



Dr. Bernard asked who was in favor of having M. Malcolm serve as the Chair. J. Barrett, M. Emanuele, and M. Malcolm voted yes.

Dr. Bernard asked who was in favor of having L. Pietrantonio serve as the Chair. J. Beausoleil, M. Kortmann, L. Pietrantonio, and C. Trudon voted yes.

Dr. Bernard announced L. Pietrantonio as Chair.

L. Pietrantonio took control of the meeting.

L. Pietrantonio nominated C. Trudon to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. M. Kortmann seconded the nomination. L. Pietrantonio asked for other nominations. There were none. He called for the vote. All were in favor.

L. Pietrantonio nominated M. Emanuele to serve as Board Secretary. J. Barrett seconded the motion. L. Pietrantonio called for the vote. All were in favor.

## **V. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

Julie Blanchard, 763 Wrights Mill Road, congratulated the members and thanked them for their willingness to serve the Town of Coventry. She wanted to bring a few points forward hoping they would consider the items as a Board. She asked that they look into the sports; not all are funded the same and maybe that could be something that could happen in the future. She said the hockey and football programs are good, they are growing, and are popular and perhaps the Board could look into funding them more. She asked if the Board would review the policy related to extracurricular activity participation based in passing and failing grades. She said it was revised to be more lenient, with students being able to have two failing classes, and she thought that should be looked into. Mr. Hopkins interjected, saying it was one failing grade. In addition, Mrs. Blanchard said we are entering a budget season, which will be a crisis situation. She said she feels Coventry is going to have a hard time and there will be a lot of hard work ahead and she said she looks forward to working closely with the Board.

## **VI. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

L. Pietrantonio said the Fiscal Committee was the only one he wanted to have appointed tonight. He said he would like M. Kortmann as the Chair and C. Trudon and M. Malcolm as the other members. There was a consensus.

L. Pietrantonio asked for volunteers to come forward for other the committees and asked members to let him know of their interest and the committees will be appointed at the next meeting.

J. Barrett asked about the Negotiation Committee for the Custodial/Maintenance Agreement. L. Pietrantonio said right now there are two members who are still Board members, J. Barrett and M. Kortmann. He said he would fill in as the third, as he has been at many of the meetings.

L. Pietrantonio mentioned the other Committees and Liaison appointments. He said there is one new one, an E. O. Smith Liaison.

J. Barrett asked that a Committee be created regarding Channel 17 programming. He said it would be appropriate to set up a Committee of three to represent what the Board would

like to see. L. Pietrantonio said he would take that under advisement and that it could be brought up at a Board meeting.

L. Pietrantonio said he would like to schedule a December 3 Special Meeting. He also noted that there are two additional meeting dates added in 2010. He said the December 3 meeting would be to discuss the roof project and the RFQs, which have been received.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. Information: Coventry Pride – Washington, DC Experience Review – Mr. Sadinsky and Students**

Dr. Bernard said she was very pleased that all students returned safely from the Washington, DC trip. She introduced Mr. Sadinsky to review the trip.

Mr. Sadinsky handed out to the Board an overview of the trip, which included the Curricular Highlights/Connections and Itinerary. He reviewed the details and statistics of the trip. He gave public commendations to teacher Fred Doyle who put hours and hours into the organization of the trip.

Mr. Sadinsky introduced, individually, students Emma Gould, Samantha Coulombe, and Christopher Bohr, who each shared their trip experience with the Board.

C. Trudon asked for a comparison between last year's trip and this year's trip. Mr. Sadinsky said there were many improvements this year, from the housing to having the busses with them all of the time. In addition, Mr. Sadinsky said the additional day, of stopping in Philadelphia, was extremely beneficial, both academically and logistically.

M. Emanuele asked if the students were able to see any action in the House and if the House was in session. Mr. Sadinsky said there was a small group of about 15 students who were able to get on to the floor and see government in action.

Dr. Bernard noted the excellent curricular integration, which happened before and after the trip.

### **B. Information: Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members**

Dr. Bernard noted it is her responsibility every two years to review these different items. She said she has been in this business for 38 years and has worked with many, many Boards of Education. She said all Boards share the commonality of wanting to do what is right for students. Dr. Bernard reviewed items from CAFE regarding Board members roles and responsibilities. In closing, Dr. Bernard said everyone needs to remember the public is watching and the children are watching. She said Board members are role models for our students.

### **C. Information: Review of 2008-2009 Strategic School Profile**

Dr. Bernard said in reviewing the Strategic School Profile (SSP) she reads for anything striking and she did not see anything strikingly new. She said there are always challenges and always items of interest. She reviewed various points throughout the SSP. (Copies of the SSP are available in the Superintendent's Office.)

C. Trudon said it was interesting to see that the Gifted and Talented number is 142 and 63% of that number are being providing services. She said we are required to identify, but

not required to provide services. Ms. Richard said we are refining our identification procedures and that the current Challenge and Enrichment teacher works grades 3-8. She said there is no person assigned at the high school; the identification procedures at the high school have to be investigated. Dr. Bernard said the number is appropriately calculated to drop and will be noted in the next SSP.

