

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APPROVED MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007**

Members Present: Richard Williams, Vice-Chairman  
Kathleen Ryan, Secretary  
Jennifer Beausoleil  
Craig Couture  
Larry Pietrantonio

Members Absent: Milton S. Natusch, Chairman  
Cheryl Trudon

Also Present: Kelley Smart, Student BOE Representative

Administrators Present: Dr. Donna Bernard, Superintendent  
Sherry Holmes, Fiscal Services Director

Also present were Judith Richard, PSSS Director; Paul Noel, Physical Plant and Facilities Director; Carol Brigham, Food Services Director; David Petrone, GHR Principal; Michele Mullaly, CNH Interim Principal; Scott Sadinsky, CNH Assistant Principal; Troy Hopkins, CHS Principal; Cyndy Alkire, CHS Science Teacher; Michael Peracchio, CHS Science Teacher; Gabe Kendall, CHS Social Studies Teacher; Contemporary Issues students; and a few citizens. All motions are directed to the Coventry Board of Education.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

By: Richard Williams Time: 7:39 p.m.  
Place: Administration Building Meeting Room

**II. SALUTE THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Williams.

**III. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

There were none.

**IV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Information and VOTE: "Approve the Adequate Yearly Progress School Improvement Plan: G. H. Robertson School" – D. Petrone

Dr. Bernard introduced Mr. Petrone and said he was present to talk about the AYP Improvement Plan for the G. H. Robertson School. Mr. Petrone handed out copies of the plan and told the Board a plan for improvement is a mandate of the State of Connecticut.

Dr. Bernard added that this was possible with the collaboration of Mr. Petrone, Judith Richard, and Raymond Grasso and she appreciated the work they have done so far.

Mr. Petrone said the AYP concern at GHR is in the area of special education. He noted, currently 149 schools in Connecticut have not made AYP in the area of special education. He stated this was in addition to the schools that have school-wide issues and not special education challenges alone. He said the State has a real challenge with testing special education students, because they set the same goals for that group as they do regular

education students. He explained the students have the support when it is needed in the classroom, but not during the testing and that is a key issue for the schools.

He said at this point GHR needs to have a plan approved by the local Board of Education, but the State does not require we submit it. He added that everyone from administrators, including Dr. Bernard, to teachers have had a hand in developing the plan. He spoke specifically to points in the plan and added that it is a realistic plan for GHR to carry out.

R. Williams asked what percentage of the students GHR are categorized as “special needs.” Mr. Petrone answered that 10 % of the students at GHR. Ms. Richard added that the state average is 12.4% for districts.

Dr. Bernard mentioned that a very low percentage of Coventry preschool children are attending an actual preschool program. She said the gap in reading ability is very large by grade 4 for the students who did not attend a preschool.

**MOTION: Approve the Adequate Yearly Progress School Improvement Plan:  
G. H. Robertson School**

**By: K. Ryan**

**Seconded: L. Pietrantonio**

Discussion: L. Pietrantonio asked when we would hear about the results for this plan. Mr. Petrone said next fall. He added that they will assess the programs that have been put in place to see how effective they are by doing pre and post evaluations of student ability. Discussion continued about monitoring these programs to see if they are working.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

**B. Information: School/Department Goals for 2007-2008**

**1. Carol Brigham, Food Services**

Ms. Brigham handed out her goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Under the heading of Educational Achievement she spoke to the development of the Food Services web page at each school site, which will include pictures, general information, and nutritional information. In the area of Community Relations, Ms. Brigham talked about continuing the Department’s work through cooperative events and local partnerships. To further her goals in the Management of Resources, Ms. Brigham noted her plans to continue to increase sales and revenue whenever possible.

J. Beausoleil asked how the implementation of the new Wellness policy is going. Ms. Brigham said it is going well. Dr. Bernard noted that the real challenge is having everyone stay within the new guidelines for fundraising. Ms. Brigham added that Coventry already had many of the initiatives in place before the new mandates came along, including adding healthy snacks.

**2. Michele Mullaly, Capt. Nathan Hale School**

Ms. Mullaly handed out her goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Under the subject of Educational Achievement she mentioned the use of “A Balanced Curriculum” program. She said she is going to support articulation and coordination of curriculum as well as continued development and integration of best practices in instruction through assessment. She added that she looks forward to increased collaboration with teachers at GHR and CHS.

