

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

January 23, 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 and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Mike Goman, Tom Frank and Jeff Tindall. Mrs. Susan Salina arrived at 7:04

Members absent: Mr. Todd Burrick

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 and the middle school. He noted that the SHS production of Mary Poppins was a segment on FOX61. Mr. Fitch thanked the board for the time he has served as student representative to the board.

Communications

Ms. Tedone reported that next week she will be in Washington D.C. with NSBA and the CT legislative session convenes in early February. Ms. Salina reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting during which they received a Math program update and had a conversation about Vision of a Graduate.

Ms. Lemke reported on SEPTO activities. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Personnel & Negotiations Committee is gearing up for nurse negotiations this spring.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Frank: MOVE to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2018

B. Personnel

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Virginia Bowes and Dennis Marolda effective June 30, 2018.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Personnel

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Vision of a Graduate

The board viewed a Tony Wagner video about preparing students for the work force. Mr. Curtis reviewed the district's continuous improvement cycle, noting that next year the board will discuss the next iteration of board goals. At the same time the District Vision and Core Beliefs will be reviewed.

Ms. Murray stated the Vision of a Graduate provides a vision for what students should know and be able to do to succeed in college, life, career and citizenship by the time they leave our K-12 school system. She reviewed what the district has done over the past 10-15 years to prepare students for the future, and the need to build on our successes over time.

Ms. Murray stated that a group of 8 administrators attended a statewide conference to begin work on creating our own competencies that we believe all students should have when they graduate. An example of the work done by this group includes the following ideas: academic mindset, innovation and creativity, initiative and self-direction, collaboration and communication, and personal responsibility and citizenship.

Ms. Murray noted that all administrators are reading the book Becoming Brilliant about how education should look going forward. One of the focus areas of the book is the 6 C's – collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation and confidence. Ms. Murray reviewed the timeline for work on Vision of a Graduate for the remainder of the school year, culminating with a presentation to the board.

Mr. Tindall noted that these are the same issues being talked about in his workplace. Ms. Murray stated the committee is looking for feedback from all stakeholders to ensure the committee is on the right track. Mr. Frank questioned what the deliverable to the board will be in June. Mr. Curtis responded that a document will have been created that lists the core competencies and a definition of each competency. This will be a guiding document used when discussing the next iteration of the district vision.

Mr. Goman expressed the need for a balanced program that does not only address high performing students. He also suggested that student expectations be balanced as students will need to be able to produce as new workers and not just be involved in collaborative and innovative work. Mr. Goman pointed out that the vision needs to include those who do not attend college, but instead take another path.

Mr. Curtis noted that the document will include how we look at internship experiences for students. Mr. Sullivan stated that the College Board is trying to change with implementation of courses such as AP Seminar and AP Research which are AP level courses that are not simply about learning a large amount of information and then being tested on it. Mr. Frank suggested that students also need to develop the capability to research and analyze research content. Ms. Tedone suggested that there be a conversation about how students, who do not take AP courses, can get a similar opportunity. Ms. Murray pointed out that Math in Focus and the new Science standards lead into the work.

B. 2018-19 Budget

Vision of a Graduate

2018-19 Budget

Mr. Curtis noted that personnel is the largest driver of the BOE budget. Mr. Sullivan presented an overview of staffing and enrollment considerations which will impact the BOE 2018-19 budget. He presented information on historical enrollment, staffing and program enhancements. Mr. Sullivan explained that the budget process was changed this year and principals and program directors were asked to provide information on what they would do to decrease their budget by 5%. He stated that in development of the 2018-19 budget there is a strong focus on the positions where retirements are pending.

Mr. Sullivan addressed elementary class size and pointed out that the number of K-6 students is projected to go down by 2 and thus there will be no reduction in elementary classroom teachers. He stated that elementary principals are requesting an additional Math Coach and Social Worker. Along with this increase will be the reduction of an Inclusion Specialist, SRIP Reading teacher and elementary World Language teacher. The net proposal for elementary staffing is -1.0 FTE.

Mr. Sullivan spoke about staffing at HJMS. The projected enrollment decline is 44 students with a corresponding 1.0 decline in certified FTE. Mr. Sullivan briefly discussed the options for the teaming structure with the loss of a teacher.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed staffing at SHS and noted that there has been a slow enrollment decline in the high school grades. Next year the number of students is projected to rise by 3 students. Mr. Sullivan stated that there are no additions requested at the secondary level. Projected reductions include restructuring of the reading intervention program at HJMS which results in a decline of 1.0 FTE; and the reduction of a SHS teacher once course enrollment has been defined.

Mr. Sullivan provided a district summary of certified staffing with the addition of 2 FTE and the reduction of 5 FTE, resulting in a net total of -3.0 FTE. He pointed out that 4 of the 5 reductions are due to retirements. Mr. Sullivan addressed non-certified staffing and the reduction of 3 staff members that will be captured through resignations and retirements during the spring/summer time period. He stated that additionally the district will be moving to an automated substitute caller system which will provide savings the following year as the current substitute caller retires.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the personnel budget drivers and their cost to the district. Overall the personnel budget will increase 1.10% from 2017-18 which equates to an increase of \$750,492.

Mr. Frank questioned the cost of health insurance. Mr. Curtis responded that the line item increase will be approximately \$700,000, or 1% of the budget, but the cost is expected to be offset with efficiencies in other areas.

C. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

6 Year CIP

Mr. LaClair provided an updated spreadsheet of the 6 year capital plan. He noted that the estimated cost of the HJMS Phase III renovation project has been adjusted from last year due to inflation. It results in an approximate increase of \$1.1 million. Mr. LaClair said he is looking at the reimbursement process and will be meeting with the people in the state grant office at the state.

D. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Mr. LaClair stated that the district is at a level pace of spending compared to last year at this time. He noted that the Choice Attendance grant increased by \$352,000 due to the district meeting the 4% threshold this year. The ECS entitlement was further reduced by \$513,502, but that was still \$150,540 higher than the adopted 2017-18 town budget. Mr. LaClair noted that the amount of the Excess Cost grant will be known next month and has the possibility of changing by up to \$100,000.

Mr. LaClair addressed the non-lapsing account and said that it is unlikely funds will be needed to offset transportation and insurance/pension costs. The budget for out-of-district tuition was reduced by \$145,000 in the 2017-18 budget and non-lapsing account funds will be needed to cover the difference.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Goman: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Adjournment

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary