

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, September 28, 2017
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

William Oros
Jennifer Beausoleil (arrived 8:29 p.m.)
Michael Sobol
Mary Kortmann
Eugene Marchand
Mary Minor

Board Members Absent:

Frank Infante

Also Present:

Ben Urbanski, Student BOE Representative

Administrators Present:

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

Audience members present: Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Beth Pratt, Food Services Director; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Ronda Lezberg, CGS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Cyndy Alkire, CHS Teacher; Adam Apicella, CHS Teacher; Emily Robinson, CHS Teacher; Peter Larson, BOE Candidate; and several students.

I. Call to Order

W. Oros called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

W. Oros led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

MOTION: To move the Consent Agenda to the next order of business

By: M. Minor Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

M. Kortmann asked that both item B, Greece and item C, Costa Rica be removed for discussion.

V.A. Approve March 2018 CHS Field Experience to Newry ME
V.D. Approve May/June CHS Field Experience to Williamsburg VA
V.E. Approve Revised May/June 2018 CNH Field Experience to Philadelphia PA and Washington DC

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as amended
By: E. Marchand M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

V.B. Approve April 2018 CHS Field Experience to Greece
V.C. Approve April 2018 CHS Field Experience to Costa Rica

The Board asked several questions, such as, how many students are interested in these trips, what the trips involve, and how students are able to pay for the trips.

The Board had many positive comments to make about the trips being taken.

MOTION: To enthusiastically approve the trips to Costa Rica and Greece which were removed from the consent agenda
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone noted Gloria Barry, para-educator at CGS, is a hero in Coventry. He said she was too modest to come to the Board meeting to be recognized, but he wanted to be sure to recognize her publicly. He explained that she used the Heimlich maneuver on a student who was choking during lunch and due to her efforts the student did not require medical attention.

Dr. Petrone continued and talked about different items happening around the district, including the last two Open Houses. M. Sobol commented on how positive the Open House events are. E. Marchand said the Open Houses are filled with enthusiasm and there was a lot of pride associated with attending.

IV.A. Information: Welcome! Student Board of Education Representative

Dr. Petrone welcomed back Ben Urbanski to the position of the Student Board of Education Representative. Mr. Urbanski said he was excited to participate again this year. He added comments about a few items that are happening at the high school.

IV.B. CAFE Board of Distinction Award

Dr. Petrone said the Board is being nominated for the Level 2 leadership award through CAFE - the Board of Distinction Award. He reviewed the requirements for the award.

IV.C. Administrator 2017-2018 Goal Presentations

IV.C.1. Food Service

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. Pratt, who presented the Food Service goals for the 2017-18 school year. Those goals are available on the district's website.

M. Kortmann asked about the preschool program and how they compare to the other schools. Ms. Pratt explained that there are different regulations for preschool students; some items are interchangeable and some are not.

E. Marchand asked about the staff meals and how they are different. Ms. Pratt said they do not need to be in compliance with the state or federal regulations, so they can be completely different.

M. Sobol said he likes the use of social media (Facebook) and its ease of access for parents.

IV.C.2. Physical Plant and Facilities

Mr. Trudelle presented the 2017-18 goals for the Physical Plant and Facilities Department. Those goals are available on the district's website.

E. Marchand asked about the grants that are available. W. Trudelle said the School Safety and Security Grant is in process now and due to submit by Monday.

M. Kortmann asked about the timing of one of the preventative maintenance long term goals. Mr. Trudelle talked about that goal and process. Dr. Petrone also talked about that and noted the projected length of that goal is due to the current resources. Mr. Trudelle said it could be shortened with more funds to pay for materials and/or labor.

W. Oros asked about the School Dude Suite. Mr. Trudelle explained the different components of the software. W. Oros said we are really accessing technology to be sure we are being as efficient as possible.

IV.C.3. Business Office

Mr. Carroll shared the Business Office goals for the 2017-18 school year. Those goals are available on the district's website.

