

**COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION
APPROVED MINUTES
MEETING OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010**

Members Present: Larry Pietrantonio, Chairman
Cheryl Trudon, Vice Chairman
Mary Ann Emanuele, Secretary
John Barrett
Jennifer Beausoleil
Mary Kortmann
Mark Malcolm

Also Present: Robert Joyce, Student Representative

Administrators Present: Dr. Donna Bernard, Superintendent

Also present were David Petrone, GHR Principal; Troy Hopkins, CHS Principal; Marybeth Moyer, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, CNH Principal; Sean Tomany, CHS Assistant Principal; Scott Sadinsky, CNH Assistant Principal; Paul Noel, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities; Katie Baumgartner, Payroll Clerk; several Coventry High School students; and a couple of citizens. The Chronicle newspaper was represented. All motions are directed to the Coventry Board of Education.

I. CALL TO ORDER

By: Chairman, L. Pietrantonio at 7:33 p.m.
Place: Town Hall Annex

II. SALUTE THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by L. Pietrantonio.

III. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There were none.

IV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Recognition: Robert Joyce, Board of Education Student Representative
Dr. Bernard commended Robert Joyce for his service on the Board this first semester.

VI. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman had nothing at this time.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of December 3, 2009

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Thursday,
December 3, 2009**

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

B. VOTE: Approve Minutes of January 14, 2010

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of January 14, 2010

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: M. Kortmann

M. Malcolm asked that his reason for abstention regarding the Retirement Incentive Plan vote be added as follows: He said the Board had been given all of the information about 15 minutes prior to the vote. He said he had not had an opportunity to weigh the cost benefit of the retirement plan. He continued, considering the length of service of some of the employees, there was a good chance some of those individuals would have retired on their own.

M. Kortmann asked for the following change: On page three, the first paragraph, the first sentence, the word "item" be changed to "thumbprint."

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted changes passes unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and VOTE: Updated Capital Improvement Plan

L. Pietrantonio noted there have been additional discussions with the Town Manager regarding the CIP. Dr. Bernard said the updated CIP spreadsheet and descriptions were emailed to Board members on Monday this week.

L. Pietrantonio said the conversation with the Town Manager assisted in setting the priority list. He continued that the FY11 column is the priority.

Dr. Bernard noted the town and school collaboration and the staff efforts on this project was to be commended.

M. Emanuele asked about the noted carpet replacement and if it was for a specific school. Dr. Bernard said no, it is spread out by school. She continued the maintenance department would evaluate the high priority areas at the time of replacement.

J. Barrett asked why the roofs were in the FY12 column. L. Pietrantonio said it was suggested by the Town Manager. He said the hope is it can be done sooner. J. Barrett read the description of the GHR Roof project. He said he knows the architects are working on this, but he said he hoped the town would see this begin going into this summer. He said it should be in the FY11 column, if we believe it should be there. L. Pietrantonio said it is not our decision. J. Barrett asked why the Board was looking at this again. L. Pietrantonio said the CIP is long-term planning, but it is not the Board's decision to say the Town will go to referendum over any one item. He said the Council will make that decision. J. Barrett said he was concerned that by putting the roof project in FY12 it makes it a lower priority.

C. Trudon said the discussion had with the Town Manager noted the roofs currently in place are not in dire need of total repair. She said there may be sections that need repair. She continued that this makes the Town aware that the roof project is coming.

J. Barrett said not everyone was present at that meeting. He said he does not have any information from that meeting. He said this is the first time everyone has heard about the meeting. He said he would like to be fully aware of what happened at the meeting before he can vote, so he can understand how this all came together.

C. Trudon said it came together through priorities and of what is absolutely needed.

J. Barrett said he is concerned about the roofs and that leaving it in FY2012 makes it

looks like it will be two years before something is going to get going. He said what the Board is supposed to be doing in establishing a CIP is setting our priorities for what we want to get done vs what the Town Manager thinks should be done.