M. Malcolm asked why Coventry's percentage of kindergarten students who attended preschool is 10% lower than our DRG average. M. Moyer noted it was because many Coventry students attended quality home daycare programs; the state does not include home daycare programs in the preschool number. M. Moyer said that many of these home daycare programs have excellent curriculum programs.

M. Malcolm said one of the concerns is, if we did catch up to the DRG, do we have capacity at CECC if the number was to grow. Ms. Richard and Ms. Moyer said the school is pretty much at capacity. He asked if we turn down students who want to go to preschool. Ms. Moyer said there is a waiting list and we do try to work with families with different schedules.

M. Malcolm noted the testing results and specifically the percentage of students meeting Goal. He said it seems Coventry is in the bottom half of the State in 11 out of 20 of the categories. He continued, in some of the categories Coventry is in the bottom third. He asked if the administration is concerned. Dr. Bernard said the administrators are exceptionally concerned. She said they obsess about testing results; every school has a school improvement plan based in this information. She said yes, from the Superintendent on down, all are concerned and work and analyze the results and data daily. Ms. Mullaly noted these results are from the year before and there has been district-wide growth since. Mr. Petrone said there has been a significant increase across the board.

M. Malcolm asked if there are other districts that could have been Coventry 10 years ago from who we could model. Dr. Bernard said we are more likely to use the student achievement growth procedures from demonstration districts. She said they may be in or out of state. She said we look to many different examples of what is working; following the research and documentation. Mr. Petrone noted the state meeting he attended just that morning and the collaboration that exists between districts in studying data and what the other districts are doing.

M. Malcolm noted the GHR "Physical Fitness % of Students Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests." He said it says 20% of our students are reaching standard on all four tests. Dr. Bernard agreed saying, the PE teachers could talk for hours about the lack of physical engagement of young people. She said she has seen this first hand. J. Beausoleil noted that the G. H. Robertson School lost 50% of its PE staff and now we are seeing the results of that.

M. Malcolm noted it was wonderful to see on page 2 at CHS that we are so far ahead of the rest of the state in % of Juniors and Seniors Enrolled in a Course or Courses for College Credit.

J. Beausoleil noted the graduation rate is 96.4 and the fact that the drop out rate has drastically reduced is phenomenal. She asked why the required hours of music is 0 for grade 8. Ms. Mullaly said that the schedule change will help in that area and added that chorus and band were not counted in that figure. (Ms. Mullaly noted later that the 0 hours of instruction for music was in error and she would look into that.)

J. Beausoleil also noted the technology figures and the number of computers per student. She said the CGS computer lab addition is excellent. She said she would like to see solid computer education at the middle school. Ms. Mullaly said due to the ABC curriculum alignment there has been some vertical teaming with the business department at the high school and there have been some adjustments in this area. She added that the students' skill level is being tested. She also noted that the fifth graders are coming to the middle school now with even more technology skills.

There was conversation about bringing back Gifted and Talented and Challenge and Enrichment to the Board for further discussion.

J. Barrett asked about the Community Data noted on page 1. He asked why the information was from 2000. Ms. Michaud answered saying, she believed it is provided by the State who uses the information from the last census.

M. Emanuele said the upper grades are still testing lower. She asked if this is reflective of what the students did to begin with, percentage-wise. She wanted to know if the pattern of lower scores is staying within those grades. Dr. Bernard said across the country there is a deflation in middle school scores over K-4 scores. She said it is a configuration of many different factors. She said as we get an improved instructional model and curriculum, you will see these figures improve.

M. Emanuele asked how many of the high school students receive college credits for the Advanced Placement (AP) courses. She asked about the UCONN courses as well. Mr. Hopkins said the UCONN ECE courses do still exist along with the AP courses. He said the college credits are being received. Dr. Bernard noted that the list of colleges who accept these credits has grown.

M. Emanuele asked if all students had to take PSATs. Mr. Hopkins said all students take it twice, once as a sophomore and once as a junior.

M. Malcolm asked if we offer an afterschool SAT class. Mr. Hopkins said yes there is a teacher who works with students after school and there is a partnership with the Booth and Dimock Library and other programs are also offered in preparation for the SAT.

M. Malcolm talked about the DRGs and asked how we can be compared to towns who might only have 30 students in a grade when Coventry has as much as 174 in a grade. Dr. Bernard said there are so many variables in the educational conditions. She said the State of Connecticut's primary criteria for developing the DRGs are the socioeconomic status and the educational level of the parents. She said that drives the student achievement data across all cultures. She said there are comparability problems. She continued that there are themes that run through the DRGs and there are trends.

M. Malcolm said it almost seemed unfair to compare our numbers with others in our DRG. Dr. Bernard responded that the real effort is the work we do in our data management teams. She said they look at the students, their achievements and the curriculum instruction and then modify the programs to get better results.

M. Malcolm asked if the Data Management Teams could be discussed at a meeting so the Board can understand what is happening, as there is a lot of time focused on this subject. Dr. Bernard said of course. She added staff is trying to get the systemic understanding of what quality work looks like. She said working on instruction and curriculum designed to align to state standards is key.

