Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda
Unapproved Minutes of January 09, 2020
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman
William Oros, Vice Chairman
Mary Kortmann
Barbara Paré
Christina Williams
Robert Williams

Board Members Absent:
Eugene Marchand, Secretary

Also present:
Nick Cabral, Student Board of Education Representative

Administrators present:
Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

Audience members present: Joseph Blake, CHS Principal; Ronda Carrie, CGS Principal; Michele Mullaly, Director of Teaching and Learning; Beth Giller, Director of Pupil and Staff Support Services; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Jennifer DeRagon, GHR Principal; Cathie Drury, Director of Educational Technology; Kim Izzo, CGS Para-educator; members of the CNH Boys Soccer Team and their families; CHS students; the Journal Inquirer was represented.

I. Call to Order
J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

III. Audience of Citizens
There were none.

IV. Report of Superintendent
Dr. Petrone shared information about various events and happenings that have taken place around the district, region, and state.
A. Recognition: CNH Boys Soccer Team Northeast Middle School Athletic Conference Champions

Dr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeJulius and the CNH Boys Soccer Team Coach, David Forte. Ms. DeJulius said a few words and gave congratulations. Coach Forte thanked the middle school for the support.

J. Beausoleil noted how exciting this is and thanked the coach for building the program. M. Kortmann said she hopes the students continue on into high school.

B. Paré gave congratulations to all.

B. Recognition: Kim Izzo, CGS Para-educator, Finalist in the 2020 Para-educator of the Year Award

Dr. Petrone talked about the work that Kim Izzo does in the district. He introduced Ms. Carrie who said a few words about Ms. Izzo. Ms. Izzo noted the process was not easy for her to do, because she had to talk about herself. She said, as educators we work as a team. She talked about her experience meeting other para-educators and discovering how ahead of the curve Coventry is in their education programs.

J. Beausoleil said how nice it is to hear Ms. Izzo talk about being part of a team and part of the community.

B. Paré thanked her for stepping out and being recognized.

C. Information: Student Board of Education Representative Report

Nick Cabral talked about the mid-terms that are beginning next week and other events taking place at the high school.

VI. VOTE: Consent Agenda

A. Approve the CHS March Field Experience to Newry, ME

MOTION: Approve the consent agenda as presented

By: W. Oros  Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil noted it is budget season and also reminded the Board of the joint Town Council/BOE meeting at 6:30 p.m. and then a joint Fiscal/Finance meeting at 7:00 p.m., both on Monday evening.

J. Beausoleil noted the "quick tips" document related to FOI and Open Meeting Laws that is attached for a reference for all Board members.

VII. Communications

J. Beausoleil noted the CABE Journal that is attached for reference as the Board was recognized for receiving the CABE Board of Distinction Award.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes
A. Approve Minutes of November 14, 2019

MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 14, 2019
By: B. Paré Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

B. Approve Minutes of December 4, 2019

MOTION: To approve minutes of December 4, 2019
By: W. Oros Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IX. New Business

A. Information: FY21 Budget Presentation

J. Beausoleil reviewed the budget process. She turned the presentation over to Dr. Petrone.

Dr. Petrone thanked his staff for the work that goes into preparing the budget. He shared a slideshow presentation on the proposed FY21 budget. [That slideshow and the full budget is available on the district’s website.]

J. Beausoleil asked for questions from the Board members.

C. Williams asked about the per pupil expenditure and if the preschool students are included in the state figure. Mr. Carroll said the state only counts those who do not pay tuition. Dr. Petrone noted these are the special education students.

R. Williams asked about the college credits students receive in-district. Dr. Petrone explained how those programs work.

N. Cabral said he has taken both ECE and AP classes and he believes it really prepares you for college.

C. Williams asked about Ecollect. Dr. Petrone spoke about the safety guidelines associated with the program. He also spoke about the ease of use to parents, which this product is supposed to provide.

R. Williams asked how many of the student teachers come back to Coventry to teach. Dr. Petrone said this is a great program, since the district gets a good look at their skills. He added we have hired a number of our student teachers. The Board talked about how a district looks to prospective candidates and what districts can do to improve.

