



Thursday, May 14, 2026

School Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Pierson at 6:01 PM

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

Vote to Go into Executive Session

Motion No. 26-11-1 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:01 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 04/30/2026 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 4/9/2026
- Motion passed 7/0

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:11 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 Jackvony 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 4/30/2026. Both Motions passed 7/0.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-11-2 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Jackvony, 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: 4/30/2026

Motion No. 26-11-3 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer to approve the minutes from 4/30/2026 as presented. Motion passed 7/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments

Future Chef Competition: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Paula and Alana from Sodexo, who gave an overview of the Sodexo Future Chef Competition. Students who participated in the competition were recognized.

Member Jackvony complimented the students on their dishes and offered her congratulations. Member Mayer asked the students what they made, and the students responded. Member dos Reis Couto offered her congratulations and asked for samples. Member Reidl complimented the students on their presentation and told them they did an amazing job. Chairperson Pierson also offered his congratulations.

CTA Layoffs: Discussion & Vote

Moved to a future meeting if needed.

2026-2027 School Start and End Times Proposal: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart spoke about the results regarding the transportation efficiency analysis that had been approved by the committee at the beginning of the school year. Each bus route was evaluated, and a few months later the district received the report, which reviewed bus capacity, route length, buses running with very few students.

Mr. Cowart explained that bell times were identified as a challenge and that creating tiered schedules could improve efficiency and provide cost savings for the district. He discussed the current tier schedule and the overlap that is occurring. The proposed bell time changes would create three tiers and provide a more efficient transportation process. Currently, 38 buses are on the road, and the proposed schedule

could reduce that number to approximately 30–31 buses.

The administration met with the bus company multiple times and reviewed different scenarios to determine the most efficient transportation model. Mr. Cowart broke down the number of buses needed for each route and discussed why certain schools have historically been later schools. Mini buses currently operate on independent schedules.

Mr. Cowart also discussed student and family considerations, including concerns about school ending later and students arriving home later. He noted that some students may actually arrive home earlier because of improved efficiency and better on-time performance. Bus stops may also be reviewed to determine the most effective locations for students.

Mr. Cowart spoke about the impact on staff and shared that an email had been sent to district staff and families. He noted that the topic had also been discussed at previous meetings.

Member Mayer stated that he assumed the new schedule would help address issues with Tiogue and Black Rock buses running late. He noted that Washington buses are already running late and sometimes do not leave until the time proposed in the new dismissal schedule. Mr. Cowart responded. Member Mayer additionally asked about Father John V. Doyle and the CTE program and how transportation costs for those programs are handled. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Reidl thanked Mr. Cowart for facilitating the study before considering cuts to other services and programs, stating that this approach made sense.

Member Carlow stated that she would support the proposal if the times could be the same. Also expressing concern that the schedule may not work well for working parents. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Cambio asked whether the outside organization that conducted the study worked with the bus company during the process. Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson thanked Mr. Cowart for reviewing the study, gathering feedback, and presenting the information. She stated that no solution would be perfect for every family, but acknowledged the effort to find the best overall solution for the district.

Motion No. 26-11-4 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve 2026-2027 School Start and End Times Proposal. Motion passed 6/1.

Impact Fees for Fire Alarm Panel Replacement at Tiogue and Hopkins Hill: Discussion

Mr. Cowart spoke about the panels being tested and monitored regularly and noted that the panels at Hopkins Hill and Tiogue are at the point where they need to be replaced. He stated that impact fees could be used for the project and emphasized that this is a safety issue.

Member Cambio asked about the exclusions and why so many items were included. Mr. Cowart responded. Member Carlow asked whether the work would be completed during the school day. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-11-5 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve Impact fees for

Fire Alarm Panel Replacement at Tiogue and Hopkins Hill. Motion passed 7/0.

School Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Policy-EBC 2nd Reading: Discussion and Vote

Second Reading of the policy brought to the Committee for approval. There were no questions.

Motion No. 26-11-6 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve School Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Policy-EBC 2nd Reading. Motion passed 7/0.

Bullying Prevention Policy- JICK- 2nd Reading Discussion and Vote

The second reading was brought before the Committee for approval. Member dos Reis Couto asked how the effects of reducing bullying would be measured. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-11-7 by Member dos reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Bullying Prevention Policy-JICK 2nd Reading. Motion passed 7/0.

Purchasing and Procurement Policy1st Reading: Discussion and Vote

Postponed to future meeting.

Purchasing and Procurement Code of Conduct Policy-1st Reading: Discussion and Vote

Postponed to future meeting.

Skills Usa Georgia Field Trip for Leadership Training: Discussion and Vote

Field trip needing school committee approval due to mileage . No questions by the committee.

Motion No. 26-11-8 by Member dos reis Couto, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve Skills Usa Georgia Field Trip for Leadership Training. Motion passed 7/0.

Skills Usa Georgia Field Trip: Discussion and Vote

Field trip needing school committee approval due to mileage . No questions by the committee.

Motion No. 26-11-9 by Member dos reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Skills Usa Georgia Field Trip for Leadership Training. Motion passed 7/0.

Superintendent's Report: 1) May 28, 2026 Meeting

Location of meeting on May 28th will be at the Coventry Public Schools Administration office.

Citizens' Comments

No Comments

Scheduling of the Next meeting

Motion No. 26-11-10 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to schedule the next meeting for May 28, 2026 at Coventry Public Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 7/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-11-11 by Member dos Reis Couto, and seconded by Member Carlow , to adjourn at 7:06 PM Motion passed 7/0.