Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut  

SPECIAL Board of Education Meeting  
Unapproved Minutes of Wednesday, December 04, 2019  
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:  
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman  
William Oros, Vice-Chairman  
Eugene Marchand, Secretary  
Mary Kortmann  
Barbara Pare  
Christina Williams

Board Members Absent:  
Robert Williams

Administrators Present:  
Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent  
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations  
William Trudelle, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities  
Catherine Drury, Director of Educational Technology

Audience members present: Coventry High School students; two citizens

I. Call to Order
J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag
J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens
Meredith LaMalva, senior at Coventry High School, read a statement to the Board, which is attached to these minutes.

IV. Information and VOTE: Capital Improvement Plan
J. Beausoleil said the primary purpose of the meeting is the Capital Improvement Plan. She explained the timeline for the approval.
W. Oros said the discussion at the Fiscal meeting was good. He said questions were asked and hopefully answered. He said the Committee agreed to move the weight room project to 2021-22. He said the new bottom line is $645,000 for FY21. He said the Committee is recommending this be approved.
J. Beausoleil asked for any questions.

C. Williams said for the record, the security items are a priority for her. J. Beausoleil said the goal is to fund those items through the 1% account sooner.

**MOTION: To approve the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2021-2025 as presented by Fiscal with the adjustment of the weight room to FY22**

By: E. Marchand  Seconded: C. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

V. Review and VOTE: Approve Budget Transfer

J. Beausoleil explained that budget transfers do come up. She continued to say that two positions (one unfilled and one member staff on leave) needed to be addressed with contracted services funds. She said this means the salary account is over, and the money needs to be transferred to the contracted services account.

C. Williams asked what is being done to fill the two positions. Dr. Petrone explained that you cannot fill a position for a person who is on leave, as that is owed to them. He said the other position will be searched for in the spring. He said it is a hot market for psychologists and it is very difficult to fill those, especially mid-year. He talked about the proactive approaches the administration takes through job fairs and area resources. The Board continued to talk about the importance of social workers and psychologists.

C. Williams asked about the See Something-Anonymous Report System program. Dr. Petrone said there is a long process to implement the program and we are currently in the process, hoping for a February start date.

**MOTION To transfer $60,000 from account 100 salaries to account 300-500 purchased services**

By: M. Kortmann  Seconded: W. Oros

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Adjournment

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.**

By: W. Oros  Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: _____________________
My name is Meredith LaMalva, I live on Wrights Mill Road, and I am a senior at the high school. I am here to address the tension and lack of unity that I have witnessed between party lines over the past few months, within both the Board of Education and the Town Council. I know that it has been awhile since the last board meeting, and I am not trying to revisit things from the past, since I am aware of how important it is to move forward. I also know that many people have spoken about the disrespectful behaviors of particular audience members at the last meeting, and I too was disgusted by that behavior. I admire those citizens who spoke up, and I do not think I could convey my own thoughts about the situation any better than they already have. Instead, I would like to use this opportunity to address the board, because there is something that I do not think everyone has recognized, and that is that students are aware of what is going on. We are aware of how starkly divisive our town is becoming based solely on political affiliation. We are aware
now, more than ever, because it is hard to ignore the appalling
behavior, words, and general attitudes of some members of the
political parties within Coventry. It is unsettling when the very
same people who claim to be doing what is best for the students
do not seem to acknowledge that we pay attention. We see the
nasty social media posts. We hear the name calling, and the
hurtful words muttered under your breath. We pick up on the
cold tone you adopt when something does not go as you hoped.
We see these adults, these supposed role models, provoking the
same kind of drama that goes on in high school. While some
members have been eloquent in their attempts to maintain
civility, it seems as if it has been forgotten that there is so much
more to people than their political affiliation. It is undeniable
that each and every person sitting before me is an asset to this
board. I believe that all of your insights, ideas, and goals are
valuable, and I commend you for your extreme dedication to
Coventry. However, I also believe that it is impossible for all of
these individual qualities to be beneficial if you cannot work together as a team. Tolerance is one thing, but teamwork requires acceptance and respect. It is imperative that you put what is best for our town before your differences. Lastly, I cannot imagine all of the hard work that went into campaigning for these positions, and I know that that commitment does not end now that you have been elected. For that reason, I have the utmost respect for you all. As you continue as board members, I want you to remember that students pick up on the way you treat each other, and we do pay attention. I keep hearing about how the people spoke through their votes. And you're right, the people *did* speak, but they are speaking now too, and I urge you to listen. Thank you for your time, and thank you for your involvement in our community.