Thursday, April 9, 2026
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Pierson at 6:03 PM

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	Aye
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson	Aye
	Amanda Carlow, Member	Aye
	John Cambio, Jr., Member	Aye
	Bradford Mayer, Member	Aye
	Cody Reidl, Member	Aye
	Dorothy Jackvony	Aye
	Don Cowart	Aye

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments

Decathlon Students Celebration: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Ms. Erinakes. Ms. Erinakes presented an overview of the Academic Decathlon program. She explained the structure and purpose of the program, noting its positive impact on students' academic growth and college readiness, as well as colleges enthusiasm for participation.

Ms. Erinakes highlighted the dedication of the students, emphasizing that many participants successfully balance rigorous academic commitments with extracurricular activities, including athletics and employment.

Students who participated in the Academic Decathlon were recognized by the School Committee and presented with certificates of achievement.

Member Jackvony asked about the length of time the program has been established at the school. Ms. Erinakes responded. Member dos Reis Couto congratulated the students and spoke positively about the program. Member Reidl expressed admiration for the students' hard work, dedication, and the sacrifices required to participate, and thanked them for representing the school. Member Mayer echoed these sentiments. Member Cambio expressed pride in the number of students who participated and their accomplishments.

Mr. Cowart remarked on the program's revival and continued growth, noting that it is strengthening the

school's academic reputation and positioning Coventry as a competitive presence. He extended his appreciation to Ms. Erinakes and the high school staff for their leadership and support.

Chairperson Pierson echoed the sentiments of the committee and commended both the students and staff for their achievements.

Freshman Boys Basketball Team Celebration: Discussion

Moved to next meeting.

Vote to Go into Executive Session

Motion No. 26-7-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Cambio that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to

- Student Matters: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(8) (Homeschool Requests)
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes 03/26/2026 the following items were discussed: 1)Student Matters (Homeschool Requests): R.I.G.L §42–46-5(a)(8); 2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes 3/12//2026
    - Motion passed 7/0.

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:28 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence/Safety Notification/Reading of Mission Statement

- *Pledge of Allegiance*
- *Moment of Silence to consider the work before the Committee this evening*
- *Safety Notifications Superintendent Cowart notifies the public of emergency exits*
- *Member Mayer read the Mission Statement: The mission of Coventry Public Schools is to inspire, support, and challenge all students in an inclusive community to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, reflective learners, responsible individuals, and global citizens.*

Executive Session Report

In the executive session 2 votes were taken one to approve homeschool request, the second to approve executive session minutes of 3/26/2026. Both Motions passed 7/0.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-7-2 by Member Jackvony seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, that the records of the Executive Session be kept closed pursuant to Sections §42-46-4 and §42-46-5. Motion passed 7/0.

Approval of Minutes: 3/26/2026

Motion No. 26-7-3 by Member Mayer seconded by Member Carlow to approve the minutes of 3/26/2026

as amended. Motion passed 7/0.

Resolution for Deficit Reduction Plan: Discussion & Vote

Postponed until next meting.

FY 27 Budget: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart explained why the budget is back before the School Committee, noting that healthcare costs have increased by 14.5%, with dental costs also rising. He added that many districts are experiencing similar increases.

He then outlined the steps needed to address these changes, including reallocating funds into the benefits line, reducing a fund balance, and continuing to identify areas where adjustments can be made to support these costs moving forward.

Chairperson Pierson asked for clarification regarding the changes. Mr. Cowart explained that the revenue and expenditure lines were not altered; rather, funds were reallocated to the employee benefits line, with less funding directed toward the deficit reduction plan.

Member Cambio asked whether there is confidence that the necessary funds will be identified. Mr. Cowart responded. Member Reidl expressed appreciation for the commitment to providing cost-saving updates. Member Mayer inquired about the structural deficit, and Mr. Cowart responded. Member Carlow asked about the high school gym issues requiring funding, and Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-7-4 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto to approve FY 27 Budget. Motion passed 7/0.

Resolution in Support of Rhode Island House Bill 7420: DIscussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart spoke about previous supportive legislation that helps provide resources for students. Member Jackvony asked whether outreach has been made to other districts. Mr. Pierson responded. Member Jackvony also asked if this matter will be shared with the Town Council. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-7-5 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Reidl to approve Resolution in Support of Rhode Island House Bill 7420. Motion passed 7/0.

2025-2026 School Calendar Amendment: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart spoke about the use of inclement weather days built into the school calendar. As well as RIDE waiving two days lost due to the storm. As a result, the last day of school will remain unchanged.

Member Carlow asked whether there are any remaining inclement weather days and if additional days would need to be made up. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-7-7 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve 2025-2026 School

Calendar Amendment. Motion passed 7/0.

Bullying Prevention Policy JICK 1st: Discussion and Vote

Item moved to future agenda

Field Trip Policy IICA- 2nd Reading: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart spoke to this being the second reading of the Policy. Member Carlow asked about expansion beyond the high school.

Motion No. 26-7-7 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve Field Trip Policy IICA- 2nd Reading. Motion passed 7/0.

Budget Line Item Transfer Policy-DBJ 2nd Reading: Discussion and Vote

Second reading of policy, Mr. Cowart noted that a budget transfer report will be included in future monthly updates.

Motion No. 26-7-8 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony , to approved Budget Line Transfer Policy-DBJ 2nd Reading. Motion passed 7/0.

Superintendent's Report: 1) Skills USA

Mr. Cowart spoke to the many success of the Skills USA students.

Citizens' Comments

Kelly Erinakes

Scheduling of the Next meeting

Motion No. 26-7-9 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to schedule the next meeting for April 30, 2026 at Coventry HPublic Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 7/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-76-10 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to adjourn at 6:55PM PM Motion passed 7/0.