Thursday, September 10, 2026
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Pierson at 6:02 PM

Roll Call Vote:		
	James Pierson, Chairperson	Aye
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson	Arrived at 6:08 PM
	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. 26-16-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Cambio that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:03 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 8/13/2026 the following items were discussed: 1) Student Matters: R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(8) (Homeschool Requests); 2) Pursuant to R.I.G.L. § to 42-46-5 (a)(2) discuss potential litigation; 3) Approval of Executive Session Minutes of 7/23/2026
    - Motion passed 6/0

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:15 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 of Votes, if any

In executive session 2 votes were taken, the first to approve homeschool requests, the second to approve executive session minutes of 08/13/2026. Both passed unanimously.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-16-2 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Reidl, 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: 8/13/2026

Motion No. 26-16-3 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto to approve the minutes from 8/13/2026 as presented. Motion passed 7/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments.

World Language Curriculum: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Courtney Macropoulos and Bethany Giblin. He explained the presentation process and noted that the School Committee would vote on the curriculum at its next meeting. He also shared that the group's work had been ongoing for approximately five to six years.

Mrs. Macropoulos reintroduced herself, introduced Ms. Giblin, and recognized the hard work completed throughout the process. Ms. Giblin discussed the curriculum's philosophy, standards, and development, explaining that teachers had intentionally designed it using a backward-design approach. She provided an overview of proficiency-based instruction, world-readiness standards, proficiency targets, scope and sequence, instructional approaches, student entry points and scaffolding, and assessment practices. She also provided an example of an integrated performance assessment and discussed cultural competence and student outcomes.

Member Reidl thanked Ms. Giblin for the informative presentation and asked how student progress is measured when students take a world language for only one or two years. Ms. Giblin responded.

Member Cambio thanked Ms. Giblin for the presentation and commented that students have done very well embracing new languages and cultures.

Member dos Reis Couto thanked Ms. Giblin for the presentation and asked how frequently the district evaluates which languages should be offered in its schools. Ms. Giblin and Mr. Cowart responded. Member dos Reis Couto also asked how the district is preparing students for the global economy and how additional languages could be incorporated. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Mayer thanked the presenters and asked whether there had been any challenges obtaining support from middle school teachers. The presenters responded.

Member Carlow discussed interest expressed by Portuguese families in having Portuguese offered as a world language. Mr. Cowart responded. Member Carlow also referenced i-Ready scores and asked how world-language requirements are addressed at the high school level for students who may not be functionally prepared to take another language. Mr. Cowart, Mrs. Macropoulos, and Assistant Superintendent Anzalone responded.

Chairperson Pierson requested that the presentation link be included in the School Committee packet for access. He asked whether the curriculum's cultural component was primarily Eurocentric or included a broader global focus. Ms. Giblin responded. Chairperson Pierson discussed the benefits of world-language education and noted that the district would have to research the usefulness and cost of adding another language. He thanked the presenters and noted that the School Committee would vote on the curriculum at its next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Anzalone thanked Ms. Giblin for her hard work.

RIDE School Support Visit: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Director of Special Education Frederik Schockaert and Director of Early Childhood Special Education Alison Robey. Mr. Cowart explained that RIDE reviews district programs on a rotating basis.

Mr. Schockaert reviewed the frequency and process of the RIDE review, including the data sources, focus areas, and results. Mr. Schockaert and Mrs. Robey discussed RIDE's findings, the district's response, and the steps being taken to address the identified areas. They also provided an example of the district's corrective work. Mrs. Robey thanked the district's special educators for their hard work.

Member Reidl thanked everyone involved and asked whether the review had identified any strengths related to student transitions. Mr. Schockaert responded.

Chairperson Pierson thanked the presenters for their work and stated that the results were very encouraging. He described the findings as a reflection of the district's progress and a measure of redemption during his time serving on the School Committee.

School Opening Presentation: Discussion

Mr. Cowart recognized the district's staff and celebrated the progress that has been made. He referenced his Opening Day presentation to the School Committee, discussed the growing interest in working for Coventry Public Schools, and shared feedback received during RIDE's visit. He reviewed the district's journey from 2022 through the present, focusing on academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and community trust. He also discussed the reasons he believes community trust in the district is growing.

Member Reidl thanked Mr. Cowart for the presentation and asked about the number of stakeholders who participated in the student, staff, and parent surveys. Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson thanked Mr. Cowart for the presentation.

Western Well RFP: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart reminded the School Committee that Bob Ferrari had attended the previous meeting to discuss the process relating to the well project. He noted that the Request for Proposals was attached for the Committee's review and vote.