L. Pietrantonio asked that Mr. Noel explain the roof conditions as was discussed at the meeting with the Town Manager.

Mr. Noel said the Town Manager wanted the roofs included in the CIP. He said the Town knows it is on the way and there is a design team in place. He continued that the Town Manger did not want to leave it off of the CIP. Mr. Noel said the G. H. Robertson School roof is in danger. L. Pietrantonio asked if the need was for a total roof replacement or for patch or repair. Mr. Noel said at GHR it would be total replacement and the middle school would be patch.

C. Trudon said we are moving ahead with the project, we are not waiting.

J. Barrett said he just heard that GHR is in dire states. He said the project should be in FY11 on the CIP spreadsheet. He said it is up to the Board to prioritize their own list.

M. Malcolm said this is the exact same conversation that was had three meetings ago. He continued, asking why is something that the Board of Education recommends to the Town Manager being given to us by the Town Manager to recommend it. He said if the Board thinks the roofs should go for FY11 and the Town Manager wants to make his own decision, then let's give it to him based on our recommendations and he can make that change because he has that power. He said it does not make sense for him to tell us what should appear on our document. He said as a matter of protocol it makes no sense.

Mr. Noel said, as he understood it, the Town Manager wanted the item on the CIP in FY12 as a placeholder. He said it won't be an issue that will even be a part of the CIP; it will be under a referendum and it will be handled with a bonding issue.

J. Beausoleil said items on the CIP are things the town will fund "out of pocket." She continued, if the roof project is placed in FY12, it means it is a placeholder if we do not go to bond. She said if it happens in FY11, you have the opportunity to still do the work and pay for the bond, and it would not be included in the CIP. She said putting it in the CIP FY12 column does not prevent the project from happening until then.

J. Barrett asked, if the Board has already voted on this, why is it here again. L. Pietrantonio said the Town Manager asked that the Board revamp the list, including the descriptions. Dr. Bernard said much more detailed information was requested from the town. L. Pietrantonio said the priority information has not changed.

J. Barrett said it is good additional information. He said he still believes the roofs should be in FY11, regardless of how the Town Manager or Town Council wants to handle it. He said we should put it in FY11 and keep pushing for it. He said we need to make it show as a priority.

M. Malcolm confirmed because it sits in FY12, we can go to referendum prior to FY12. He also said if it really doesn't matter one way or another which column it sits in, and it matters a lot to one Board member, he does not understand why we are having this conversation.

L. Pietrantonio asked for a motion.

MOTION: To approve the Coventry Board of Education FY11 – FY16 CIP Summary.

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: M. Kortmann

**Result: For – C. Trudon, M. Kortmann, M. Malcolm, L. Pietrantonio
Against – J. Barrett, M. Emanuele
Abstain – J. Beausoleil**

J. Beausoleil noted her abstention was because she felt what was already sent was sufficient. J. Barrett said he is voting no for the same reason J. Beausoleil is abstaining. M. Emanuele said she voted no, feeling the roof project should be moved to FY11 to show it as a priority. She said if there is any possibility of it being done sooner she would like to see that. Dr. Bernard said the priority request could be noted in the correspondence to the Town Manager.

B. Discussion: FY11 Budget Discussions Continue

Dr. Bernard distributed updated information and reviewed each item. In addition she handed out the Revenue Reduction Related System Impact for 2010-2011, Pupil and Staff Support Services document.

Regarding the PSSS cuts, M. Malcolm said the reason we are in this mess, regarding excess cost, is because we have to outsource students who have special needs as we are unable to serve them in-district. He said with these cuts we are reducing our abilities to service children with special needs even further, which will increase our needs to outpace students and ultimately increase the cost of educating special needs students. Dr. Bernard said the PSSS Director does not believe these cuts will result in additional outplacements.