In the area of Community Relations, Ms. Mullaly stated she would continue effective outreach by maintaining a welcoming school environment, informing parents and families about school initiatives, and advocating home support and collaboration.

Ms. Mullaly next discussed the heading Management of Resources. She said she plans to seek grant funding, alternative resources, and opportunities for authentic learning. She added she will develop a budget proposal for 2008-09 that supports curriculum revisions and instruction.

## 2. Troy Hopkins, Coventry High School

Mr. Hopkins handed out his goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Under the Educational Achievement heading he spoke to his goal of using the “A Balanced Curriculum” program template including aligning with state standards. He noted there would be a logical increase in knowledge and skill expectations within each course series starting in eighth grade and he looked forward to accomplishing this through collaboration with the middle school. He added that he will facilitate the increase in academic, social, and civic expectations within the school and develop opportunities for increased personalization for the education of students.

In the area of Community Relations, Mr. Hopkins talked about maintaining and enhancing these positive relationships by ensuring a welcoming school environment and improving communications. He said he would create opportunities for parents to stay informed and support their students and he would seek school community input in establishing a shared vision for CHS.

Concerning his goals in the area of Management of Resources, Mr. Hopkins said he would continue to refine student support services to become the best possible resource for students and families. He added he would further develop funding sources to improve the existing programs and develop new educational opportunities for students.

## 3. Judith Richard, Pupil and Staff Support Services

Ms. Richard handed out her goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Under the heading of Educational Achievement she said she would continue to work with Mr. Petrone in the achievement of AYP. She added that one goal is to refine district procedures for the gifted and talented program by expanding the programming to the elementary level.

In the area of Community Relations, Ms. Richard said she plans to complete the preschool National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation project in conjunction with the Coventry Early Childhood Center. She added that it was a goal to implement a preschool facility feasibility study for future program development. Dr. Bernard added that this item would come back to the Board for full discussion.

Ms. Richard next discussed the heading Management of Resources. She said she will monitor refinements in the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disability Education ACT (IDEIA) 2004 as it relates to state data collections. She said there has been a huge increase in state reporting in the PSSS office in a very short time. She reviewed her goal to increase collaboration with outside agencies and district group homes in order to meet options for students who require alternative educational resources. She added that these are “unfunded mandates.” A discussion ensued about group home costs and what is reimbursed to the district by the state.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

None.

**VI. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

J. Beausoleil mentioned the MRSA situation in the state. She commended Paul Noel for his preparedness and was delighted to know the district had a plan in place even before it was an issue.

**VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

VOTE: Approve Minutes of October 11, 2007

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 11, 2007.**

**By: L. Pietrantonio                      Seconded: K. Ryan**

**Result: Motion passes 4-0 (J. Beausoleil abstains).**

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

A. VOTE: Approve CHS June/July 2009 Field Experience to Australia/New Zealand  
CHS teachers Cyndy Alkire, Gabe Kendall, and Michael Peracchio were present to answer questions. Brittany Fowler a CHS student spoke about the trip they took this past summer to Costa Rica and said it was a great experience. She said they learned first hand about the rain forest and that the trip was very educational.

J. Beausoleil asked about the safety of the trips. Miss Fowler said everything was very safe and that there were set curfews, there was a buddy system (no one traveled alone), and when they were in groups there was always a chaperone present. J. Beausoleil added that she is a parent of a student who participated in the Costa Rica trip and she was very impressed with Mrs. Alkire and her organizational skills. She said that the students are in great hands.

**MOTION: To Approve the CHS June/July 2009 Field Experience to Australia/New Zealand**

**By: J. Beausoleil                      Seconded: K. Ryan**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

B. VOTE: Approve CHS Feb. 2008 Field Experience to New York City

**MOTION: To Approve the CHS June 2008 Field Experience to New York City**

**By: L. Pietrantonio                      Seconded: K. Ryan**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

C. VOTE: Approve BOE Meeting Dates for 2008

L. Pietrantonio expressed his concern with the change in the first October meeting to a Tuesday night. It was the consensus of the Board that the item would come back on the November 8 agenda with an alternate option.

**XI. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Information: Fiscal Committee Report – R. Williams and S. Holmes  
Ms. Holmes handed out her August 2007 and September 2007 Expenditure Reports. She said the numbers are very tight this year, but we are in compliance and things look to be in order.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn the Board meeting at 9:08 p.m.**  
**By: J. Beausoleil                      Seconded: K. Ryan**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Michaud  
Board Clerk

November 8, 2007  
**Approved**