



Thursday, October 8, 2026
School Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairperson dos Reis Couto at 6:00 PM

Roll Call Vote:	James Pierson, Chairperson	Absent
	Ana Isabel dos Reis-Couto, Vice-Chairperson	Aye
	Amanda Carlow, Member	Arrived at 6:23 PM
	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. 26-18-1 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony 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 9/24/2026 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 9/10/2026 3) Review of School Crisis Emergency Plans R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a)(3)
- 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 6:08 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 Mayer 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 9/24/2026 . All passed unanimously.

Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Motion No. 26-18-2 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Mayer, 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: 9/24/2026

Motion No. 26-17-3 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve the minutes from 9/24/2026 as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

Citizens' Comments on Topics Listed on the Agenda

No Comments.

Ride Title Grants Audit Results: Discussion

Mr. Cowart discussed the numerous audits currently taking place throughout the district and noted that the district had been awaiting the results of the title grants monitoring audit. He introduced Mrs. Anzalone, who provided an overview of the monitoring process and reported that the overall findings were positive.

Mrs. Anzalone reviewed the findings for Title I-A, Title III, Title IV-A, and McKinney-Vento grants. She provided a breakdown of the indicators identified as met, met with recommendations, not met, and not applicable.

Mrs. Anzalone discussed one indicator related to Title I schools regarding the development of a schoolwide plan that measures academic gains, reviews program fidelity, and assesses access to nonacademic supports. She reviewed the corrective action plan and noted that the district met the requirements for the other federal grant programs. She also discussed a recommendation from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) that Coventry Public Schools update its current program description to ensure full alignment with requirements.

Mrs. Anzalone thanked Erin Coyne for her hard work throughout the process.

Member Cambio asked whether grants are awarded annually and whether monitoring occurs each year. Mrs. Anzalone and Mr. Cowart responded.

Member Mayer thanked Mrs. Anzalone for her work and asked whether there were concerns regarding the district's continued eligibility for grant funding. Mrs. Anzalone responded.

Annual LEA Foster Care RIDE Report of Student Progress, Plans, and Data: Discussion

Mr. DeVerna presented the financial report through August, noting that revenues and expenditures remain consistent with the previous year. He explained that although several factors could impact the budget moving forward, the district is currently in a favorable financial position.

Member Mayer asked about Medicaid revenue being lower than the previous year. Mr. DeVerna responded.

FY 2027 Monthly Finance Report: Discussion

Mr. DeVerna presented the financial report through August, noting that revenues and expenditures remain consistent with the previous year. He explained that although several factors could impact the budget moving forward, the district is currently in a favorable financial position.

Member Mayer asked about Medicaid revenue being lower than the previous year. Mr. DeVerna responded.

Impact Fees for Capital Vehicle Purchases: Discussion

Mr. Cowart reviewed how impact fees are calculated and noted that relatively few funds were utilized during the previous year.

He discussed the district's need for additional vehicles, particularly to support transportation for students experiencing homelessness. Mr. Cowart explained that he contacted the Town to confirm whether impact fees could be used for vehicle purchases, noting that the Police Department has utilized impact fees for similar purposes.

The district is currently exploring the purchase of a minivan and a 10-passenger vehicle. Requests were issued through the MPA, and Mr. Cowart expressed his hope to bring vehicle recommendations before the School Committee at its next meeting.

Potential Grant Opportunities: 1) School-Based Mental Health 2) Vaping Campaign Signage #) Recycling & Compost Stations at Elementary School (s): Discussion

Mr. Cowart discussed the School Committee's interest in actively pursuing grant opportunities and keeping the community informed of the district's efforts.

He reviewed several grant applications submitted during the previous week and highlighted additional grants Mrs. Anzalone has pursued, including collaborative opportunities with the Town and funding related to mathematics.

Member Carlow asked whether the district could explore bringing in a speaker who could connect with secondary-level students regarding the dangers of vaping. Mr. Cowart responded.

Member dos Reis Couto expressed support for bringing in a speaker who could serve as a positive role model for younger students. Mr. Cowart responded.

Food Pantries Update: Discussion

Mr. Cowart discussed previous correspondence with Member Jackvony regarding the elementary school food pantries and the desire to highlight the food pantry programs at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School and Coventry High School.

An update was provided on the middle school and high school food pantries, as well as the elementary schools' efforts to maintain stocked pantries and support families through their backpack programs.

Member Jackvony shared that she is working with the ROTC and the Town to organize a food drive at Coventry High School. She expressed interest in a future presentation highlighting the number of students and families benefiting from the district's food pantry programs.

Member Jackvony also discussed collaborating with Town Council on food drives and expressed interest in establishing drives at both the beginning and end of each school year.

Member Carlow shared that, during her time as PTO President at Tiogue Elementary School, she explored grant opportunities through Whole Foods and suggested looking into similar funding opportunities.

Member Reidl commended the high school staff for taking the initiative to apply for grant funding to support the program.

Member Jackvony also discussed opportunities for community members to contribute donations during the October 17 food drive at Coventry High School.

NKROTC Drill Competition Field Trip: Discussion & Vote

Mr. Cowart noted that this field trip happens annually and due to distance it requires school committee approval.

Motion No. 26-18-4 by Member Jackvony, seconded by Member Reidl, to approve NJROTC Drill Competition Field Trip. Motion passed 6/0

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

Mr. Cowart discussed a policy previously approved by the School Committee, explaining that the district had been awaiting updates from the ACLU.

He noted that although the School Committee voted on the policy at its previous meeting, additional work had been taking place to revise the language and incorporate provisions addressing artificial intelligence (AI).

Motion No. 26-18-5 by Member Mayer, seconded by Member Jackvony, to approve Student Data Privacy and Security-EHBA First Reading. Motion passed 6/0

Superintendent's Report: 1) Building Committee Update

Mr. Cowart provided an update on the Building Committee and ongoing district projects.

Member Jackvony asked whether the district is exploring grant opportunities and other available funding sources to offset project costs or seek reimbursement for completed work. Mr. Cowart responded.

Citizens' Comments

Alisha Deutsch
11 Hornbeam Rd
Coventry, RI 02816

Scheduling of the Next Meeting

Motion No. 26-18-6 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to schedule the next meeting for October 22, 2026 at Coventry Public Schools Administrative Office. Motion passed 6/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion No. 26-18-7 by Member Mayer, and seconded by Member Jackvony, to adjourn at 7:07 PM
Motion passed 6/0.