



Thursday, September 24, 2026
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Pierson at 6:07 PM

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	Aye
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson	Absent
	Amanda Carlow, Member	Absent
	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. 26-17-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 6:08 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 9/10/2026 the following items were discussed: 1) Student Matters: R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(8) (Homeschool Requests); 2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes of 8/13/2026
- Review of Emergency Crisis Plans: R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(3)
 - Motion passed 5/0

Reconvene Open Session

The Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:27 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 Cambio 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 3 votes were taken, the first to approve homeschool requests, the second to approve executive session minutes of 08/13/2026, and thirdly approve of School emergency Crisis Plans. All passed unanimously.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-17-2 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 5/0.

Approval of Minutes: 9/10/2026

Motion No. 26-17-3 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Mayer to approve the minutes from 9/10/2026 as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments.

Sodexo Presentation- Branding, Payments, meal Debt & Vending: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Alana and Ashley Plant from Sodexo and highlighted developments in the district's food service program. The Sodexo representatives discussed new Rhode Island regulations regarding transaction fees and the challenges associated with implementing those requirements. Mr. Cowart addressed potential budget impacts.

Alana reviewed the rebranding of the high school's food service stations, including the main entrée station, Slices station, stromboli offerings, Sizzle Grill, specialty sandwiches, deli and salad options, and specialty bowls. She reported that these offerings have been well received by students and have increased participation.

Mr. Cowart noted that vending machines had been discussed previously and that an updated quote had been provided. He shared that a survey had been distributed to gauge interest, and Alana reviewed the results.

Member Reidl expressed appreciation for Sodexo's work. Member Mayer asked about the likelihood of identifying a payment platform that could accommodate the new transaction fee requirements. Mr. Cowart responded. Member Mayer stated that he was hesitant to vote on a vending machine until the transaction fee issue was resolved. Mr. Cowart responded. Chairperson Pierson asked whether the 2% transaction fee cap would apply to vending machines. Ashley responded. Chairperson Pierson also expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Strategic Plan Update: Discussion

Mr. Cowart introduced Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Anzalone, who explained that this was the first of two presentations regarding the district's strategic plan. She reviewed the plan's goal areas, including excellence in teaching and learning, student support services, equitable access, and community engagement and responsible citizenship.

Mrs. Anzalone focused on the goals related to a community of engaged and responsible citizens. For the first goal, she reviewed attendance data from the past three years, noted improvements, and outlined completed and planned action steps. She also discussed the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) attendance magnets currently being distributed.

Regarding the second goal, Mrs. Anzalone explained that progress had been more limited than anticipated. She discussed student dysregulation and the need for additional support for particular groups of students. She reviewed the questions posed to teachers, how RIDE reports the results, and why she felt more encouraged by the district's progress than the data alone suggested. She also outlined action steps already taken.

For the third goal, parent involvement, Mrs. Anzalone reported that the district was on target and continuing to improve. Mr. Cowart returned to the second goal, discussing challenges teachers may encounter and how the district is aligning its supports to address those challenges.

Member Cambio thanked Mrs. Anzalone for her presentation and expressed encouragement regarding parent involvement. He requested clarification on the second goal and asked whether additional issues had emerged that had not yet been discussed. Mrs. Anzalone and Mr. Cowart responded.

Chairperson Pierson asked about the Smore newsletter. Mrs. Anzalone and Mr. Cowart responded. Chairperson Pierson asked whether the district planned to examine additional data points to assess progress. Mrs. Anzalone responded. Chairperson Pierson noted the importance of acknowledging economic hardships.

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.

World Language Curriculum: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart referenced the curriculum presentation from the previous meeting and recognized the presenters' hard work.

Motion No. 26-17-4 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve World Language Curriculum. Motion passed 5/0

Special Education Budget Transfer Request: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart discussed the threshold amount for a transfer and spoke to a student moving schools and needing to transfer the tuition money to a new line.

Motion No. 26-17-5 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Reidl, to approve Special Education Budget Transfer Request. Motion passed 5/0

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

Mr. Cowart noted that the policy was before the Committee for a second reading and reviewed the revisions previously discussed.

Motion No. 26-17-6 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve Crisis Intervention and Physical Restraint Policy-JLIAA Second Reading. Motion passed 5/0

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

Mr. Cowart noted that the policy was before the Committee for a second reading and reviewed the revisions previously discussed.

Motion No. 26-17-7 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Digital Technology Acceptable Use & Internet Safety Policy- GBEE Second Reading. Motion passed 5/0

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

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

Motion No. 26-17-8 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Student Data Privacy and Security-EHBA Second Reading. Motion passed 5/0

Student Attendance Policy-IHBA Second Reading: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart noted that the policy was before the Committee for a second reading and reviewed the revisions previously discussed.

Motion No. 26-17-9 by Member Reidl, seconded by Member Mayer, to approve Student Attendance Policy- IHBA Second Reading. Motion passed 5/0

Superintendent's Report: 1) CTE Open House

Mr. Cowart discussed the upcoming CTE Open House in October. Chairperson Pierson stated that he had seen the commercial and was impressed by the impact it highlighted.

Citizens' Comments

No comments

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 26-17-10 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to schedule the next meeting for October 8, 2026 at Coventry Public Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-17-11 by Member Reidl, and seconded by Member Mayer, to adjourn at 7:46 PM
Motion passed 5/0.