

Coventry Schools: Moving Forward

Strategic plan in place, implementation begins

Educators, administrators take first steps with eye on furthering education

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmliller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — Teachers, principals, administrators, parents and some members of the school committee met Monday afternoon to begin what will be a three-year strategic plan to move the quality of education in Coventry forward.

Over the summer, the brainstorming began through various workshops — which were designed to consider the many aspects of the schools' population along with the state and federal mandates that must be met — among this same group.

Monday's meeting was the culmination of those workshops and an orientation to set the strategic plan in motion, combining human resources, financial sources, technology, compliance to policies, community and politics and physical infrastructure.

"This is the beginning of a very important

journey we're about to take," said facilitator of the plan Ann Dickson, who also serves on the Coventry School Committee.

As Dickson handed out packets filled with detailed information, she explained how the process will work.

"Coventry public schools, with community partnerships, educate, inspire and motivate students to be life-long learners," she said. "The values we encourage are ethical and responsible behavior, respect for self and others and individual growth. Our core processes to deliver education are implementing curriculum, deliver instruction, offer programs and services and manage environmental learning."

The group of 25-plus people in attendance will break down into smaller groups or teams, each with defined goals with one person per team acting as "chairs" and taking accountability for their team's work.

The teams are the school improvement

team, the district strategic planning team, the district objective teams and the district enrollment capacity task force.

The three main objectives the teams will come together for are to implement the curriculum, deliver instruction and offer programs and services.

Each step has multiple activities that address these topics to help educators assess positives and negatives, what works and what may not.

"The chairs will have myself as a resource which will be an open line of communication," said Coventry School District Superintendent Mike Almeida, who will serve as a guide.

He suggested that the group review the documents and align their plans with the document.

This 2013-2016 strategic plan was discussed and approved to move ahead at the

See PLAN, Page A-2



File photo

Coventry schools will engage in a three-year strategic plan that, according to School Committee member Ann Dickson, will help them to motivate students to be life-long learners.

Plan gets going in Coventry schools

Continued from Page A-1

September 10 school committee meeting.

“We’ve always had a plan that the school committee and administrators have always discussed because our first priority of course, is the students, but this plan is much more defined and holds everyone accountable,” said Coventry School Committee Chairwoman Kathy Patenaude.

Patenaude admitted that the amount of information that was reviewed was quite a bit, adding that the goal is to bring change through every available source and have Coventry’s students prepared to meet their goals through technology-rich classrooms. The goal also includes changes in the way the district approaches education through more observation and taking stock to see if objectives are truly being met.

There are timelines for the objectives — some are to be met within the next few months, others more long-term for one, two or three years out.

Dickson encouraged everyone to “grab the lowest piece of fruit.”

“If there is a goal or task out of the many that can be more easily reached than others, do that because it will give you a sense of accomplishment and get you fueled for the next,” she said.

The teams will meet at least times three times a year: in September, January and May.

“We do have a vision for where we want to go and know how to get here and we want our town leaders and the community to know we can do this,” Dickson said.