Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, Connecticut  

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Approved Minutes of Thursday, May 29, 2014  
Town Hall Annex

Attendance Taken at 7:26 p.m.:

Present Board Members:  
Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairman  
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairman  
Mary Minor, Secretary  
William Oros  
Denise Ryan  
Michael Sobol

Absent Board Members:  
Eugene Marchand

Administrators Present:  
David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Carroll, Business Manager

Audience Members Present:  Michele Mullaly, CHS Principal; Dena DeJulius, CNH Principal; Barbara Trinks, PSSS Director; Beth Giller, GHR Principal; Anne Burke, GHR Teacher; Caterina Merriam and Wendy Rubin of the Town Park & Recreation Department, several parents and students, and citizens. The Chronicle newspaper was represented.

I. Call to Order  
J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

III. Audience of Citizens  
There were none.

MOTION:  Motion to add to the agenda an item under New Business – “Information: Preschool Special Education 2014-15”  
By: D. Ryan  
Seconded: M. Sobol  
Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Report of Superintendent  
Mr. Petrone reviewed all of the different happenings and success stories taking place in the district at this time of year.
IV.B. Information: Student Recognition - CABE Student Leadership Award to CNH Students: Benjamin Urbanski and Devon O’Connell and CHS Students: Bram Kyer and Rebecca Pranger

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. DeJulius who introduced and spoke about the two students from CNH, Benjamin Urbanski and Devon O’Connell, who were presented with the CABE Student Leadership Award.

Ms. Mullaly introduced the CHS students, Bram Kyer and Rebecca Pranger who were also presented with the CABE Student Leadership Award.

Miss Pranger thanked the Board of Education and Ms. Mullaly for the support she has received while at Coventry High School.

Mr. Petrone presented each student with their award and a gift of appreciation from the Board.

IV.C. Information: Student Recognition - Anne Burke’s Third Grade Students for their Heroes and Heroines Grant Service Learning Project

Mr. Petrone introduced Ms. Burke who talked about the Heroes and Heroines Grant. She introduced the following students from her class: Remington Casida, Paige Deane, Aubrey Talaga, Phie Verosky, and Grace Zima. Each student took a turn and talked about their experiences in this Service Learning Project. Ms. Burke spoke to the details of the grant and the activities that students took part in.

IV.D. Information: Coventry Public Schools Summer 2014 Enrichment Program

Mr. Petrone reviewed the 2014 Summer Enrichment program and the brochure. He noted how the information was distributed and where it could be found now, e.g., the website and in the school offices. Mr. Petrone added some discussions have taken place with the town Recreation Department in hopes of working cooperatively between their program and the school’s summer enrichment program.

M. Kortmann asked about the kindergarten program. Mr. Petrone said the brochure was mailed to families who registered their child for kindergarten who did not have preschool experience. M. Minor noted that it looked like a very productive program and was pleased it was happening in Coventry.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the resignation of Kelly Donnet, Tech Para-educator
V.B. Accept the resignation of Stacy Houle, CHS Science Teacher
V.C. Accept the resignation of Holly Utzig, CNH Para-educator

MOTION: To accept the consent agenda as presented

By: M. Sobol
Seconded: M. Kortmann
Result: Motion passes unanimously

VI. Report of Chairman

J. Beausoleil talked about the staff recognition events that have taken place recently. She also said how great it was to have students at the meeting tonight. J. Beausoleil thanked the Dollars for Scholars organization and the volunteer work they are doing for the Coventry High School seniors. She also noted that the next budget referendum is taking place on Tuesday, June 3.
VII. Approval of Minutes

VII.A. VOTE: Approve the minutes of May 8, 2014

MOTION: Approve the minutes of May 8, 2014 as presented

By:  D. Ryan Seconded:  M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII.B. VOTE: Approve the minutes of May 15, 2014

MOTION: Approve the minutes of May 15, 2014

Discussion: M. Minor stated her concern regarding the tone of the budget discussions on page 2, paragraph 5. She said the Board was not pleased with having to make any cuts and she wanted that duly noted. She asked that the word "reluctantly" be added to the last sentence – “All Board members reluctantly talked about different items that could be adjusted, such as the Athletic Transportation Fees, Football, and Hockey.”

Result: Motion to approve the minutes with noted change, passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Possible Discussion: Budget FY15

J. Beausoleil said this item was on the agenda in case there was new news or if there were any questions that might have come up. She again noted the next referendum was taking place on June 3.