M. Malcolm said, as an example, if there was a child coming out of the birth-to-three program with a particular student need, and we are getting rid of all of these people and the services they provide, how are we going to be able to take care of that student. Dr. Bernard said the caseload changes daily and she couldn't answer that particular question. She said it is the fiscally responsible thing to do. She continued there are a variety of things that are occurring and the Director came up with a couple of these recommendations prior to even having a financial problem. Dr. Bernard said the alternative is there is a \$336,000 problem in the budget that we cannot afford. M. Malcolm said it is an opportunity for innovative thinking. He said you don't just look at this \$300,000 issue and just match with the same amount of cuts. He said it is not that simple. Dr. Bernard said she would like to confirm there is an extraordinary level of innovative thinking going on in the district with staff about how to creatively and effectively execute programs in a reduced financial environment. M. Malcolm said the innovative programs you are suggesting have nothing to do with the types of behavior issues that are at play here that are costing so much money. He said we are reducing our ability to take care of that by reducing our services by \$300,000 in the place where we have the biggest problem. Dr. Bernard asked if we should take the \$330,000 need to the tax payers. M. Malcolm said no, but to suggest that you reduce your ability to service children with special needs by further taking away from that area is wrong. He said excess cost is going to increase exponentially in the future because you are going to have to outpace those children.

M. Kortmann said if it is needed and more cost efficient, staff would be hired in-district instead of outplacing students, as has been done in the past.

M. Malcolm said by making these cuts, we are reducing our ability to service the most expensive area.

J. Beausoleil said Ms. Richard has come to the Board on occasion and said it is cost effective for us to hire staff to service the needs of students, so that we don't outpace. She said it does happen. Dr. Bernard agreed saying that the PSSS Director severely advocates for the least restrictive environment.

J. Barrett noted the chart of grant employees. He said there are several listed that are only partially charged to the grant. He asked what that meant. He wondered if these were full-time 1.0 FTE employees working just this percentage in the grant area and working the rest of their time elsewhere. Dr. Bernard said there may be mixed-assigned staff. She said some may be 10% assigned to a grant, serving in that capacity, and in addition they may be serving 80 – 90% in regular education capacity.

J. Barrett said he knows we may charge the salary of the person to the grant, but the benefits are being subsidized by the budget. Dr. Bernard said mostly the benefits are charged to the regular education budget. J. Barrett said he would like to see a cost analysis of how much these grants are costing us and if they are worth it. Dr. Bernard said that could be researched. She continued that historically districts charge only the salaries to the grants, such as Title I, to stretch how many people could be hired to work with students – it is the reason the benefits are carried in the regular budget. She said if you look at having the grant pay the benefits, it will mean cutting the number of staff applied to the grant and services to students.

Dr. Bernard said the Business Office would chart the grant employees FTE and the benefit load.

1. Coventry High School

J. Beausoleil asked Mr. Hopkins, based on the change to the common schedule and increased opportunities for students to take electives, do you feel that this budget meets the requirements to give elective opportunities so that students have choices. Mr. Hopkins said with the items noted as additions on the left of the Addition/Reduction Analysis spreadsheet and the budget in full, he believed they will be able to have a high quality high school.

C. Trudon asked what of the items on the left would provide additional opportunities. Mr. Hopkins said the virtual coursework would expand the activities for students, assisting to fully utilize the 8 period schedule.

C. Trudon noted the staff cuts in column 3 and how big of an impact they will have on the high school. Mr. Hopkins replied that it is a much bigger impact to cut certified bodies. He continued, it will impact the effectiveness of the 8 period schedule and learning opportunities for students. He said any time you cut certified staff, who can teach a class of students, it will take away opportunities from students.

M. Emanuele thanked all the administrators for the time they spent on preparing the budget. She asked regarding the virtual coursework, is it for all the students, or are there specific students in mind. Mr. Hopkins said it is for “at risk students,” who may have failed. He said possibly this virtual coursework would work for these students; it may prevent dropouts.

M. Kortmann asked if it was an annual expense. Mr. Hopkins said it is a yearly fee and you pay per portal, which is one user at a time. He said the \$8,000 is for virtual coursework and his thoughts were to use it to buy additional portals for the credit recovery. He added that it could be used to buy extra spots for virtual high school.

M. Emanuele noted the BCL hockey program. She asked if the \$12,000 is the Coventry contribution towards the program. Mr. Hopkins said some is earmarked for hockey and a portion could go to other sport activities.

M. Emanuele asked if a priority could be given in funding these programs listed. Mr. Hopkins said he would rather keep his certified staff than get anything on this list.

