

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Town Hall Annex
Unapproved Minutes of January 26, 2012

Members Present: Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman
Mary Minor, Secretary
Todd Cancelliere
Eugene Marchand
William Oros

Members Absent: Denise Ryan

Also Present: Emma Thomas, Student Representative

Administrators Present: David Petrone, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Gregg Blackstone, Business Manager;

Also present: Michelle Mullaly, Principal of Coventry High School; Mary Perkins-Dobek, Interim Dean of Students of Capt. Nathan Hale School; Carla Kennedy, Assistant Principal of Capt. Nathan Hale School; Troy Hopkins, Principal of the G. H. Robertson School; Marybeth Moyer, Principal of Coventry Grammar School; Paul Noel, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Barbara Trinks, PSSS Director; Fred Lambert, MIS/Network Administrator; and several citizens.

All motions are directed to the Coventry Board of Education.

I. CALL TO ORDER

By: J. Beausoleil at 7:31 P.M.

Place: Town Hall Annex

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Beausoleil.

III. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Dan Armstrong representing the BCL Hockey League asked the Board for \$2,500 to support the hockey team like it has in previous years. He said it is in the 11th season and that eight of the seventeen skaters are from Coventry. He said that Bolton also supports the team with approximately \$2500. He said support from Coventry is important to the validity of the program and the future of the team is very strong. He said the money would help pay for the state police security as mandated by the Town of Bolton, coaches salaries, and buses (10 away games plus playoffs). He thanked the Board for their consideration.

Dan Gagliardi, 101 North River Road, representing the Coventry GRIDIRON Club, addressed the Board and asked for \$2500 for the GRIDIRON Club from the jobs grant as it has in the past. He acknowledged that this will be the last year of the jobs grant. He said they plan on using money to replace players' equipment. Mr. Gagliardi said the team has a great following and appreciates the Board's consideration. He also asked that the GRIDIRON Club be added to the next agenda to renew their authorization to put signs on the field during games.

Margie Stickles of 103 Joshua Lane spoke to the Board about the full day kindergarten proposal. She said while although the proposal was thorough, she said the survey portion of the research was incomplete because it only went to the families currently sending their children to some form of schooling. She said she would like the Board to consider expanding the survey and the option of half-day kindergarten.

VI. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

J. Beausoleil attended the welcoming event for the China Exchange program. She said it was a great event and she enjoyed seeing the host families and the students and the music from two staff members was excellent.

Welcome and Information: Student Representative Update- Ms. Emma Thomas

J. Beausoleil introduced Ms. Thomas as the new Student Board of Education Representative and said she is a great student, athlete and leader and will be a great representative for the Board.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VOTE: Approve minutes of January 12, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 12, 2012
By: M. Kortmann Seconded: E. Marchand
Result: Motion passes unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

VOTE: Accept the retirement of Donna Gwozdz, teacher at GHR

MOTION: To accept the retirement of Donna Gwozdz
By: E. Marchand Seconded: M. Kortmann
Discussion: J. Beausoleil mentioned that she will be sorry to see Ms. Gwozdz leave as she is a great resource and leader.
Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XI. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Information: Fiscal Committee Report- Meeting of January 9 and January 12, 2012- M. Kortmann

Mr. Blackstone reported on the January 12, 2012 Fiscal meeting. He said the main change was an overall surplus as a result of the additional outplacements in special education. He also said there was a discussion on the Ed Jobs fund and there has been no change. He said the Food Services program is running steady and is only about \$1000 under last year's number which could be a result of the missed school days in the fall.

Mr. Blackstone reported on the joint Town Finance, Board Fiscal meeting of January 9. He said there was a discussion of the Special Education situation and no-nexus students and a plan going forward and how it is impacting the budget. He said there was also a discussion on how to get assistance from the state level. He said they also discussed the CIP and the gym floor. W. Oros asked what the next step would be for the gym floor. Mr. Blackstone said the Town Manager did want the Board to do an asbestos test. Mr. Blackstone said the test was done and it was positive for asbestos. M. Kortmann said she believes there is support for the replacement of the gym floor by the Town Manager.

