

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, January 8, 2026
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairperson
Megan Boshuyzen
Joshua Clark
Emma Eaton
Mark Larson (via zoom)
Courtney Rossignol

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill, Director of Finance and Operations

Also Present:

Maggie Coffey, Student Board of Education Representative

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There was none

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported that PJ Day was a success. He attended the Hockanum Valley meeting, and chorus concerts were held throughout December. The band and chorus traveled to the schools to perform, and gingerbread house-making events took place. Additionally, he attended the CABE Legislative Breakfast and the Regional Superintendents meeting.

IV.A. Recognition: CHS Girls Volleyball Team – Class S State Champions

The volleyball coach expressed that this recognition is a great honor for the program and introduced the senior players. He thanked the assistant coach, players, and families, and highlighted the team's accomplishments over the season.

J. Beausoleil also gave special acknowledgement of the team's achievements.

IV.B. Information: Board of Education Student Representative Report – Maggie Coffey

Miss Coffey reported that the basketball season is underway, and indoor track has also started. The musical cast list has been posted, and rehearsals have begun. She noted that in February the jazz band has multiple performance opportunities. Midterms are scheduled for next week. She provided an update on the phone policy, stating that it has generally been successful and that students appear more engaged. However, she expressed concern regarding cheating, noting that while the policy was intended to reduce it, some classrooms have removed the phone storage cases, which may limit the policy's effectiveness.

IV.C. Information: Expanding Enrichment Through Student IT – Mr. Spivey

Mr. Spivey and students presented an overview of the Expanding Enrichment Through Student IT program, which is available on the district's website via the BoardBook portal. The students shared their personal experiences with the program.

J. Beausoleil commended the students for their work, noting that the program provides additional opportunities outside the classroom for students to explore their interests without fear of failure.

V. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil thanked the PTO and volunteers for hosting a phenomenal craft fair. She attended the Legislative Breakfast and noted that dates for upcoming events were sent out by Central Office. She shared that board professional development with Shipman and Goodwin will take place soon. She expressed excitement at seeing CHS students playing guitar in the hallway during an enrichment period, highlighting the joy, engagement, and collaboration among students. She also noted that budget books have been distributed.

VI. Communications

There was none.

VII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VII.A. Approve Minutes of December 11, 2025

Edits: E. Eaton will be recorded as arriving at 7:30 pm and should not be marked as absent; page 4, under CGS, last paragraph, the phrase "including the added rate for HEEC" should be deleted; page 4, under General Discussion, third paragraph, add "*the HVAC*" before mandated items.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 11, 2025, as amended

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VIII. Old Business

VIII.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Request to Town Council to Create a School Building Committee

J. Beausoleil asked which items cut last year have been reinstated in this budget. Dr. Petrone stated that the Challenge and Enrichment program (K-5) has been added back.

C. Rossignol inquired about the PSSS Coordinator's salary, noting the increase from last year's proposal. Dr. Petrone explained that a market analysis of surrounding towns was conducted, and the salary matches the lowest comparable rate.

Dr. Petrone reviewed the Shared Services slide to familiarize new board members with the process.

J. Beausoleil reviewed the budget process and explained how the BOE budget interacts with the town budget.

M. Boshuyzen requested clarification on magnet school tuition.

J. Clark asked if the rising per-pupil cost is related to in-kind services. Dr. Petrone confirmed that this is a contributing factor.

J. Beausoleil reviewed and explained the sections of the budget in detail.

M. Boshuyzen asked for an explanation of Open Choice tuition.

J. Clark inquired why the special education line decreased. Dr. Petrone explained it reflects moving a teacher's salary from the general fund to another fund.

GHR:

M. Kortmann asked how the magnet school tuition figures were calculated. Dr. Petrone explained it is based on projected enrollment increases. M. Kortmann suggested adding a column in the budget showing anticipated enrollment.

CGS:

E. Eaton asked about certified salaries for regular programs; although FTE remains the same, the increases appear higher. Dr. Petrone explained that this is due to hiring at a higher salary.

C. Rossignol noted a large reduction in non-certified salaries for regular programs; Dr. Petrone will confirm the amount.

CNH:

Certified salary numbers were reviewed.

C. Rossignol asked about how many paras have become RBTs or left, and how replacements are handled. Dr. Petrone explained that replacements are not always RBTs, some para positions may remain unfilled, and certain students require higher level of specialized staff.

Discussion on Alex/I-Ready usage: not eliminating Alex; Dr. Petrone will check why costs appear omitted.

CHS:

Sports budgets were reviewed.

PSSS:

J. Beausoleil noted the line is based on known students; no placeholders.

M. Kortmann asked for clarification on out-of-district transportation costs.

Warehouse/Facilities:

Septic at CGS is included in the capital budget.

Central Office:

E. Eaton inquired about a large increase in certified stipends. Dr. Petrone confirmed that these stipends were previously booked to individual location salaries and have now been moved to this section. He will confirm the amounts.

Hale:

Discussion on 50/50 custodian and supply split. Dr. Petrone explained how it is charged and will include a note in the budget description.

J. Beausoleil reminded board members to email questions to Dr. Petrone prior to the next meeting. Responses will be sent to the full board for review to facilitate discussion during the meeting.

X. Report of Board Members

X.A. Information: Fiscal Committee Report, Meeting of January 8, 2026 – M. Kortmann and Ms. Bradshaw-Hill

M. Kortmann reported that the budget is currently in the black and provided a review of items discussed at the previous meeting.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: _____