J. Barrett noted if the state is using the year 2000 for comparing demographics, Coventry's DRG may be changing in 2010, when the data is updated.

### VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. VOTE: Approve Minutes of October 8, 2009

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of Thursday, October 8, 2009.**

**By: J. Barrett**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

J. Barrett asked for the following changes:

Page 5, first paragraph, first sentence – the amount \$42,000 be added before “Food Service.”

Page 5, first paragraph, second sentence the wording \$10K be changed to \$10,000.

**Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted changes passes 4-0-3. (J. Beausoleil, M. Emanuele, M. Malcolm abstain)**

B. VOTE: Approve Minutes of October 29, 2009

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of Thursday, October 29, 2009**

**By: J. Barrett**

**Seconded: C. Trudon**

M. Kortmann asked for the word “here” to be added to the end of the first sentence in the fourth paragraph on page 3.

**Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted changes passes 4-0-3. (J. Beausoleil, M. Emanuele, M. Malcolm abstain)**

### IX. OLD BUSINESS

VOTE: Approve Adoption of BOE Policy 6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

**MOTION: Approve Adoption of BOE Policy 6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness**

**By: C. Trudon**

**Seconded: M. Kortmann**

M. Emanuele said she had some questions about some of the information that is in the policy. She said for example, paragraph four talks about evacuating students. She said if we are talking about communicable diseases, are we going to want to evacuate. In addition, she noted paragraph six and the wording “evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in-place” and said again if we are talking communicable diseases are we going to want to do those things.

Dr. Bernard said if there are complicated changes, the policy should go back to the Policy Committee. She said this is a CAFE model policy. She said you just don't know when you might have to evacuate, lockdown, or put a shelter-in-place – depending upon the conditions. She said the CAFE lawyers wrote the policy from a liability standpoint; you just need to, by policy, authorize the Superintendent to work with the crisis management teams to get “it” done. She said it is a boiler plate policy coming from the lawyers out of CAFE. She

said it is always good for the Superintendent to have the authorization to move students if the situation warrants it.

The group discussed disasters and H1N1 and different scenarios that could take place.

J. Barrett said the new policy committee should have a chance to look at this.

L. Pietrantonio said this can go back to the Policy Committee at a later date for review. He continued, it is the diligent thing to approve it now, so the administration has an avenue in which to work, should something happen now.

**Result: The motion passes 5-0-2 (J. Barrett, M. Emanuele abstains).**

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

A. VOTE: Approve BOE Meeting Dates for 2010

L. Pietrantonio noted the two dates added, one in November and December.

M. Malcolm noted the meetings which have the two asterisks (\*\* These meetings will be held only as agenda items require.) He said there must be something that can be done of value during those meetings. He said if those meetings had taken place this past summer the Board may have gotten ahead of the RFQ situation and the roofs could have been looked at before winter. He said hind-site is always 20/20 and we should learn from that and not put the notation next to those meeting dates and we hold them as scheduled. J. Beausoleil noted during the summer the issue is almost always whether there is a quorum or not, due to vacation schedules. M. Malcolm said if that is the issue, then that's the issue at the time, but don't asterisk the meetings to begin with. He said it is as if we are cancelling them already. J. Barrett said any meeting can be cancelled at any time.

M. Malcolm said we should just schedule the meetings and if we don't need to meet, we don't need to meet. J. Barrett said that is not unreasonable. L. Pietrantonio said he did not have a problem with that.

The group agreed to delete the double asterisks and the reference to such at the bottom. In addition, J. Barrett said Tuesday, November 23 would be a single star because it was a variation.

**MOTION: Approve BOE Meeting Dates for 2010 to include all meetings, removing the double asterisks and last sentence.**

**By: M. Emanuele                      Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

B. VOTE: Approve CHS January 2010 Field Experience to Newry, ME

**MOTION: Approve CHS Ski and Snowboard Club January 2010 Field Experience to Newry, ME**

**By: C. Trudon                              Seconded: M. Kortmann**

**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

C. VOTE: Approve CHS December 2009 Field Experience to New York, NY

**MOTION: Approve CHS December 2009 Field Experience to New York, NY**  
**By: M. Emanuele                      Seconded: M. Kortmann**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

## **XII. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Information: Disbursement of Roof Project RFQs – L. Pietrantonio

L. Pietrantonio noted there were 12 responses to the roof project RFQs. He said the meeting on December 3 will be to discuss the RFQs and select a company or narrow it down to 3. He directed the Board to pick their top 5 companies and give them a rating of 1 – 5. He continued that the group will discuss the commonalities of their picks on December 3.

L. Pietrantonio noted, regarding the summer meetings and the roof project, you need to take these projects in stride. He said we were just finishing up two other building projects and the amount of time staff spends on these projects is quite considerable.

J. Barrett ran through the procedure of the project and what will happen next. The group discussed how to review the RFQs and the formats of such.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn the Board meeting at 9:28 p.m.**  
**By: J. Barrett                      Seconded: C. Trudon**  
**Result: Motion passes unanimously.**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberlee Michaud  
Board Clerk

**December 10, 2009**  
**Approved**