Motion No. 26-16-4 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve Western Well RFP. Motion passed 7/0

FY 2026 End of Year Report: Discussion

Mr. DeVerna spoke to the preliminary results of the FY2026 audit, which was expected to begin the following week. He reported that approximately $2.6 million in current-year revenue may be available to apply toward the district's deficit. He cautioned that the amount remained preliminary because additional or unforeseen expenses could arise and explained that funds had been reserved for that possibility.

Mr. Cowart discussed the factors that contributed to the projected surplus. Mr. DeVerna explained that the increase was attributable to several one-time circumstances, including salaries coming in under budget, higher-paid retiring teachers being replaced by teachers at lower salary steps, healthcare savings through the trust, and fewer students requiring out-of-district tuition placements.

Mr. Cowart also discussed the district's improved position-control process, which has allowed positions and expenditures to be aligned more accurately. He stated that the district should be able to develop a more precise budget next year.

Member Mayer thanked the administration for its work and stated that the preliminary figures were encouraging. He expressed hope that the funds would provide a cushion against unknown tuition costs and healthcare increases that arose after the budget was approved.

Chairperson Pierson clarified that the projected surplus remained subject to change and could ultimately be lower. Mr. DeVerna and Mr. Cowart responded. Chairperson Pierson commented on the district's progress toward reducing the deficit over the past two years and thanked the administrators and School Committee for their work.

FY 2027 Monthly Report: Discussion

Mr. DeVerna spoke in response to a curriculum-related question Member Reidl raised at a previous meeting. Mr. DeVerna reviewed the district's current financial position. He emphasized that it was still very early in the fiscal year and that many education-related costs are front-loaded at the beginning of the school year. He also discussed the smaller state-aid payment received in July and increases in health and dental expenses, noting that these factors affected the July financial report.

Approval of Skills USA Field Trip: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart presented a field trip requiring School Committee approval because of the travel distance. He noted that only one student would be participating. Member Mayer asked about chaperones, and Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-16-5 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve Skills USA Field Trip. Motion passed 7/0

Crisis Intervention and Physical Restraint Policy- JLIAA First Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart reminded the School Committee of the student matter involving the Office for Civil Rights and discussed updates being implemented as a result. Member Reidl asked about the applicable threshold and the internal process the district uses to monitor compliance. Mr. Cowart responded.

Motion No. 26-16-6 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Reidl, to approve Crisis Intervention and Physical Restraint Policy-JLIAA First Reading. Motion passed 7/0

Digital Technology Acceptable Use & Internet Safety Policy- GBEE First Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart discussed the next two policies together and noted that an ACLU report had been provided. He explained that the ACLU was preparing an updated report outlining revised expectations and adjustments and that work on the policies had begun.

Motion No. 26-16-7 by Member dos Reis Couto, seconded by Member Reidl, to approve Digital Technology Acceptable Use & Internet Safety Policy- GBEE First Reading. Motion passed 7/0

Student Data Privacy and Security- EHBA First Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart spoke to this policy during previous agenda item.

Motion No. 26-16-8 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member dos Reis Couto, to approve Student Data Privacy and Security-EHBA First Reading. Motion passed 7/0

Student Attendance Policy-IHBA First Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart discussed changes at RIDE affecting the definition of attendance and explained that the policy language would be revised accordingly consisting of just a two-word change.

Motion No. 26-16-9 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Reidl, to approve Student Attendance Policy- IHBA First Reading. Motion passed 7/0

Superintendent's Report: 1) Facilities Update 2) Transportation Update 3) District Events Calendar

Mr. Cowart reviewed the district's progress tracker and provided updates on work completed throughout the district. He reported that the district was fully connected to the sewer system and discussed plans to decommission the existing septic tank.

Member Carlow asked whether the former leach field presented any health risks. Mr. Cowart responded.

Mr. Cowart spoke to resolving a few issues involving district buses. He reported that only three related calls had reached the Central Office level and that all three concerns had been addressed.

Mr. Cowart also reviewed the district events calendar. Member Jackvony asked whether School Committee meetings were included on the calendar, and Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Reidl asked whether School Committee members needed to notify anyone if they planned to attend a school open house. Mr. Cowart responded.

Citizens' Comments

No comments

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 26-16-10 by Member Reidl, and seconded by Member Carlow, to schedule the next meeting for September 24, 2026 at Washington Oak Elementary. Motion passed 7/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-16-11 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to adjourn at 8:34 PM Motion passed 7/0.