E. Marchand asked about the ECA and how that would affect the district. Mr. Carroll talked about that and says it does affect the district in regard to reporting and also we pay taxes.

IV.D. Information: 2017 Student Assessment Results Summary - Ms. DeJulius, Ms. Lezberg, Dr. Giller, and Mr. Blake

Dr. Petrone talked about the development of the presentation. Ms. DeJulius, Dr. Giller, and Mr. Blake shared the Assessment Results Summary for 2017. That presentation is available through the district's website.

(J. Beausoleil arrived at 8:29 p.m.)

The Board asked questions throughout the presentation regarding rankings, AP testing, and college earned credits. The Board talked about how earned college credits in high school are so beneficial financially to families.

The Board thanked the Administrators for all of their hard work.

VI. Report of Chairman

W. Oros congratulated staff for their efforts that resulted in the outstanding test results.

W. Oros talked about the budget situation.

VII. Communications

J. Beausoleil said she was able to attend the first parent meeting at the preschool. She said it was so great to see new parents and feel the energy there.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of September 14, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 14, 2017

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: Facility Update

Mr. Trudelle reviewed various facilities projects including, the HVAC system in the Administration Building, the conversion to natural gas, and fire alarm issues.

The Board discussed the fire alarm issue and the next steps to take. Dr. Petrone said research is still being done.

Mr. Trudelle went on to discuss the stadium lighting and reviewed the status of that project. He also noted the CGS floor RFP is going out tomorrow with the hope to start the project the day after school ends in June. Mr. Trudelle also talked about the damage to the concession stand and also the track repairs.

IX.B. Discussion and Possible VOTE - FY18 Budget

Mr. Carroll reviewed the adjustments and distributed the updated budget sheets. He focused on the next 30-day budget, since we have reached the end of the 90 day budget.

Dr. Petrone said the 30 day budget needs to be approved and sent over to the Town Council.

The Board discussed which direction to take in regards to the FY18 budget. J. Beausoleil said it may be interesting to see what is going to happen at the State. The Board discussed different scenarios.

The Board talked about the Town referendum process. J. Beausoleil said she was under the assumption, based on the Monday meeting with the Town Council, that the Board will not have a chance to review with the Council again budget figures.

MOTION: To approve the 30-day budget that is based on the adjusted budget through September 22, 2017

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: J. Beausoleil is disappointed with expenditure level and the program and staff cuts based on the general assembly's inability to get a state budget passed. She noted her appreciation for the work of the Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations.

M. Minor asked if we could call the "30-day budget" a "temporary itemized estimate of expenditures plan." M. Kortmann agreed with the friendly amendment.

Result: Motion with amendment passes unanimously

Dr. Petrone reviewed the numerous program impacts due to the budget cuts that have already taken place:

- Increased class size in social studies at CNH
- Increased class size in grade 1
- Decrease in instructional support at CGS, GHR, and CHS, by way of reduction of para-educators
- No homework club or mentor program at GHR

- No afterschool library on Tuesday and Thursday at CNH
- Program impact at GHR in music, physical education, and art
- At CHS the following courses are not running this year:
 - Advanced Concepts in Digital Black and White Photo
 - Photography II
 - Baking and Pastry
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Textile Arts 1-4
 - Modern Military History
 - Psychology

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Transportation Committee Report, Meeting of 9/28/17

M. Sobol reviewed the meeting held tonight with M&J. He said the Committee does not feel M&J is utilizing the appropriate routing software. He continued and explained how they are processing the information.

The Board discussed the details of what has been used, what's been promised to be used, and what is in the contract.

J. Beausoleil reviewed what the Board expects regarding both GPS Software and Routing Software and why, including safety concerns.

The Board reviewed the issues at hand. M. Sobol talked about withholding funds. Dr. Petrone suggested a letter should be written first. M. Minor agreed and added it should be a very detailed letter and note contract language.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

By: M. Sobol

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme

Approved: _____