

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Board of Education Special Meeting
Approved Minutes of Thursday, January 22, 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:

Administrators Present:

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

Also Present:

Administrators

I. Call to Order

J. Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Salute to the Flag

J. Beausoleil led the salute to the flag.

III. Audience of Citizens

There was none

IV. VOTE: Approve Minutes

IV.A. Approve Minutes of January 8, 2026

Edit: Page 5, under Hale, strike the last sentence, and replace it with the following:
“Responses will be sent to all Board members and attached to the following meeting agenda.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 8, 2026, as amended

By: C. Rossignol

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion carries unanimously

IV.B. Approve Minutes of January 13, 2026

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 13, 2026

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: C. Rossignol

Result: Motion carries unanimously

V. Discussion and Possible VOTE: FY27 Budget

The adjustment list was distributed. Dr. Petrone clarified that the adjustment to ALEKS math was not made, as the change was approximately \$200, which would have required updates to many pages, and was not considered worthwhile for such a small amount.

GHR

The demand for 4th-grade band was discussed. It was explained that there is no formal assessment of interest; however, it is anticipated that approximately 80 students would want to try instruments for the first time. The current position is a .8 FTE, and moving the position to 1.0 FTE would provide greater stability, with no additional fringe benefit costs associated with the increase.

Historically, the salary associated with Hale was included in the grammar school's budget. Dr. Petrone and C. Bradshaw-Hill have discussed the possibility of removing it from that budget going forward. There is no tuition on the private side included in the operating budget.

CHS

The salary for certified staff was discussed, including the rationale for why it is budgeted at the current level.

It was inquired why, on page 68, there was no carryover in the 2026 and 2027 technical schools' line, as it gives the impression that enrollment is decreasing. Dr. Petrone explained that any students for whom the district is not financially responsible are removed.

M. Kortmann noted that it would still be useful to track these students, and Dr. Petrone confirmed they will be added back in. There was discussion regarding the best way to display this information on the page.

Pupil Services

The potential removal of the SLP position to allow funding for a PSSS coordinator was discussed. Dr. Petrone explained that, due to recent changes, there is no longer a need for the SLP position.

Warehouse/Facilities

There was a discussion regarding the quality of the paper towel supply at the school.

A question was raised regarding whether funds are budgeted for a septic repair at CGS. Dr. Petrone and J. Beausoleil explained that it is not included in the current budget. While the maintenance line can cover small repairs, a repair of this magnitude would likely be reviewed by the Fiscal Committee and potentially the full Board. Funding could come from a line item in the operating budget, the non-lapsing fund, or, ultimately, may require approval from the Town Council.

Central Office

M. Kortmann noted that the expected Open Choice tuition is being included in the budget. As the program grows, this number is anticipated to increase.

General

Health insurance numbers are expected to be available by February 10.

J. Beausoleil stated that the Board will meet with the Town Council on March 9. The Town Council will receive the budget as approved by the BOE. She explained the Grand List and requested that any questions related to the Board budget be directed through the proper channels.

It was inquired what items, besides health insurance, are still outstanding. Retirement notices from employees should be submitted by February 1 for eligibility for a payout; Dr. Petrone has not received any to date. The pension number is also still pending.

A question was raised regarding whether CGS will return to seven kindergarten classes next year, as the budget currently assumes six. Dr. Petrone stated that this is not yet known. Current enrollment numbers are low, but projections indicate they may increase. If enrollment rises, a seventh class could be added, but this would not affect FTEs. A question was also raised about the need for an additional second-grade class. Dr. Petrone noted that past enrollment fluctuations have been managed by flexing teachers as needed.

February 12 is the recommended date for the Board to vote on the budget. By charter, the budget must be submitted to the Town Manager by March 12.

VI. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

By: J. Clark

Seconded: M. Boshuyzen

Result: Motion carries unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Tricia Dean
Board Clerk

Approved: January 29, 2026