



Thursday, July 23, 2026

School Committee Meeting: 6:30 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	Absent
	John Cambio, Jr., Member	Aye
	Bradford Mayer, Member	Aye
	Cody Reidl, Member	Aye
	Dorothy Jackvony	Aye
	Don Cowart	Aye

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 dos Reis Couto 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.

Vote to Go into Executive Session

Motion No. 26-14-21 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos reis Couto that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. to consider matter(s) relating specifically to

- Student Matters: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(8) (Homeschool Requests)
- Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(2) to discuss potential litigation
- Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(2) to discuss potential litigation
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes 06/11/2026 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 5/28/2026 3)Superintendent Evaluation: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(1)

- Approval of Executive Session Minutes 07/15/2026 the following items were discussed: 1 Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(2) to discuss potential litigation); 2) Superintendent Evaluation: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(1)
- Motion passed 6/0

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

Executive Session Report

In executive session 3 votes were taken, the first to approve homeschool requests, the second to approve executive session minutes of 06/11/2026, the third to approve executive session minutes of 7/15/2026

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-14-2 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 6/0.

Approval of Minutes: 6/11//2026 & 7/15/2026

Motion No. 26-14-3 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto to approve the minutes from 6/11/2026 &* 7/15/2026 as presented. Motion passed 6/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments

Wellness Presentation: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Paula Jacquard and Courtney Milburn.

Ms. Milburn presented on the District's social-emotional learning initiatives, including Second Step, RULER, PBIS, and DESSA. She reviewed student and staff wellness initiatives and provided an update on the implementation of the RULER program at each school. She noted the benefits of participating in the study, including that all associated training was provided at no cost. Ms. Milburn also highlighted the Community tab on the District website, which provides wellness resources for families and staff. She shared that plans are underway to host a future Staff Wellness Day and reviewed the District's nutritional education guidelines.

Mr. Cowart discussed the possibility of implementing a composting program after visiting Smithfield Public Schools, where the program has been fully implemented. He stated that Hopkins Hill Elementary School is expected to become the District's first school to implement full composting. The District will receive free compost removal for the first year and may have the opportunity to partner with the Town in the future.

Ms. Jacquard discussed the success of the Playworks program in Physical Education. She also shared that Washington Oak School was recognized with a visit from Bryant University students, who modeled perseverance and positive problem-solving strategies for students during various activities. She noted that the visit was very successful.

Mr. Cowart concluded the presentation by reviewing the District's wellness goals for the upcoming school year.

Member Cambio thanked the presenters for their hard work and asked whether Playworks was a formal program. Ms. Jacquard responded.

Chairperson Pierson thanked Ms. Jacquard and Ms. Milburn for their presentation.

Superintendent Goals 2026-2027: Discussion

Mr. Cowart reviewed the Superintendent evaluation process and summarized the feedback he received. He discussed each goal individually, outlining how each would be addressed, the strategies that would be implemented, and the indicators that would be used to measure success.

There were no questions or comments.

Chairperson Pierson thanked Mr. Cowart.

School Calendar SY 26/27: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart reported that the early release days have now been incorporated into the District calendar. He also stated that the District is awaiting a waiver from RIDE regarding inclement weather days.

Member Jackvony asked whether School Committee meeting dates could also be added to the calendar. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-14-4 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve School Calendar SY 26/27. Motion passed 6/0.

RIASC Dues: Discussion & Vote

Chairperson Pierson reported that he had reached out to Mr. Duffy regarding School Committee training but had not yet received a response.

Motion No. 26-14-5 by member Cambio, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve RIASC Dues. Motion passed 5/1.

FY 2026 Fourth Quarter Budget Update: Discussion

Mr. Cowart reviewed the monthly financial report, noting that the materials provided include financial activity through the month of June. He compared the District's financial position to the previous year and reviewed the District's pay payroll schedule.