M. Kortmann asked about the increase in tuition/vo-ag, by about \$16,000. She added that this year the Board was surprised by an extra \$25,000 that was not budgeted. She

said but now we are only increasing the budget by \$16,000 for next year. She asked, is there a reason we think the \$16,000 is good enough.

Dr. Bernard explained you cannot project the magnet school tuitions, because of how the system works. She said we can get the answer to why we were projecting only \$16,000 in increases for 2010-11.

J. Barrett said the state claims they are funding districts four out of five of the students who go to these magnet schools. Dr. Bernard said the State would say the ECS money coming into the Town should cover it, but that is not quite accurate. J. Barrett said the funding from the State is a much greater payout than the tuitions the district is paying to the magnet schools. He said he would like to see what expenses and tuition are being paid to the magnet schools. Dr. Bernard said it is a combination of funding. She said it is a convoluted formula and the State Board and everyone at the state level recognizes that this is an inappropriate way to fund schools. Mr. Barrett asked if the Board could receive a list of magnet schools and what is being paid out right now.

J. Barrett noted page 12 and Project Opening Door grant. He said the number of \$12,603 is bracketed. He asked if that money is included in the budget as a negative. Mr. Hopkins said it is money the school has to match to the grant. J. Barrett verified it was inclusive of the total amount in that account. Mr. Hopkins confirmed.

M. Kortmann asked about the slots for Virtual High School. Mr. Hopkins said because we have a teacher who teaches a Virtual High School class we get 20 slots per semester. M. Kortmann asked if another teacher could be conjured up in an effort to get more slots. Mr. Hopkins replied, there is training associated with the class. He continued that with each teacher it becomes a separate membership and another 20 slots. He said it may be more cost beneficial to add a couple of virtual coursework seats.

M. Kortmann noted the proposed certified staff cuts. She asked if Mr. Hopkins had any other better creative parts in the budget where that money could be found. Mr. Hopkins said he is going over the budget in detail. M. Kortmann asked about a possible increase in pay to play. Mr. Hopkins said that has been assessed and if the fee of \$25 was doubled to \$50 it would amount to about an extra \$6,000 for CHS.

Dr. Bernard said the ball park in cuts is \$120,000 per school. She said you are not finding it in supplies and that has been reviewed with the Administrators. She said unless we go to the Town with a 5, 7, or 8% budget increase, we are going to be cutting staff. She continued it will be a combination of cuts and the administrators are looking at how to redeploy staff.

M. Kortmann said she would like to see how that \$120,000 is going to be laid out. Dr. Bernard said the document is being drafted.

M. Emanuele said to the Administrators, it is a difficult time for everyone and the Board will try to give you as much support as you can.

Dr. Bernard said she had sent out an email to all staff members that all categories and divisions would be looked at.

J. Barrett noted the certified salaries cuts on the addition/reduction analysis spreadsheet. He said PSSS staff is included in the notation. Dr. Bernard said that is a typo and it would be removed; the cuts to that department would be separate.

J. Beausoleil said at the high school you cannot simply increase class size and provide the same opportunities. She said you have the potential to lose class periods. She said there are examples this year of students who have scheduling challenges. She continued to simply increase class size will aggravate an already existing problem. Mr. Hopkins agreed.

M. Malcolm said there is not enough physical space in many of the classrooms for any more bodies. Dr. Bernard said in Mr. Hopkins best desire he comes to the table every year and asks for another half-a-dozen teachers.

M. Malcolm noted the line of textbooks, other equipment, computer ed, dues and fees, and library books. He asked how much do you devastate the system by cutting textbooks and library books in half. J. Beausoleil answered saying, as a parent, in the last four years she has seen the effect of not enough textbooks. She said she could not support the choice of cutting textbooks. She said it is a situation that our teachers have had to manage and she could not support making them manage it any more than they already are.

C. Trudon said the library was noted on the NEASC as needing improvement; more library books are necessary.

The Board thanked Mr. Hopkins for his time.

