

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

January 8, 2019

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

**Members present:** Mmes. Tara Willerup, Susan Salina and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Tom Frank.

**Members absent:** Mr. Todd Burrick and Mrs. Lydia Tedone

**Also present:** Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Erin Murray, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Business Manager Burke LaClair, Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Katie Galt and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Gault reported on school activities throughout the district, in particular cultural events at the elementary schools. Ms. Lemke reported that the Community for Care will again be holding their session on vaping tomorrow evening. Mr. Sullivan addressed the work on the Facilities Master Plan, stating that he has been working with Milone & MacBroom providing them with a variety of data relative to enrollment. Tecton Architects began walk-throughs of the school buildings this week.

Communications

Mr. Curtis reported on the SHS Hall of Fame induction and dinner this past Saturday. He stated that there were 270 people in attendance and inductees came from all over the country to share their stories and lessons learned. Ms. Willerup noted that the program was recorded and can be seen on SCTV.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

## A. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Frank: MOVE to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of  
Minutes of  
December 11,  
2018 Meeting

## B. Personnel

Personnel

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the request for non-salaried, guaranteed leave of absence for Jennifer Dion effective February 20, 2019 – June 30, 2019.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the request for non-salaried, guaranteed leave of absence for Alaina McNamara effective

January 12, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Anna Harris effective December 21, 2018.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

#### C. Acceptance of Simsbury Travel Basketball Scholarship

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Simsbury Travel Basketball Club Scholarship, to be disbursed beginning in 2019.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

### INFORMATION AND REPORTS

#### A. Update on Strategic Plan

Mr. Curtis noted that the district works under a continuous improvement model. Every 5 years the BOE creates a set of goals. On an annual basis a District Continuous Improvement Plan is developed based on these goals. Continuous improvement plans are created at the building and program levels as well and from these plans teacher professional growth plans are created.

Mr. Curtis presented a draft of the BOE goals for 2019-2024. He reviewed the process that created the draft goals. Mr. Curtis provided an overview of the strategic plan development components. From each goal overarching strategies are identified that support the broad goal. Desired outcomes are created that support the strategy. A list of the actions that need to be achieved to support the identified outcomes is created. Metrics are identified that can be assessed to determine growth and success as well as needed areas of improvement. Mr. Curtis presented an example of the new format for the strategic plan.

Mr. Curtis reviewed next steps in the strategic plan development, noting that the proposed strategic plan will be presented to the board on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Frank requested that the board receive an update prior to the May presentation. Mr. Frank asked if the strategic plan is reviewed each year with room for possible adjustment. Mr. Curtis responded that the goals are broad enough that they can be reprioritized if needed.

#### B. Special Education Program Review/Budget

Ms. Lemke reviewed the mission of the Special Ed department and the Big Five. She addressed the achievement gap and provided data on Simsbury's rank versus other DRG B districts and the state. Mr. Frank noted that the percentage of students meeting goal is declining statewide.

Nancy Forsberg, Supervisor of Special Education Instruction, addressed Math in Focus where special ed teachers and general education teachers are trained together and both work on the same math goals. She noted that the Math Coaches have been very helpful. Additionally special ed is represented at data team meetings

Acceptance of  
Simsbury Travel  
Basketball  
Scholarship

Update on  
Strategic Plan

Special  
Education  
Program  
Review/Budget

which is helpful in addressing at risk students.

Ms. Lemke addressed other markers of the Big 5. She stated that the Farmington Valley districts are collaborating on identifying and providing services to students with dyslexia. Simsbury is now utilizing the Wilson Reading Program for struggling students. Ms. Lemke discussed student transition noting that focusing on student independence is an important aspect of the special ed program. She also discussed the work being done to address mental health issues.

Ms. Lemke spoke about the Medicaid mandate from last year that requires staff to log services that can be deemed medical in nature. This system has been successfully implemented in the district, as has the accompanying billing system. Ms. Lemke highlighted the work being done through SEPTO, which has been rejuvenated over the past 4 years.

Ms. Lemke introduced Megan Morrison, Kate Alix and Nick Sinacori. FVTA students, past and present, who are now working at Beanz & Co. They spoke about their experiences through high school, jobs and internships they have held, and how all of this has prepared them for their current jobs. SHS graduate Zeke Hodkin pointed out that SHS puts the spotlight on ability and not disability and provides special ed students with the skills that allow them to shine in their jobs.

#### D. Acceptance of Gift from Dyno Nobel to First Robotics

Joncia Lytwynec, Director of Instructional Technology and Career/Technical Education, stated that each year Dyno Nobel has increased the amount of their gift to the Robotics Team. She noted that Wayne Manchester has been with the team from the start and continues to be involved with their work.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the proposed gift to the FIRST Robotics Team at Simsbury High School from Dyno Nobel Corporation totaling \$2,000 be approved.

Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Manchester presented a check to the board.

#### B. Special Education Program Review/Budget (cont'd.)

Ms. Lemke discussed the special ed budget in relation to in-migration, historical staffing, program cost and funding sources. She noted that special ed amounts to 22.44% of all BOE expenditures. Ms. Lemke stated that this year the number of new students minus withdrawals increased by 44% in special ed while it was 22% in general ed. She presented an overview of 5 years of staffing history, noting the increase of 12.76 FTE.

Ms. Lemke stated that her 2019-20 budget request is for a secondary social worker. In response to Mr. Frank, she stated that there is currently one social worker at SHS, one at HJMS and three at the elementary level. Mr. Burrick asked if the percentage of special ed students in the district has increased over the past 5 years. Ms. Lemke responded that the prevalence rate has fluctuated around 13%.

#### C. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

Acceptance of  
Gift from Dyno  
Nobel

Special  
Education  
Program  
Review/Budget  
(cont'd.)

6 Year CIP

<p>Mr. Curtis stated that he and Mr. LaClair have met with town staff regarding capital projects. The town's timeline for approval of projects lags behind ours. He noted that some revisions have been made to the BOE plan.</p> <p>Mr. LaClair presented the second draft of the CIP noting the specific revisions. He stated that more funding is necessary for security improvements and that amount has been raised from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Mr. LaClair noted that the highest priority for year one is the SHS partial roof replacement. This project would need to go through the CT grant process as it would be eligible for the maximum state reimbursement given its age. As a result of these changes the SHS turf field #2 and the HJMS tennis court replacement projects have been moved into the second year of the plan.</p> <p>Mr. LaClair noted that there is a new project added to the plan which is the removal of underground oil tanks at Tariffville School and SHS. The tank at Tariffville will need to be replaced as there is no access to natural gas at the school. Mr. LaClair pointed out that next year we will have more information with the Facilities Master Plan.</p> <p><u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u> None</p> <p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Ms. Salina: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>_____ Todd Burrick Secretary</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>_____ Katie Wilde Recording Secretary</p> </div> </div>	<p></p> <p>Public Audience</p> <p>Adjournment</p>
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