

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
1675 FLAT RIVER ROAD

November 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patenaude at 6:05 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Members Thomas Hetherman, Nancy Sprengelmeyer, Judith Liner and Lianne Russell, Superintendent Michael Convery, Assistant Superintendent James Erinakes, Finance Director Robin Pelletier, Special Education Director Susan Lyons, Stephen Adams, Esq. and Matt Plain, Esq.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiations

Motion No. 10-11-1 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, that the Committee recess into executive session at 6:04 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to personnel, litigation and negotiations; said action being taken in accord with Open Meetings Act, Sections 42-46-5(a)(1)&(2).

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Russell	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 10-11-2 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Russell, to recess to the Open Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Russell	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 10-11-3 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Liner, that the records of the executive session be kept closed pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Business Agenda:

The regular business meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. Superintendent Convery notified the public of emergency exits and Member Sprengelmeyer read the Mission Statement.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of the Open Meetings of 9/7/10 and 9/28/10.

Bills, Warrants, Payroll: In the amount of \$5,999,174.67 for the month of October, 2010.

Fiscal Municipal Reports: In the amount of \$65,523,328 as of the month of October, 2010 for the 2011 fiscal year-end projection.

Motion No. 10-11-4, by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented regarding minutes of 9/7/10 and 9/28/10 and fiscal reports as presented. Vote: 3/0 (The consent agenda was not voted on by the two new members – Judith Liner and Lianne Russell – as they were not on the Committee in September.)

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

Motion No. 10-11-5 by Member Sprengelmeyer seconded by Member Hetherman to affirm the minutes of the executive sessions of 9/7/10 and 9/28/10, and that the records of the meetings be kept closed pursuant to R.I.G.L. Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Vote 3-0 (This agenda item was not voted on by the two new members – Judith Liner and Lianne Russell – as they were not on the Committee in September.)

Personnel:

Coaching Appointment:

Motion No. 10-11-6 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Thomas Campbell to the position of Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Coventry High School, effective 11/23/10. (One-year-only) Motion unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report/Executive Session Report:

Chairperson Patenaude reported that personnel, litigation and negotiations were discussed in Executive Session

Public Agenda:

Introduction of New School Committee Members:

Newly-elected School Committee members Judith L. Liner (District 5) and Lianne M. Russell (District 3) were formally introduced and addressed the Committee and the public.

Member Russell said that it was an honor to be with the School Committee members, and that she looks forward to serving the community and the children. She will have an open-door policy and invited everyone to feel free to contact her. She then thanked the administrators and the Committee members for their instruction and guidance.

Member Liner thanked everyone for voting for her. She said that she would do everything in her power to help work with the School Committee and school department to continue to make the school department a great one for the students.

School Committee members and the Superintendent congratulated and welcomed the new members to the School Committee.

Election of Officers:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson

Attorney Adams opened the nominations for Coventry School Committee positions.

Member Sprengelmeyer nominated Katherine Patenaude to serve as Chairperson of the School Committee for a two-year term. Member Liner seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Russell	<u>AYE</u>

Member Hetherman nominated Nancy Sprengelmeyer to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee for a two-year term. Member Russell seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Russell	<u>AYE</u>

Member Sprengelmeyer nominated Donna McDonald to serve as Secretary of the School Committee for a two-year term. Member Hetherman seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Liner	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Russell	<u>AYE</u>

Liaison Assignments:

Blackrock: Lianne Russell

Hopkins Hill: Judith Liner

Tioque: Nancy Sprengelmeyer

Washington Oak: Katherine Patenaude

Western Coventry: Thomas Hetherman

Feinstein Middle: Judith Liner; Katherine Patenaude

Coventry High: Thomas Hetherman; Katherine Patenaude; Nancy Sprengelmeyer

Athletics Task Force: Thomas Hetherman

SRP Pension: Lianne Russell; Katherine Patenaude

Service Learning: Nancy Sprengelmeyer

Policy: Lianne Russell; Nancy Sprengelmeyer

Wellness: Lianne Russell; Nancy Sprengelmeyer

RIASC: Nancy Sprengelmeyer

Sp. Ed. LAC: Lianne Russell; Katherine Patenaude; Nancy Sprengelmeyer

The Committee members attended the RIASC Workshop, School Committee 101, held on Saturday, 11/13/10, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Radisson, and reported on the following topics that were discussed:

- open meeting regulations;
- a presentation from David Abbott of RIDE;
- Race to the Top;
- high school graduation requirements;
- a presentation by Ben Scungio about legal requirements of School Committee members bound by R.I.G.L. as elected public officials;
- ethics, conflict of interest, and school finances.

RIASC will hold a professional development day every few months to discuss such things as: general assembly finances, and RIPEC revenue. All elected School Committee members are required to complete six hours of professional development.

Tuition Rates:

The Committee was given the proposed FY2010-2010 tuition rates for out-of-district students who come to Coventry for preschool, kindergarten, regular, special education or vocational education based on the most recent In\$ite data available. The rate for an out-of-district student to attend Coventry schools is \$11,543 per student. All rates except for preschool represent an increase which will bring in more revenue. Once approved by the Committee, tuition invoices will be sent out.

Motion 10-11-7 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, to approve tuition rates as listed. Motion unanimously approved.

Three-Year Budget Projection:

Per R.I.G.L. 16-2-21.2 (b) the School Committee must submit a three-year estimate of its expenditures by major program and school revenues. The three-year projection using conservative estimates of future expenditure growth and the projected revenue increases to support the expenditure growth is based on RI Senate 3050 and the latest Funding Formula information.

Motion No. 10-11-8 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman to approve the three-year projections as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Enrollments are stable. There is a substantial increase in 5th grade this year. However, there is not enough in any one school to add a teacher because they are spread across the district. We are paying overages this year.

When the district signed to Race to the Top, it was reported that we would create our own instrument to evaluate administrators. At this point, we are the only district working on our own model. The plan was submitted on 10/13/10 to a committee of five for feedback. They sent a list of minor things to be work on and they told us that it is almost approvable. A Meeting is scheduled with RIDE over the next two weeks, and then there will be a follow-up meeting. We will receive final approval or not after that. Administrators are more comfortable because we created it ourselves.

Liaison Reports:

Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer missed Tiogue School's fair/bazaar because of the School Committee 101 training. Tomorrow she finishes her visits to schools. She wrote a note to the faculty and staff of each school to wish them a good holiday and to thank them for their efforts on behalf of the children of Coventry.

Member Hetherman attended the high school talent show which was excellent. He will also be attending the Thanksgiving football which is a home game.

Citizens' Comments:

A Washington Oak parent spoke of a boy who transferred from Tiogue with violent outbursts, threatening people, and trying to flip desks. He yells in people's faces. He doesn't do what the teacher asks him to do. Her child is afraid to go to school. Superintendent Convery told the Committee that he met with this parent and that we cannot discuss other students at School Committee meetings. He will be happy to meet with her in private. Another parent spoke about how this is affecting all the students and that it needs to be addressed. The Superintendent told the public that there is a chain of command to be followed.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Motion No. 10-11-9 by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, supported by Member Liner, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Oak Elementary School. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion No. 10-11-10_ by Member Hetherman, supported by Vice-Chairperson Sprengelmeyer, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

/dam

Approved by School Committee 2/22/11