2. Capt. Nathan Hale School

C. Trudon said these budgets were developed by current principals. She noted each principal must have his/her own style and wondered what it would mean to the budgets once the transfers of the principals to the new schools took place. Ms. Mullaly said we have already begun transition meetings and sharing budget information with each other. She continued that the principals are in constant dialog and the meetings are happening. C. Trudon confirmed that the priorities are mutual between the incoming and outgoing principals. Ms. Mullaly agreed and said they would work within what is budgeted and approved.

J. Barrett noted the \$6,750 cut on page 8 of the CNH budget. Dr. Bernard replied it was the middle school's share of the reduction of Instructional Supplies and Textbooks – District Wide. J. Barrett wanted to be sure that account line reconciled with the deduction noted. [M. Kortmann later noted that the budget detail does reconcile with the deduction noted.]

J. Beausoleil asked about the split between intramurals and conference sports in the intramural line. Ms. Mullaly replied that the conference sports take up the larger portion of that. She said it includes transportation for conference sports as well.

M. Emanuele noted the Jumpstart Program. M. Mullaly said it was proposed idea to support struggling students in their achievement and looking at a summer school.

M. Emanuele asked if equipment is shared between the middle and high school. M. Mullaly said, as much as they can; some items are site-based licensed.

Dr. Bernard asked what the class sizes would be with a cut in one of the middle school grades. Ms. Mullaly noted that in grade 7 the class size would go to 25; in grades 8 and 6 the class size would go to 26. She said we would see a big impact in math class size. Dr. Bernard asked if sharing of staff between the high school and middle school would continue. Ms. Mullaly said some staff, but not as much, due to student numbers. She added that her priority would be to increase class size rather than decrease activities for students.

C. Trudon asked about the Afterschool Academy. M. Mullaly said it was instituted by Mr. Hopkins as a tutoring program afterschool, much like the homework club.

M. Malcolm appreciated the middle school coming to the table at a 0% increase.

3. G. H. Robertson School

M. Emanuele noted the Afterschool Academy. Mr. Petrone said the Afterschool Academy answer Ms. Mullaly gave was accurate. He said majority of the programs

running at GHR are private pay by parents. He said the summer school is also parent pay. He said some of the extra programs that are there would be impacted by staff cuts, while others could remain because parents pay. He said his first priority is to keep all the staff he has.

M. Emanuele asked about using people in the community as volunteers to fill some of these needs and wants. Mr. Petrone said there are great community resources out there and the parents are amazing in what they do for the schools. Dr. Bernard said you will find a direct correlation from having a “Volunteer Director” in the system to an increase in the number of qualified volunteers. She said there is a concern about training the volunteers and then perhaps they would not show up. She said for significant use of volunteers, having a coordinator is key. She said there is room for volunteer growth and there are many facets that would need to be addressed.

M. Kortmann asked about the cuts in the third column. Mr. Petrone said it is a real challenge to look at cuts and how they will impact student achievement in the least. He continued that the Administrators are all working together to address it.

L. Pietrantonio asked how the cuts would affect the class sizes at GHR. Mr. Petrone replied, 5th grade would be 27-28 and 4th grade would be 26-27. He said 3rd grade would be 25 approximately.

C. Trudon asked about the 8 week intervention blocks. Mr. Petrone said it is a necessity that would probably go away with the cuts.

J. Beausoleil asked how it will affect the AYP plan. Mr. Petrone said all areas will be impacted.

Mr. Petrone said the Board has a good pulse on what is going on. He said members are visible in the schools and many good questions are being asked. He said it is appreciated.

4. Coventry Grammar School

M. Moyer said class size will go from 20 to 24-25; educating the youngest and 24-25 per class is a huge class size to consider.

C. Trudon said there are no extra curricular costs in this budget to look at.

J. Barrett asked for the impact of retirements at CGS. He said there is a high teacher salary in that school. M. Moyer said there are four retirements pending in her school, one that comes under PSSS. J. Barrett said it will have a significant impact on the “bottom line” of the budget at CGS.

C. Trudon noted that the K-2 school works best with teachers and para-educators working hands-on with the students. She said there are not a lot of big ticket items included in the budget, like smartboards.

J. Barrett noted the wish list and extended day kindergarten. He wondered if there is a way the parents could do it by private pay; it would give the opportunity to pilot the program. M. Moyer said the research has not been done; there are different options for a full day kindergarten or extended day kindergarten. She said she is open to do the research if we get to a point where that is an option.

J. Beausoleil said we have to be very careful if we are going to start creating a culture of education for the “haves” and not one for the “have nots.” She said it would be taking what is a public option and creating a division within the town. She said she would not want to create that stigma.

J. Barrett said the idea is to set up a pilot program that could possibly be supported in the future. He said you could address the same issues to sports programs, for which

parents have to pay.

J. Beausoleil said before we introduce a paid education opportunity we need Board consensus.

C. Trudon said as of today, Ms. Moyer has not had time to fully research it and we need to put this budget to bed by February 18. She said the Board should concentrate on the budget and possibly hear more about this topic at a later date.

M. Malcolm echoed what C. Trudon just said and what J. Barrett just brought up about the pilot parent pay program for full-day kindergarten. He said we don't have the capability of funding an additional program, but we did hear thoughtful discussion last week by parents and it merited a conversation today to recognize what the parents are thinking about and it is something we want to consider for the future.

The Board thanked the Administrators for their time.

L. Pietrantonio asked what the Board would like to discuss regarding the budget at the next meeting.

C. Trudon said she would like to see individual Board member ideas put on the table at the next meeting.

J. Beausoleil asked for clarification on how each location is going to prioritize the cuts. Dr. Bernard said a draft would be brought forward.

J. Barrett said J. Beausoleil has a point. Dr. Bernard said draft recommendations will come to the next meeting.

M. Malcolm would like to hear specifics on where we are on health care increases. He asked how much the town has negotiated the percentage number. Dr. Bernard said we have very hard negotiations at the Town Manager level.

C. Trudon asked if we could go out to bid. Dr. Bernard said she could get information from the Town Manager on how aggressively the rates are negotiated. J. Barrett said he agreed with C. Trudon regarding going out to bid. Dr. Bernard said she would get a paragraph explaining the health care negotiations.

J. Beausoleil said the union contracts note the carriers and benefits and it does become complicated.

Dr. Bernard said regarding continuing budget discussions, at the next meeting the Board may want to start with the Assumptions Page and how to proceed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. VOTE: Accept Retirement of Judith Richard, PSSS Director

MOTION: Accept Retirement of Judith Richard, PSSS Director, with deep regret.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: M. Kortmann

C. Trudon said she has learned so much from Ms. Richard. She continued the children in Coventry were served well by her because she was passionate about doing what was best for the students.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

J. Beausoleil asked if the retirements that are part of the retirement incentive plan would come as separate items, or as one block. Dr. Bernard said that is to be determined.

B. VOTE: Approve 2010-2011 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

MOTION: Approve 2010-2011 Coventry Public Schools Calendar

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Beausoleil said this is the first year that there is an eight period schedule at the high school. She said there have been a number of comments by parents that having seven exams in four days was hard on freshman getting used to the schedule. Dr. Bernard said the calendar is vetted through all groups; administrators, staff, and parents contribute to the development. Regarding that particular issue, she would have to do some research with staff.

C. Trudon said someone mentioned to her that with the eight period schedule and additional study halls, it was an easier exam schedule for some students. She added, it depends on who your student is.

J. Barrett noted the holidays and early release days in November. He said it is complicated and stressful for working parents. He said we have to start thinking about these schedules, because it is really burdensome to some families.

C. Trudon said regarding parents having to take time off to attend conferences, there is always night time slots available.

J. Barrett said it is not the issue of availability of night time conferences. He continued, for instance, in April it is a concern for working parents having to adjust their schedules for a week with three early release days and then that is compounded by vacation the following week. He said there has to be a way to change it out.

M. Malcolm said when you have half days, three to a week, it reduces focus in the classroom. He added, when you back it up by a week-long vacation, that is two weeks of unfocused classrooms.

Dr. Bernard said it is a bargaining unit issue and it needs to be taken to the negotiation table. She said the change cannot happen without union agreement.

M. Malcolm asked about possibly eliminating February and April vacations and have just one in March. Dr. Bernard said for the most part parents are set on two. L. Pietrantonio said the last time that was broached the room was packed with parents who wanted to keep both. C. Trudon said many have vacations booked for both weeks.