J. Beausoleil talked about the current stable numbers in special education and how nice it is to see that, since that has not always been the case. She said there are no placeholders in special education and she went on to talk about how fluid that number is. J. Beausoleil asked about the health insurance amount, which is at a .08% increase. Mr. Carroll said we will have a final number in February or March. Dr. Petrone said they truly believe this is a solid number. J. Beausoleil continued and talked about the grants and she informed Board members that many companies have a type of volunteer grant and she encouraged folks to see if their company has this, as their work on the Board could apply.

C. Williams asked for the five previous years of the management report.

X. Report of Board Members
A. Information: Wellness Committee Update

B. Paré spoke about the Wellness Policy in general. She said the current policy and guidelines are being reviewed and revised. She talked about working with UConn in building a toolkit that assesses the Wellness policy and work related to the policy.

She added the Committee continues to strategize new ways to inform parents and she noted that "CoventrySchoolWellness" is the new Instagram account.

B. Information: Fiscal Committee Report (November, December, January)

W. Oros said the new Fiscal Committee is learning the process and financial reports. He talked about the responsibility of the Board to adopt an estimated budget. He noted that the Budget Transfer has been tabled.

2. VOTE: Request Use of 1% Non-Lapsing Account

J. Beausoleil noted the attachment which provides items to be considered to be funded through the 1% non-lapsing account. J. Beausoleil said that all Board members present were at the Fiscal Committee meeting so not much explanation is necessary, unless there were more questions.

C. Williams asked about the cafeteria reconfiguration and asked why it was noted “BOE Approved.” Dr. Petrone and J. Beausoleil explained that the project was approved by the Board to proceed by using the 1% funds, but the Board did not ask the Town Council yet for use of those funds.

R. Williams asked about the Utility Vehicle. Dr. Petrone explained what the utility vehicle was and what it could be used for. The Board talked about the age of the current snow blowers and how this vehicle will take the place of those and will save time and manpower.

B. Paré noted her worries about the wording on the savings and being able to keep the promises listed.

C. Williams listed her worries about the vehicle and that she did not believe it could do all of the things the administration thinks it could.

Dr. Petrone spoke to the benefits of having this vehicle and noted it is the same vehicle the Town has and uses now.

R. Williams spoke about his concerns regarding the vehicle and wanting to be sure it wasn't being used recreationally. Dr. Petrone talked about the benefit of using this vehicle for multiple ways, but said it would not be used recreationally.

J. Beausoleil said, because there seems to be disagreement on just some items, she would like to vote on each item. She noted that the request would be sent by the Superintendent on behalf of the Board.

**MOTION: To add the Cafeteria Reconfiguration to the request to the Town Council to use the 1% account**

By: M. Kortmann Seconded: W. Oros

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**
MOTION: To add the Utility Vehicle to the request to the Town Council to use the 1% account
By: W. Oros  Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion fails 3-3 (In favor: J. Beausoleil, W. Oros, M. Kortmann and Against: B. Paré, C. Williams, R. Williams)

MOTION: To add the Air-conditioning for the LGI and the Lecture Hall to the request to the Town Council to use the 1% account
By: M. Kortmann  Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To add the Water Filtration to the request to the Town Council to use the 1% account
By: C. Williams  Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

MOTION: To authorize the Superintendent to send a request to use 1% non-lapsing account for $98,500 for the cafeteria reconfiguration, the air-conditioning installation, and the water filtration project
By: B. Paré  Seconded: R. Williams
Result: Motion passes unanimously

M. Kortmann asked that we be sure that we use the number that has been approved in the CIP for all items.

M. Kortmann said the water filtration is the last part of the project and would like Dr. Petrone to note that in the letter to the Council.

XI. Possible VOTE: Executive Session (Superintendent Evaluation/Contract)

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to the Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract at 9:47 p.m. with Superintendent present
By: M. Kortmann  Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:40 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.
By: W. Oros  Seconded: C. Williams
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk  Approved:_______________