Resignation of Timothy Barry, CNH Teacher

VI.D. Accept the Retirement of Rudi Fregin, CGS Custodian

VI.F. Accept the Resignation of Maggie McInerney, CNH Teacher

VI.G. Accept the Resignation of Hillary Walsh, HEEC Teacher

MOTION: Approve the remaining items on the consent agenda

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI.B. Accept the Resignation of Adam Apicella, CHS Teacher

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Adam Apicella

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: J. Beausoleil said Adam has been a phenomenal teacher at the high school. She noted he will be taking on a new role as an administrator at another district. She wanted to congratulate him publicly.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI.E. Accept the Resignation of Emily Gauthier, CGS Teacher

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Emily Gauthier

By: K. Sobol

Seconded: W. Oros

Discussion: K. Sobol said she had the pleasure working with Ms. Gauthier and she is a great teacher.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Report of Chairman

She noted the Senior Awards night and the outstanding work the committee does in getting scholarship money to the seniors.

She reminded folks of graduation on Saturday morning.

IX. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

IX.A. Approve Minutes of May 30, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 30, 2019

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. Old Business

X.A. Facilities Project Update

Dr. Petrone said this item is on the agenda in case there are any questions.

The Board touched on the Asbestos project and discussed some of those details. Dr. Petrone continued and summarized other projects.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of June 13, 2019

M. Kortmann reviewed the joint meeting. She also reviewed the monthly reports.

XI.A.1. Possible VOTE: Approve Transfer

MOTION: To transfer \$160,000 from account 100 salaries and \$85,000 from account 200 Benefits and distribute as follows: \$185,000 to accounts 300-500 Purchasing Services, \$40,000 to account 600 Supplies, and \$20,000 to account 700 Equipment
By: W. Oros **Seconded: E. Marchand**

Discussion: F. Infante asked for details of the transfers. Dr. Petrone explained the reasoning. He said there was a significant number of unanticipated retirements during the school year and also savings in insurance.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Bargaining Unit Negotiations)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Bargaining Unit Negotiations with Robert Carroll and Dr. Petrone present at 10:33 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

XIII. Open Session

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 10:52 p.m.

XIII.A. Possible VOTE: To approve the Agreement between the Cafeteria Workers and the Coventry Board of Education 2019 - 2023