M. Malcolm said a couple of items have been brought up here. He said perhaps these could be addressed this summer when looking at developing the calendar for 2011-12.

M. Emanuele asked for research to be done on what the savings would be if the schools had total shutdown during the vacations.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XI. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

A. Information: Roofing Project Update – L. Pietrantonio

L. Pietrantonio said the interview with the architect was being scheduled.

B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report – M. Kortmann

M. Kortmann said the first thing on the agenda is the request for additional appropriations from the Town Council.

1. VOTE: To request authorization from the Town Council of Additional Appropriations not to exceed \$89,438 to pass through tuitions to service special education students.

MOTION: To approve the letter dated January 14, 2010 to the Town Council regarding the Additional Appropriations of the Coventry Board of Education.

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: M. Kortmann

J. Barrett asked what the money is used for when it comes back to us. He said we are invoicing for services we have rendered in school. Dr. Bernard agreed. J. Barrett said the students are utilizing these services that are utilized by other children at the same time. Dr. Bernard said they are not necessarily shared services. J. Barrett asked if it is a direct amount of money being spent on staff that is not in the budget, or is it a budgeted person that is currently in our system that we are utilizing and gaining additional value out of. He said if we are, do we have a “home” for the incoming money to purchase something else or do something else with. He clarified, if we have a current person on our payroll and they are in the current budget, we are receiving tax money for this person; if we are getting a pass through for these services, it is additional money coming in.

J. Beausoleil said we have exceeded our special education budget by much more than this.

C. Trudon said the money goes into the accounts where it was taken out of.

M. Kortmann said you will see it show up in the adjustments. J. Barrett said the money that is spent, gets eaten up by other things.

Dr. Bernard said it is very case specific. She said we have to defend to the districts we are invoicing that the child received the appropriate services.

J. Barrett said it is not a question of the district invoicing correctly, but if it is already covered in the budget because it is a shared service.

Dr. Bernard said the special education budget overrides the regular education budget all of the time, and this is way to recoup some of that overage. J. Beausoleil agreed saying, so that the hemorrhage is not as bad.

C. Trudon said we do not break down each student into minute parts.

J. Barrett said he has seen this happen for years and he is trying to get a handle on where the money is going; he asked for details on the \$89,438.

MOTION: To extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m., based in Board policy.

By: C. Trudon

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Bernard said she would have Ms. Richard supply a report.

M. Kortmann noted the committee reviewed the fiscal reports from the January 14 meeting. She noted the accounts that are under “watch” – unemployment, utilities, oil, vo-ag/magnet school tuition, excess cost, and contract services.

Dr. Bernard said she has an answer to the question, “Do you have a right to go to the town for less than appropriately authorized revenue from the state.” She handed out copies of the document. She said, does the Town have the responsibility to make up for under-funding by the State. She noted the following from the document, “... that a

shortfall in a particular line item would not alone result in an overall budget deficit, because the Board can remedy this shortfall by transferring in funds from another line. Consequently, the existence of a deficit in a single line item would not necessitate the Board seeking an additional appropriation from the Town. In the event that the Board's total appropriation from the Town for the fiscal year is insufficient to meet expenses, seeking additional appropriations provides the only remedy."

There was conversation as to whether that was the original question that was asked. The group discussed the appropriations and the excess cost shortages and who is responsible.

J. Barrett said we are a department of the Town of Coventry and we are now being underfunded. He said that is why we go to them and present a budget to them and ask for the money.

C. Trudon said, regarding the upcoming projects, she wanted to be sure the oil information is included in those projections for the year. Dr. Bernard said that is all part of the Business Office projection procedures, and it would be included.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions of the Custodian/Maintenance Negotiations and Teacher Negotiations

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions of the Custodian/Maintenance Negotiations and Teacher Negotiations with the Superintendent at 11:12 p.m.

By: C. Trudon Seconded: J. Barrett

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XIII. OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 11:30 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

By: J. Barrett Seconded: M. Malcolm

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Michaud
Board Clerk

February 11, 2010

Approved