IV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Information: Energy Audit Results by David Valerie of Strategic Business Systems

Mr. Valerie of Strategic Building Solutions addressed the Board. He said their company, headquartered in Madison, CT, went through the town's four schools after reviewing the past three years of data, provided by Mr. Noel. Mr. Valerie reviewed the report dated November 18, 2011 for the Board. The report included five main areas: executive summary, building description, energy usage, potential conservation measures (priorities I, II, III), and appendix. He said this was an ASHRAE Level 1 audit. Mr. Valerie said he was impressed by Coventry High School's Energy Star rating which was over 75 (75 is considered an excellent score). He encouraged the Board to look into various resources that would financially support the improvement projects.

J. Beausoleil asked Mr. Valerie what the top three projects would be for savings. Mr. Valerie said they would be same as are on their CIP: boiler bypass pumps, upgrading and expanding the allergen control system. Mr. Valerie said the unit ventilators are reaching the end of their life.

B. Information: Technology Resource Team 2011-12 Goal Presentation

Mr. Lambert reviewed the Technology Department's goals for the Board, which are attached to these minutes. He said he sees it as a department mandate to enhance and provide as much positive reinforcement to support the goals of the Board of Education. He said Coventry High School is using an online testing system and the IT department is responsible for installing the software and support of the program. He said the large project they are working on is the implementation of Power School and translating data from MMS to the new structure as well as providing support for training.

Mr. Lambert said they are focusing on comprehensive training opportunities and installation of new software. Mr. Lambert said his Desktop Technician uses students to assist in providing IT support as a means to give them an idea of what it is like to work in IT.

J. Beausoleil asked how much of their support time is related to the age of the equipment. Mr. Lambert said the majority of support is from questions on how to run things, not the failure of equipment.

J. Beausoleil asked when Mr. Lambert would like to move the district to a wireless system, given the complexity of security issues. Mr. Lambert said he is looking at targeting the issue of wireless in 2013 and he also said there is the addition of the tablets and BYOD (bring your own device) which make the project a top priority.

M. Kortmann said she encourages Mr. Lambert and the Technology Department to look at the implementation of a wireless infrastructure and the Board needs to develop policies related to information technology. Mr. Petrone said Jonathan Costas, a leader in BYOD, who will be working in the district next month, will be an excellent resource on this topic..

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible VOTE: FY13 Budget

Mr. Blackstone distributed and reviewed the revised pages to the proposed budget.

M. Kortmann asked Mr. Blackstone for an update regarding the insurance. Mr. Blackstone said he asked the insurance broker and Coventry is not owed anything from CIGNA until February 1. He said they are at 87% claims to premiums and that the December numbers were not favorable based on higher than expected claims. He also said that other carriers will not provide estimates until they receive the CIGNA report. Mr. Blackstone mentioned that February 1 is the deadline for the self insured health care consortium. M. Kortmann asked what would happen if the Town doesn't agree to participate in the self insured program. Mr. Blackstone said that would mean the Board may not be able to participate on its own.

E. Marchand asked what the down side of going self insured would be. Mr. Blackstone said there is an element of risk when self insured. He said the plus side of it would be up to a 4% savings in the

administrative savings area. Mr. Blackstone used the self insured dental program the town participates in as an example. He said the town has been gradually lowering the charge to the Board which indicates that there has been savings from it. M. Minor said she did not know enough about it to agree to move forward. Mr. Petrone said they would put together a packet explaining the consortium before the next discussion. Mr. Blackstone said the rates would be available from the consortium after the budget period. .

J. Beausoleil focused on the three major initiatives in the proposed budget and asked that the Board discuss each separately to decide on what would be included in the budget.

The first initiative discussed was the high school reform initiative. T. Cancelliere asked why they were starting the process now when the deadline is 2018. M. Mullaly said it allows an increase in the rigger for the students and the state is looking to know from principals what they are already doing to prepare for the mandate. Mr. Petrone added that Coventry is trying to stay competitive and the initiative is a key opportunity. T. Cancelliere asked if the budget proposal would cover the costs for the 2018. Ms. Mullaly said she believes that it would and she will be further exploring the needs to fulfill the Capstone Project requirement. M. Minor said she supports the initiative as it would meet the requirements and will keep students in the district. Ms. Thomas said she thinks the 25 credit requirement is a good idea as she already has 22-23 credits as a junior. M. Kortmann said she supports the initiative to make additional classes available to the students who are looking to be challenged. The Board had consensus to include the high school initiative in the budget.

