

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, January 29, 2026
Administration Building Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson
Mary Kortmann, Vice-Chairperson
Emma Eaton, Secretary
Megan Boshuyzen
Joshua Clark
Mark Larson
Courtney Rossignol

Board Members Absent:

None

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

Kate Clark, Leslie Lane - spoke in support of the K-5 CEP program

IV. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Petrone reported that he attended the CAPSS Legislative Committee meeting, the Grade 5 Informance Performance took place, student focus groups were conducted, and the district experienced its first snow day.

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

Miss Coffey reported that she attended the Best Buddies winter-themed event; the Best Buddies conference will take place this Saturday; the jazz band will attend the UConn Jazz Festival; and a Valentine's Day Swing Concert is planned. She also noted that midterms have been completed and elections for next year are underway. Miss Coffey shared that the cell phone policy is going smoothly and highlighted the IT Student Group for outstanding engagement and enthusiasm in pursuing their interest during the school day.

**IV.B. Information: Library Media – Beyond the Walls [Authentic Work] – Ms. Drury
And Library Media Specialists – Matt Kyer, Torrie Phillips, and Bryn Mutch**

Ms. Drury and the Library Media Specialists presented Library Media: Beyond the Walls, which is available on the district’s website via the BoardBook portal.

J. Beausoleil noted that the role of a library media specialist extends well beyond books, particularly in the area of media, and highlighted the significant impact of their push-in and pull-out work. E. Eaton shared that the program provides students with an outlet and support system outside of the classroom. Other Board members expressed their appreciation for the thoughtful focus on meeting students’ needs.

V. VOTE: Consent Agenda

V.A. Accept the Retirement of Beth Pratt, Food Services Director

It was requested that this item be removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION: To accept, with regret, the retirement of Beth Pratt, Food Services Director

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Discussion: members expressed their gratitude for her years of service, her compassion for students, and her thoughtfulness in supporting students beyond the school day, with COVID cited as an example.

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VI. Report of the Chairman

J. Beausoleil reported that professional development on FOI and FERPA was conducted for the Board. Board members are participating in tours of school facilities. A building committee request was sent to the Town Council, which referred it to the Steering Committee; the Steering Committee is working on the charge for the PreK-5 level. She also reported attending a school and state finance conference, the EASTCONN Board of Directors meeting, noted that CABE budget webinars are available, and shared that the Charter Revision Commission continues to meet.

VII. Communications

There was none.

VIII. VOTE: Approval of Minutes

VIII.A. Approve Minutes of January 22, 2026, Special Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

MOTION: To approve the special minutes of January 22, 2026

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

VIII.B. Approve Minutes of January 22, 2026 Special Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

MOTION: To approve the special minutes of January 22, 2026

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: J. Clark

Result: Motion carries unanimously

IX. Old Business

IX.A. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY2027 Budget

J. Beausoleil provided an update on the budget process: there is a joint meeting with the Town Council scheduled for February 10 to review health insurance quotes. The Board will meet on February 12 to make decisions and potentially vote on the budget. The Town hearing is scheduled for March 5, followed by the Board of Education's appropriation request being reviewed by the Town Council. The budget will be then be forwarded to the Town Meeting in April and to a referendum during the first week of May.

A question was raised regarding the budget proposal following the health insurance meeting. It was clarified that the budget could be revised and voted on after the February 10 meeting.

Regarding follow-up on Google and Microsoft, Ms. Drury noted that moving to Google could have financial implications due to the district's existing Microsoft bundling and the need for Barracuda for email archiving. She stated that this will be monitored to determine if it could be a cost-saving opportunity in the future.

It was reported that the pension update will not be available before February 12.

Dr. Petrone stated that there are no firm retirements or moves out of district at this time. If any occur, they are not expected to have a significant impact on the budget.

J. Beausoleil noted that the CEP position is not an area where early cuts are recommended, based on community feedback. It was mentioned that, since the position is not mandated, it can be challenging to make decisions regarding potential cuts. Cuts would affect existing programs and services, as there is little new in the budget aside from the increase in music. Dr. Petrone is developing an informational video based on the budget to share with the community and provide factual context regarding the district's financial position.

The uniforms being replaced are for softball and track.

J. Beausoleil stated that the PTO conducts significant fundraising to support students and programs in the schools. On February 5 the PTO is subsidizing an all-day STEAM event and is still seeking volunteers to assist.

M. Kortmann noted that the district is at the bottom of the DRG in terms of per-pupil cost.

Dr. Petrone shared the district's efforts to identify potential transportation cost savings, although no changes have been implemented at this time. There was discussion regarding outplacement transportation and transportation the district is required to provide. It was noted that there may be a shift change at Hale to accommodate combining transportation routes.

Dr. Petrone stated there are open seats at the Academy and that the district is actively promoting enrollment. He also noted that additional slots are being opened in the Open Choice program. Dr. Petrone shared information on budget increases in neighboring districts.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: E. Eaton

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: _____