Mr. Cowart discussed higher-than-anticipated electricity costs, explaining that virtual net metering credits generated through the District's solar panels fluctuate significantly from month to month, making utility costs difficult to forecast. He also noted that the unusually cold winter resulted in increased electricity usage.

Mr. Cowart stated that budget transfers could be made to cover the higher utility expenses if necessary and emphasized that the increased costs do not create a structural deficit or negatively impact the District's deficit reduction plan. He added that adjustments have already been incorporated into the next fiscal year's budget to better account for anticipated utility expenses.

Member Cambio asked for clarification regarding one of the financial figures and expressed hope that transportation savings would positively impact the current year's budget. Mr. Cowart responded.

Transportation Update: 1) Boundary Lines 2) Bus Stops #) Route Adjustment: Discussion

Mr. Cowart provided an update regarding transportation, including boundary lines, bus stop locations, and route adjustments. He reported that District administration continues to meet regularly with the transportation provider and that the new routing software has resulted in the elimination of four full bus routes. While the original goal was to eliminate five routes, he noted that the routing process is still ongoing.

Assistant Superintendent Anzalone explained that several roads within the District are narrow, difficult to travel, and not always adequately plowed during inclement weather. She stated that some students will now utilize centralized bus stops that comply with District policy. She also noted that reducing downtime between routes will improve efficiency and allow buses to better serve elementary schools. Additional loading and unloading improvements at the middle and high schools are also expected to increase transportation efficiency.

Mr. Cowart reviewed the proposed Washington Oak and Western Coventry boundary adjustments. He explained that new kindergarten registrations without siblings currently attending Western Coventry would be assigned to Washington Oak due to limited classroom availability at Western Coventry.

Assistant Superintendent Anzalone stated that the recommendation would affect only five incoming kindergarten students and that none currently have siblings attending Western Coventry.

Member Mayer thanked the administration for the presentation and asked about the opt-in forms that had been used during the previous year. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member dos Reis Couto expressed concern about student safety when walking to bus stops during inclement weather on certain roads. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member dos Reis Couto also asked whether bus stop locations are reviewed annually or remain the same each year. Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson asked when the District anticipates notifying families of bus stop assignments. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member dos Reis Couto emphasized the importance of communicating bus stop information to families as early as possible. Mr. Cowart responded.

Approval of Preschool Student Handbook: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart reviewed the process for updating District handbooks and policies each year.

Member Jackvony stated that she found it difficult to identify the proposed revisions because the changes were not highlighted. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Jackvony stated that she would feel more comfortable reviewing the documents if all revisions were clearly identified.

Member Mayer asked whether the athletic handbook could be formatted in the same manner.

Member dos Reis Couto suggested including a summary page outlining the revisions made within each handbook.

Motion by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Cambio to postpone votes of handbooks to future meeting. Motion passed 5/1.

Approval of Elementary Student Handbook: Discussion & Vote

Tabled for future vote.

Approval of Elementary Code of Conduct: Discussion & Vote

Motion by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Cambio to postpone votes of Code of Conduct to future meeting. Motion passed 6/0.

Approval of Athletics Student Handbook: Discussion & Vote

Tabled for future vote.

Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices-JICA 2nd Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart briefly recapped the policy that had been reviewed at the prior meeting.

Motion 26-14-6 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by member Riedl to approve Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices. Motion passed 6/0.

Superintendent's Report: 1) Mid-Summer Update 2) facilities 3) Staffing 4) 2027 Budget

Mr. Cowart provided an update on summer facilities projects, staffing, and the facilities budget.

Member dos Reis Couto asked whether locating the Western Coventry well on School Department property would have expedited the project. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Reidl requested clarification regarding the increase in electricity costs. Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson requested an update on the Coventry High School sewer project. Mr. Cowart responded.

Citizens' Comments

No Comments

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 26-14-7 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to schedule the next meeting for August 13, 2026 at Coventry Public Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 6/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-15-8 by Member Reidl, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to adjourn at 8:45 PM
Motion passed 6/0.