IX. New Business

IX.A. Information and possible VOTE - Coventry Park & Recreation Department "Rec Daze" Program 2014-15

J. Beausoleil reviewed that in January there was a need for a mid-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was developed between the schools and the recreation department so the program could continue. She asked if the Board had any questions or requested changes to the MOU. Mr. Petrone did a quick review of what took place since the MOU was signed in January. He said meetings have taken place over the past few months and most recently to review the MOU. He introduced Ms. Merriam, who reviewed all of the improvements that have taken place since the MOU was signed.

W. Oros asked if Ms. Mullaly would continue as the schools’ liaison for next year, while also assuming her new position. Mr. Petrone said yes. W. Oros asked if there had been any progress in making the program in full compliance and independent. Ms. Merriam said they hope to move in that direction and she believes the concerns are facility related and are the biggest issues.

The Board continued with various questions, such as the number of students participating, the staff training, fire drills and lock downs, and goals for the coming year. Mr. Oros expressed his desire for the program to be independent. Mr. Sobol mirrored with Mr. Oros, but also noted the benefit of the program and the value it provides to the community. Mr. Oros agreed.

J. Beausoleil asked if there was anything specific about the MOU that needed to be addressed. M. Minor asked that specifics be added stating the Recreation Department was the actual party responsible for the hiring, managing, supervision and retention of employees. The Board and administration agreed.
J. Beausoleil spoke to the annual staff safety training. She asked that language be added that new hires would have completed the required training before they begin work. Ms. Merriam agreed, stating that is the current procedure.

J. Beausoleil continued and noted the $2,500 stipend for the coordinator/liaison and asked if it was sufficient compared to the work that is needed. Mr. Petrone talked to that item saying it was reviewed and all are comfortable with it.

J. Beausoleil asked if there is always someone over 18 at the facility. Ms. Merriam answered yes.

W. Oros asked for an update mid-year. J. Beausoleil said that could be added to the MOU. The Board agreed.

The Board agreed the VOTE on next year’s MOU would be added to the June 12 Board agenda.

Ms. Rubin recognized Ms. Merriam for the outstanding work she is doing with the program.

**IX.B. VOTE: Approve the Annual GRIDIRON Sponsorship Advertising Proposal**

J. Beausoleil said this is reviewed annually and is related to the signage that the GRIDIRON booster club puts up at the games.

**MOTION: To approve the GRIDIRON Sponsorship Advertising Proposal for the 2014-15 school year**

Discussion: M. Kortmann said she would like to see a record of the money flow. J. Beausoleil said this will be provided by the new Athletic Director.

J. Beausoleil publicly thanked Mr. Gagliardi and all members of the booster club for all of the work they do in supporting the football team.

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**

**IX.C. Information: Preschool Special Education 2014-15**

Mr. Petrone reviewed special education preschool fiscal needs for the 2014-15 school year. He said there will be a significant number of students coming into Coventry schools with needs related to autism. He said, due to this, there is a need for four half time para-educators and a half day nurse. He continued to review what the district’s needs will be and how the district might move forward. While he was not looking for answers from the Board, he wanted to keep the Board informed of a possible significant financial need.

The Board reviewed the numbers and needs of students and the related financial impact on the district. W. Oros noted that although the enrollment number of special education students has gone down slightly, the needs of the students has increased exponentially.

**X. Report of Board Members**

**X.A. Information and VOTE: Fiscal Committee Report of May 8, 2014 Meeting and VOTE to approve budget transfers**

Mr. Carroll began by talking about the budget transfer. He noted the different items that are included in the transfer.

**MOTION: Approve the budget transfers as noted in the attachment**

By: W. Oros Seconded: D. Ryan

**Result: Motion passes unanimously**
X.A.1. Management Report

Mr. Carroll reviewed the Management Report and the changes that have happened since it was produced. He said the year is winding down.

M. Kortmann talked about the presentation by the Apple Company and various leasing and financing options.

XI. VOTE: Executive Session - Bargaining Unit Negotiations

MOTION: Pursuant to CGS-1-200(c)(6)(A), the Board of Education will go into Executive Session for discussions related to Bargaining Unit Negotiations, with Business Manager and Superintendent present at 9:13 p.m.
By: D. Ryan Seconded: W. Oros
Result: Motion passes unanimously

XII. Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:35 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.
By: W. Oros Seconded: M. Sobol
Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Michaud
Board Clerk

June 26, 2014
Approved