

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, January 11, 2018
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Eugene Marchand, Vice Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Mary Kortmann
William Oros
Peter Larson (left at 8:45 p.m.)

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: Jennifer DeRagon, ELA Specialist; Todd Giansanti, PSSS Director; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Ronda Lezberg, CGS Principal; Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; The Chronicle newspaper and the Journal Inquirer newspaper were 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

There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reviewed items that took place before December break and after. He noted the recent winter weather issues and the need to cancel school for two days last week.

W. Oros thanked the Superintendent for his communications in regard to the conditions of the building.

J. Beausoleil was appreciative of the district's creativity in planning early openings for students on subzero days.

IV.A. Recognition: Jennifer DeRagon, ELA Specialist - Presentation at the Connecticut Reading Association Conference "The Power of Talk: Articulate Speaking and Active Listening"

Dr. Petrone reviewed the efforts of Ms. DeRagon and recognized her publicly for her recent presentation. Ms. DeRagon thanked the Board for the recognition by the Superintendent and the Board and also for the support of the administrators. She added a few words about the presentation.

J. Beausoleil thanked Ms. DeRagon for all of her efforts.

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

Mr. Urbanski talked about mid-term exams and other events taking place at the middle/high school complex.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the resignation of Marites Gallimore, GHR Para-educator

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: M. Minor

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil reminded everyone it is budget season.

She also thanked Mr. Carroll and his team for the excellent audit that was received. She noted that the audit was flawless and again gave commendations to Mr. Carroll and his team.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of December 14, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 14, 2017

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Information: Facilities Update

Dr. Petrone reviewed various facilities items. He talked about the severe cold over the weekend and how it affected the boilers. Dr. Petrone publicly acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Trudelle and his staff on this issue.

IX.A.1. Microgrid Bid Update

Dr. Petrone reviewed the microgrid status. J. Beausoleil noted the application made it in just in time. Dr. Petrone commented on that process. Mr. Trudelle talked to the changes made before the submission. The Board discussed the microgrid project in general.

IX.B. Discussion and possible VOTE: FY18 Budget Remediation Plan

J. Beausoleil noted the joint Fiscal/Town Finance meeting and the discussions regarding the mid-year hold-backs from the State. She reviewed the budget remediation plan that was agreed upon at that meeting. The Board spoke about the various details. J. Beausoleil and M. Kortmann agreed this was a reasonable and fair agreement.

W. Oros was concerned about the slow deterioration of the money being put into technology. He said, however, given the circumstances, he will support the plan.

J. Beausoleil said this was a reason they did not zero out the amount.

Dr. Petrone added that the Town also kept technology funds intact, for emergency purposes.

E. Marchand also agreed it is a fair agreement. He said he did not want a supplemental tax bill to go out.

MOTION: Motion to approve the FY17-18 budget remediation plan as agreed at the joint meeting between the Town Finance Committee and Board of Education Fiscal Subcommittee on 1/8/18

By: M. Kortmann

Seconded: E. Marchand

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X. New Business

X.A. Information and VOTE: Approval of Additional 2018-19 Courses at CHS: Advanced Placement Physics 1 and ECSU Medical Terminology - Mr. Blake

Mr. Blake shared his presentation on the two new course proposals for approval for 2018-19, beginning with AP Physics I. The Board asked various questions regarding the Physics I course, including which courses students would be drawn from and if there was already a physics course. Mr. Urbanski spoke positively regarding his experience as a student regarding the physics course. Mr. Blake continued and reviewed the ECSU Medical Terminology course proposal. The Board asked about textbooks, online material, and budgetary impact. M. Minor said she fully supports the course and programming. She talked to the budget impact. She is concerned about the current budget times. She wondered if students and families could buy their own textbooks. Dr. Petrone clarified that the district cannot ask families to buy their own textbooks. M. Minor noted that and said she was hoping for alternative ideas rather than adding a cost to the budget. She noted again, she supports the course. E. Marchand wondered if other courses' participation would be effected. Mr. Blake said those are decisions that have to be made every year. The Board talked about student participation.

MOTION: Approve the Additional 2018-19 Courses at CHS: Advanced Placement Physics 1 and ECSU Medical Terminology

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: Mr. Urbanski noted his approval of the AP Physics I Course. M. Minor commented about her concern regarding budgetary impact. Dr. Petrone said the Board can always make the budget adjustment later.

Result: Motion passes unanimously

X.B. Information: One-to-One Program Examination of Devices

Ms. Drury shared the one-to-one presentation with the Board.

The Board asked questions about the data regarding the needed repairs to iPads.

Ms. Drury continued and talked about the reasons why Coventry chose iPads for the one-to-one program when it began.

P. Larson left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The presentation and questions and answers continued, comparing iPads to Chromebooks, and what the new one-to-one program would look like. Topics discussed included the life span, any buy-back programs, overall cost savings, transition issues, the replacement plan cycle, and device insurance for families.

The Board talked about the timeline in regards to approval. There was a consensus to hold off and make a final decision in the near future.

X.C. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Registering Coventry Academy as a school with the CT State Department of Education

Dr. Petrone reviewed the growth and development of the Coventry Academy and the need to have it designated as its own school.

M. Minor wanted to know what the significance is. Dr. Petrone said it is a more accurate representation of the program. The Board talked about the details of making it its own school. Dr. Petrone said it would not cost the district any additional funds; it will save the district money. Further questions and answered ensued.

E. Marchand said he thinks this is an excellent idea. He added he is concerned that the students won't be a part of CHS.

W. Oros said this will give the students their own identity as a unit.

Mr. Urbanski noted his opinion that it would give the students their own status.

J. Beausoleil asked about reversing the decision, if necessary. Dr. Petrone said it is just the task of informing the State.

MOTION: To Approve registering Coventry Academy as a school with the CT State Department of Education

By: W. Oros

Seconded: E. Marchand

Discussion: M. Minor said she is in support of the program, she said she would like time to sit on it. The conversation continued regarding what the change will mean.

Result: J. Beausoleil said she would like to table the vote to next week's meeting.

X.D. Information: FY19 Budget Presentation

Dr. Petrone shared the FY19 budget presentation with the Board of Education, which is available on the district's website.

E. Marchand asked if cuts made, will be brought back in this budget. Dr. Petrone said no, actually there have been further cuts made.

J. Beausoleil noted there is time to digest the information. She proposed that, as questions arise, to please send them via email to the Superintendent.

XI. Report of Board Members

XI.A. Information: Report of the Fiscal Committee - Joint Fiscal/Finance Meeting of January 8, 2018 and Fiscal Meeting of January 11, 2018

M. Kortmann noted the joint meeting and talked about the Energy Efficiency Committee work. M. Kortmann also said the joint meeting, in general, was very beneficial.

Mr. Carroll talked about the December Fiscal reports. Dr. Petrone said everything is trending the right way.

M. Kortmann said, while we are doing well at this moment, the special education outplacements can go up at any time.

J. Beausoleil talked about the agreement of the remediation plan. She asked that the details be noted on the Management Report. Mr. Carroll said he would continue the same practice that was initiated last year.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

By: W. Oros

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: _____