The Board discussed the Common Core Standards initiative. E. Marchand said he supports the initiative. J. Beausoleil said she also supports the initiative as it is a state mandated project and the position will be a contracted position rather than a permanent position. The Board had consensus to include the Common Core Standards initiative in the budget.

The Board discussed the Full Day Kindergarten proposal. M. Minor and E. Marchand said they support the proposal. There was a conversation about offering the full day program to all students and what would happen if families wanted a half day program. W. Oros said the economics of full day kindergarten make sense.

T. Cancelliere asked if additional buses would be needed. Mr. Blackstone said he did not expect more buses would be needed and will confirm with the bus company. Mr. Petrone said the bus routes will be massaged to accommodate the needs for the kindergarten students.

M. Kortmann said the presentation of Common Core Standards confirmed her support of the full day kindergarten program.

J. Beausoleil said she supports the full day kindergarten program for all students. She said she had concerns in the past when it would not have been offered to all students. She said full day kindergarten is very cost effective and ahead of the mandate. T. Cancelliere said, while he supports the program, he is concerned how the programs will be funded. J. Beausoleil said the initiative is in the taxpayer commitment of the budget, not the grant fund. The Board had consensus to include the full day kindergarten in the budget.

T. Cancelliere said the Board should support the sports teams as discussed in the audience of citizens.

M. Kortmann asked Mr. Blackstone to distribute the funds accordingly in the Jobs fund for the sports teams and to increase the budget by \$5000 for Special Education. The Board clarified that the sport team funds would not be guaranteed in the next fiscal year. The Board had consensus to include the team support of the GRIDIRON Club and BCL Hockey in the budget.

The Board discussed the STEPS program. M. Kortmann suggested the Board support STEPS with in-kind services. Mr. Petrone said there are certain positions which satisfy the requirements of STEPS. Ms. Moyer said the Town will be hearing the STEPS presentation in February. J. Beausoleil said she does not

think the Board is solely responsible for the match as the STEPS program provides services well beyond preschool.

The Board discussed the Expanding Horizons program. M. Minor said she was surprised at the decrease in participation in the program when the program went to parent pay. There was a discussion on funding the program by the Board. M. Kortmann suggested that the funding come from the savings from self insured healthcare. J. Beausoleil said that if this does not become part of this budget, it can be looked at later on for a possible addition.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE: Pursuant to CGS-1-200 (c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Para-educator Negotiations.

MOTION: To move to Executive Session Pursuant to CGS-1-200 (c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Para-educator Negotiations at 9:28 p.m.

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XIII. OPEN SESSION

The Board will return to Open Session to VOTE on the Agreement between the Coventry Board of Education and the Para-educator Employees 2011-2014

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

MOTION: To Approve the Agreement between the Coventry Board of Education and the Para-educator Employees 2011-2014

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

By: E. Marchand Seconded: T. Cancelliere

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara O'Brien, Board Clerk

Approved

Coventry Public Schools
Coventry, Connecticut

SubSystem/Department Goals for the 2011 - 2012 School Year

Fred Lambert, MIS/Network Administrator
Technology Resource Team
January 26, 2012

- 1.0 Advance achievement for all students by implementing curriculum, instruction and assessment practices, ensuring alignment with national and state standards.
 - 1.1 Install and support NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) online testing system for CHS
 - 1.2 Install configure and support performance based grading system for CGS and GHR as part of the migration to Power School
 - 1.3 Install configure and support student and parent access to online grades and reports in Power School
 - 1.4 Continue to provide technical support and guidance for online curriculum

- 2.0 Nurture the well-being of all students and create a positive and respectful learning community where each student is held to high expectations.
 - 2.1 Continue to provide opportunities for students to assist in desktop support experiences.

- 3.0 Improve internal capacity through recruitment, retention and development of high quality staff and provide appropriate resources and learning environments.
 - 3.1 Install configure and support online training to staff in all aspects of Power School
 - 3.2 Provide guidance and support for office personal during the Power School transition
 - 3.3 Coordinate onsite and offsite training sessions for staff on Power School
 - 3.4 Aid and implement data migration from MMS to Power School.
 - 3.5 Identify resources necessary to complete the successful implementation of Power School