

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING/WORKSHOP
COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL
40 RESERVOIR ROAD

November 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patenaude at 6:07 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Katherine Patenaude, Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra, Members Nancy Sprengelmeyer, Thomas Hetherman, and Lisa Tomasso, Superintendent Michael Convery, Assistant Superintendent James Erinakes, Finance Director Robin Reasor and Special Education Director Susan Lyons.

Recording Secretary: Donna A. McDonald

Executive Session: Personnel, Litigation, Negotiations

Motion No. 10-11-1 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, 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>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

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

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	Chairperson Patenaude	<u>AYE</u>
	Vice-Chairman Perra	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Sprengelmeyer	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Hetherman	<u>AYE</u>
	Member Tomasso	<u>AYE</u>

Motion No. 10-10-3 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, 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 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the pending school business. CHS Principal Michael Hobin notified the public of emergency exits and Vice-Chairman Perra read the Mission Statement.

Personnel

Coaching Suspension

Motion No. 10-11-4 by Vice-Chairperson Perra, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to indefinitely suspend without pay the coaching services of Stephen P. DeMeo, Jr., Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Coventry High School, effective 11/9/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Coaching Appointments

Motion No. 10-11-5 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Member Hetherman, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Erica Horlbogen to the position of Girls' Indoor Track Coach at Coventry High School effective 11/9/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion No. 10-11-6 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Member Tomasso, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Brendan McGrath to the position of Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach at Coventry High School effective 11/9/10. Motion unanimously approved.

Classified Appointment

Motion No. 10-11-7 by Member Tomasso, seconded by Member Sprengelmeyer, to affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Todd Robichaud to the position of Electrician for Physical Plant, effective 11/9/10. (8 hour/day, 12 month/year) Motion unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion No. 10-11-8 by Member Hetherman, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Perra, to approve the minutes of the open meeting of 8/24/10 as amended. Motion unanimously approved.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Motion No. 10-11-9 by Member Sprengelmeyer, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Perra, to affirm the minutes of the executive session of 8/24/10 and that the records of the meeting be kept closed pursuant to R.I.G.L. Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. Motion unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report/Executive Session Report

In executive session the Committee discussed personnel, litigation and negotiations. Chairperson Patenaude and Members Sprengelmeyer and Hetherman, as well as newly-elected Members Liner and Russell, will attend the School Committee 101 Workshop hosted by RIASC on Saturday.

Public Agenda

Committee Members Service Recognition

Chairperson Patenaude was the only Committee member re-elected.

Member Tomasso was elected Representative in the General Assembly, District 29. Member Tomasso served two years on the School Committee. While we hate to see her go, we are glad that we have a voice at the State House

Vice-Chairperson Perra, who has been on the School Committee for four years, was not re-elected. We are saddened by that, but we all love Ben.

Two separate proclamations were read into the record for Vice-Chairman Andrew 'Ben' Perra and for Member Lisa P. Tomasso.

Member Tomasso said that when she decided to run for a higher office, many new acquaintances said "thank God you will not be on the School Committee anymore – that the worst job ever!" She said that she was put back by it and affirmed that being on the School Committee was one of the most wonderful things she has done. She does not regret it for one day. She has been involved in several committees – Wellness, Service Learning, and Alternative Funding. Mrs. Tomasso said that she is not discouraged, but actually inspired by the school department and its administration.. Member Tomasso thank everyone for working with her and helping her help Coventry to be one of the best districts. She said that "We are going to have great things happen for Coventry in the coming years."

Vice-Chairman Perra said that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve for four years on the School Committee, two of those years as Vice-Chairman. He said that the Committee works hard and accomplishes a lot, i.e. contract negotiations and revitalization for the school system. He has done a lot of work on the Committee and will continue to do so.

Member of the School Committee, the Superintendent, administrators and members of the public thanked each of them for their years of service.

NEASC Presentation

Coventry High School Principal, Michael Hobin, presented recent data focusing on commendations and recommendations from the report of the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit in April. The official letter regarding the ten-year accreditation has not been received yet. The accreditation process was a visit of sixteen members. There were thirty-three recommendations and forty-one commendations. A two-year report is due October, 2012 and a five-year report is due October, 2005. Steve Lukowicz and Amy Cronan were acknowledged for planning for the NEASC visit.

Traditionally in October student from the high school and middle school are invited to a dialogue with the School Committee to discuss the pros and cons about Coventry High School. With the new format of meeting each month at a different school, this dialogue was held with high school students only. Some of the pros included: teachers are always willing to help during or after class; teachers and staff are good and are there for the students; clubs help a lot – there are a lot of different clubs and there is something for everyone to get involved in. Advisories are great. Students feel safe in the school. No cyberbullying is seen. The parking system is going well; it is more structured. Students don't have to worry about getting to school early for a parking spot. Some of the cons included: having to pass NECAP and Capstone and other accomplishments to graduate. Students are scored 1-4. If a student is less than 2 in the middle of the junior year, he/she is not ready to graduate. Proficiency is a 3 or 4. Principal Hobin is hopeful that more than one quarter of the class achieves this ranking. The State is projecting 50%. One hundred percent of students took 100% of the classes. Every student took six sections of the NECAP. Students took the test more seriously because they knew it was a requirement of graduation.

Student Presentation Skills USA

A student talked to the Committee about her experience at the Washington Leadership Conference this September, the affect that the Career & Tech (Health Career) and Skills, USA has had on her education. She is now a State Officer with Skills, USA. Kayla has come a long way since she entered Coventry High School.

Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

Motion No. 10-11-10 by Member Sprengelmeyer, supported by Member Tomasso, that the next meeting of the School Committee be scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Motion No. 10-11-11 by Vice-Chairman Perra, supported by Member Tomasso, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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Approved by School Committee 1/25/11