

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2018

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone, Susan Salina and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Mike Goman, Todd Burrick and Tom Frank.

Members absent: Mr. Jeff Tindall

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fitch reported on events at each of the elementary schools. He noted that HJMS and SHS have a new midterm schedule that begins on Friday. Mr. Fitch noted that the SHS men's and women's basketball teams are off to a great start.

Communications

Ms. Tedone reported that the Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 15th at the state capitol. Mr. Goman stated that the SHS Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony held on Saturday night was a terrific event. He suggested that a Hall of Fame be set up for graduates who have excelled in areas other than sports.

Ms. Lemke reported that Community for Care is holding a program about gender and sexual orientation at the Simsbury Public Library tomorrow evening. SEPTO will hold a program next week with representatives from the Department of Development Services who will speak with parents about supports and resources.

Ms. Murray reported on Friday's professional development. Sessions on Math in Focus will be held at the elementary and high school levels. Ms. Murray stated that the next meeting of the committee researching school start time will be held on January 25th. Mr. LaClair thanked the building and grounds crew and custodians for their work during the cold weather and recent snow event.

Mr. Curtis stated that Sean Kimball has taken a job as Town Manager in Cheshire, but will continue to serve as the interim Town Manager in Simsbury. In addition, Police Chief Ingvertsen will retire at the beginning of March. Ms. Willerup noted that the town Martin Luther King event will be held at First Church of Christ on Monday.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2017 Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting.

Minutes of
December 12,
2017 Meeting

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

B. Personnel

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Brenda Goff effective June 30, 2018.

Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.

C. PTO Gifts to the Cultural Enrichment Committee

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the proposed gift of funds from all the elementary school parent-teacher organizations to provide cultural programming to elementary school students be accepted.

Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. 2018-19 Budget

Mr. Curtis stated that Ms. Lemke will present a program-based look at the special education budget. Ms. Lemke stated that the special education program cost is \$16,177,670. This is 22.5% of all BOE expenditures and 20.34% of the BOE operating budget. In response to Mr. Frank, Ms. Lemke stated that 13% of the student population receives special education services. Ms. Lemke reviewed the special education funding sources which include the Excess Cost grant, the IDEA grant, the non-lapsing fund and the operating budget.

Ms. Lemke provided a 5 year history of special education out-of-district tuition costs, in addition to student transportation costs. She addressed use of the non-lapsing fund, stating that the assumed use in 2017-18 was \$235,000, but due to favorability in current transportation projections the assumed use in 2017-18 is now \$146,000. Ms. Lemke noted that the non-lapsing fund allows the district to respond to the unpredictability of special education cost centers.

Ms. Lemke explained the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant, noting that the majority of Simsbury IDEA funds are spent on staffing. The IDEA grant to Simsbury is currently \$950,000. Ms. Lemke addressed the Excess Cost Grant (ECS) and the formula used by the state for reimbursement. Currently Simsbury receives approximately \$1,000,000 through this grant.

Ms. Lemke reviewed a 5 year history of special education staffing and program enhancement history. Ms. Lemke stated that she is requesting an additional elementary social worker in the 2018-19 budget. She explained that the additional social worker would be placed at Squadron Line School where the pre-school is also located. The existing 2 social workers would each service 2 elementary schools. Ms. Lemke and Mr. Curtis explained the role of the social worker at the elementary level. Ms. Willerup pointed out that addressing those students with issues at a young age results in these students having fewer issues when they reach the secondary level of education.

Personnel

PTO Gifts to
Cultural
Enrichment
Committee

2018-19 Budget

Mr. LaClair reviewed the restricted federal/state grant funding expected in 2018-19. He noted that in the current year \$5.1 million in ECS grant funding was budgeted and \$5.2 million will be received by the town. Mr. LaClair briefly reviewed the sections of the BOE budget binders that were distributed to board members this evening.

B. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. LaClair presented the board with a second draft of the six year capital improvement plan, noting that changes have been made as a result of the board workshop discussion. Mr. LaClair stated that he is still waiting on an updated number for the HJMS project due to the one year delay. He noted that \$200,000 has been added to fund the creation of a school facility master plan and reconfiguration study, much like what was done by the town.

Mr. LaClair pointed out that the SHS stadium project has been broken out into 3 separate projects. In addition, the second turf field and lighting has been moved out to year 2. Mr. LaClair stated that he and Mr. Curtis have met with town staff on the overall 6 year plan, and a second meeting will be scheduled to determine whether both the town and BOE requests fall within the BOF debt schedule.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Frank: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

6 Year CIP

Public Audience

Adjournment