



Thursday, June 11, 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	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 Reidl 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.

STEM Teacher of the Year: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Mr. Chase, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE), who in turn introduced Mrs. Tiffany Risch, the district's STEAM Teacher of the Year. Mr. Cowart spoke about Mrs. Risch's dedication to education and shared his appreciation for getting to know her throughout the year.

Mr. Chase highlighted Mrs. Risch's outstanding work in STEAM education and her leadership in student competitions. He described her as an exceptional educator and lifelong learner, noting that she has created a classroom environment where students collaborate, support one another, and recognize that everyone brings unique strengths and talents. Mr. Cowart commented that science is not always a favorite subject among high school students, making Mrs. Risch's ability to inspire enthusiasm for learning even more remarkable. He stated that her success reflects the strong educational environment

she has built for her students.

Mrs. Risch thanked the School Committee for the recognition. She credited her students for their hard work and acknowledged the support of the district's administrators and the Coventry school community. She also shared her hope of one day taking students on an international science-related field trip.

Member Jackvony offered her congratulations and asked whether Mrs. Risch had a particular destination in mind for future travel.

School Committee Member dos Reis Couto congratulated Mrs. Risch and agreed that Iceland would be an outstanding destination for a future educational experience.

School Committee Member Mayer extended her congratulations and expressed how pleased she was that Mrs. Risch is part of the Coventry School District.

School Committee Member Cambio thanked Mrs. Risch for inspiring students and offered his congratulations.

Member Reidl also extended congratulations and commented on the tremendous asset Mrs. Risch is to the district.

Chairperson Pierson echoed the Committee's appreciation, thanking Mrs. Risch for being such a positive representative of Coventry Public Schools.

Superintendent Cowart concluded by encouraging everyone to attend the waterfire in Providence in the fall celebrating the teachers of the year.

Vote to Go into Executive Session

Motion No. 26-13-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:12p.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 05/28/2026 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 5/14/2026
- Superintendent Evaluation: R.I.G.L. §42-46-5 (a)(1)
 - Motion passed 6/0

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:29 p.m.

Executive Session Report

In the executive session 1 vote was taken to approve executive session minutes of 05/28/2026. Motion passed 6/0.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-13-2 by Member Mayer, 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 6/0.

Approval of Minutes: 5/28/2026

Motion No. 26-13-3 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto to approve the minutes from 5/28/2026 as presented. Motion passed 6/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments

Retiree Recognition: Discussion

Mr. Cowart recognized and thanked the district's retirees for their years of service and read their names into the record.

Member dos reis Couto congratulated the retirees, thanked them for their hard work, and wished them a wonderful retirement. Member Cambio echoed his gratitude and congratulations. Member Mayer thanked them for their years of service. Chairperson Pierson offered congratulations and thanked them for their many years of dedication to Coventry, wishing them well in retirement.

Superintendent Goals: Discussion

Mr. Cowart reviewed the process used to develop and monitor the Superintendent's goals and provided an update on progress made throughout the year. He reviewed the district's goals and highlighted accomplishments, including strengthening internal leadership and organizational stability, improving operational and fiscal management, successful contract settlements, deficit reduction, adoption of a balanced budget, and implementation of a position control system to improve staffing and financial planning.

Member Cambio thanked Mr. Cowart for his leadership, highlighting improvements in communication, student achievement, and the positive direction of the district. He commented that trust has increased and that students benefit when staff feel supported by the administration. Chairperson Pierson stated that identifying areas that needed improvement helped the School Committee understand how the district is working toward success. He commended the administration and staff for their fiscal responsibility and hard work and praised Mr. Cowart's steady leadership and communication throughout a challenging year.

Hopkins Hill Abatement and Floor Replacement: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart reported that a section of flooring at Hopkins Hill Elementary containing asbestos floor tiles has begun to deteriorate as the wax protecting the tiles has begun to breakdown. He stated that the tiles need to be removed and that an application has been submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Health. The district will follow all required health and safety guidelines during the project. He also

thanked the teachers and administrators for their cooperation.

Member Reidl asked if the agenda item was placed on the agenda for a formal vote as a procedural matter. Member Mayer suggested revised motion language referencing the use of bond funds, and Chairperson Pierson noted that reimbursement would occur through the bond.

Motion No. 26-13-4 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve floor replacement at Hopkins Hill using Bond funds. Motion passed 6/0.

Impact Fees for Paving at Hopkins Hill: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart discussed paving needs throughout the district, noting concerns at Hopkins Hill Elementary and other schools. He explained that crack filling and paving work is planned and shared that fifth-grade students had written him a letter advocating for the Hopkins Hill blacktop to be repaved. Two bids were received, with the lower bid recommended. He stated that impact fees would be used to fund the Hopkins Hill paving project.

Motion No. 26-13-5 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve impact Fees for Paving at Hopkins Hill. Motion passed 6/0.

Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices-JICJ 1st Reading: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart explained that the Rhode Island General Assembly recently enacted legislation requiring every school district to adopt a policy regarding student cell phone use. He stated that the proposed policy aligns with the new law and provides administrative guidelines for implementation.

Member Mayer spoke to the process of aligning the policy with the state guideline. Member Reidl asked whether there was an expectation that the district would need to purchase cell phone pouches. Mr. Cowart responded. Chairperson Pierson commented that, if pouches were ultimately required, they would represent another unfunded state mandate.

Motion No. 26-13-6 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices-JICJ 1st reading. Motion passed 6/0.

Purchasing & Procurement Policy-DJ 2nd Reading: Discussion and Vote

Mr. Cowart addressed the next two agenda items together, reminding the Committee that previous audits identified the need to update district policies to comply with state and federal requirements. He explained that the policies are intended to ensure ethical practices, prevent conflicts of interest, and protect employees and the district. He noted that one of the proposed policies had not previously existed.

Chairperson Pierson stated that the district is required to comply with state law and that the policy formalizes those requirements.

Motion No. 26-13-7 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Purchasing & Procurement Policy-DJ 2nd reading. Motion passed 6/0.

Ethical Purchasing and Procurement - DJH Policy 2nds Reading: Discussion and Vote

Spoke about in previous agenda item.

Motion No. 26-13-8 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve Ethical Purchasing and Procurement Policy-DJH 2nd reading. Motion passed 6/0.

Superintendent's Report: 1) July Meeting Location Change 2) Staffing

Mr. Cowart announced that the July School Committee meeting will be held at the Central Office due to ongoing sprinkler work at the high school.

He also provided staffing updates, explaining that staffing adjustments were based on student enrollment and that, through retirements, no layoffs were necessary this year.

Mr. Cowart discussed the behavior specialist's positions. Member Reidl asked why the district chose to go with psychologists and social workers rather than Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs). Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson thanked Mr. Cowart, noting that his report had answered many of the questions he had received from the public.

Citizens' Comments

Dorinne Albright

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 26-13-9 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to schedule the next meeting for July 23, 2026 at Coventry Public Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 6/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-13-10 by Member Reidl, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to adjourn at 7:32 PM
Motion passed 6/0.