Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut  

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, August 29, 2019  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:  
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman  
Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairman  
William Oros, Secretary  
Frank Infante  
Sean Gallagher  
Mary Kortmann  
Kelly Sobol

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

Audience Members Present:  
William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; and several parents.

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  
J. Beausoleil requested a moment of silence for Sue Comella, CHS Guidance Secretary, and Bill Hoffman, retired teacher, who recently passed away.

J. Beausoleil reviewed the Audience of Citizen process as well as the process for the reporting of transportation concerns.

Christina Williams, 436 Ripley Hill Road, addressed her concerns regarding various topics in the district, including staff turnover, student safety, transportation, and technology.

Angela Rejman, 122 Judd Road, stated her concerns regarding her child’s bus stop. Her son, Parker, also shared with the Board that he would like his stop change.

Kathleen Breitenwischer, 61 Barbara Drive, thanked Dr. Petrone and J. Beausoleil for their prompt responses to her email regarding the change in bus routes.

Cassandra Slossar, 485 Daly Road, requested information from the Board in regard to specific student demographics, PowerSchool, and grants.

Nikki McLaughlin, 42 Flanders River Road, addressed the Board with bus stop concerns.
David Broderick, 139 Geraldine Drive, expressed concerns over how the decisions were made in regard to the change in bus routes and the lack of communication.

Josh Kuzenka, 257 Pucker Street, expressed concerns regarding his children’s new bus stop.

Laura Dittrich, 530 South Street, expressed her concerns regarding her kids new bus stops.

IV. Report of Superintendent
Dr. Petrone reviewed the start of school as well as other happenings in the district.

IV.A. Welcome and Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report
Nicholas Cabral, the new Student Board of Education Representative, thanked the Board for selecting him to participate and reported on the first day of school.

IV.B. Information: Opening of School 2019-2020
Dr. Petrone shared a video of convocation and opening day.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda
J. Beausoleil asked that Jeanne LaHouse's retirement be removed from the consent agenda. M. Kortmann asked that the field experience to Orlando be removed.

V.A. Accept the Resignation of Kristin Fortier, CGS Para-educator
V.B. Accept the Resignation of Kristin Fowler, GHR Teacher
V.C. Accept the Resignation of Christina Hanks, CNH Psychologist
V.D. Accept the Resignation of Matthew Leitao, CNH Teacher
V.E. Accept the Resignation of Brittany Miner, Para-educator at CGS

MOTION: Approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda
By: E. Marchand Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.F. Approve CHS April 2020 Field Experience to Orlando, FL
MOTION: To approve the CHS April 2020 Field Experience to Orlando, FL
Discussion: M. Kortmann asked if the students were flying. Dr. Petrone said yes. M. Kortmann said this is a great trip.

By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.G. Accept the Retirement of Jeanne LaHouse, GHR Para-educator
MOTION: To accept the retirement of Jeanne LaHouse with regret
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: W. Oros
Discussion: J. Beausoleil noted what a great presence Jeanne LaHouse has been at GHR. She said she is happy for her retirement, but sad to see her leave.

Result: Motion passes unanimously
VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil said she was honored to be at convocation. She thanked the Technology Department for their work. J. Beausoleil thanked parent Toyna Ohland, who started an initiative of students wearing t-shirts that say "I'll Be Your Friend." She said this is an amazing initiative. She also reviewed what is available on the district website.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of July 25, 2019

MOTION: Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of July 25, 2019
By: E. Marchand
Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (M. Kortmann abstained)

VIII.B. Approve Minutes of July 25, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 25, 2019
By: S. Gallagher
Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes 6-0-1 (M. Kortmann abstained)

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: Facilities Projects Update

Mr. Trudelle presented an update on the facility projects. He stated the Walls project is going well and turning out to be smaller than anticipated. He continued, noting the track and field projects are almost complete. He described the bathroom renovations. He also provided an update of HEEC’s shade structure. He reviewed the Microgrid project. Mr. Trudelle noted that the LED project supplies were delivered and the project will start soon. He reviewed his progress with Vulcan on the security projects.

E. Marchand asked Mr. Cabral for his opinion as a student on how he feels safety-wise. Mr. Cabral said he appreciated the addition of having to badge in to the schools and he said he feels safe. Dr. Petrone continued to review all of the safety enhancements that have been made in the district in recent years.

Mr. Trudelle said a plan is being devised for the fire doors, which need to be addressed.

X. New Business

X.A. Information: Reappoint Dena DeJulius, Board of Education Representative to the Insurance Advisory Committee

MOTION: Motion to reappoint Dena DeJulius to the Town’s Insurance Advisory Committee
By: M. Kortmann
Seconded: K. Sobol
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Transportation Committee Meeting Report, August 15, 2019

Mr. Marchand reviewed the issues and concerns with the late published bus routes and the accidentally eliminated kindergarten bus stops. He assured the Board the Transportation Committee will address the issues at next week's meeting.
XI.B. Information: Fiscal Committee Meeting Report, August 29, 2019

M. Kortmann noted there is little to report at this time as the school year has just begun. R. Carroll updated the board on the fiber optic cable project.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: S. Gallagher
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Follert
Central Office Secretary

Approved: September 12, 2019