

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

February 27, 2018

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Mrs. Lydia Tedone and Mr. Mike Goman

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 Isabelle Dorman and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dorman reported on activities at the elementary schools. She noted SHS activities including the Unified Theater performance, the Trojan Wall dance and the Battle of the Bands.

Ms. Lemke reported that March 14th is Special Education Day on the Hill which is a day of advocacy with state legislators. She also noted that a Community for Care program about vaping will be held the evening of March 14th.

Mr. Sullivan reported on the safety concerns that occurred at SHS on February 15th and explained the process that was followed. He stated that the consultant who came and observed procedures at Squadron Line and SHS has provided his report. Implementation of his suggestions has begun. They are mostly training based, not hardware based. Mr. Sullivan noted that the administrators have been involved in active shooter and emergency services training. He stated that each school has their own school safety team and additional training for this group will take place in April. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Say Something organization, which promotes adoption of the Sandy Hook Promise, will meet with the administration at HJMS for possible incorporation at the middle school. Mr. Sullivan explained some of the items that would be included in the \$800,000 capital request for security. Mr. Curtis stated that the district's safety measures will be discussed with PTO leaders later this week.

Ms. Murray reported that the District Leadership Team will begin their work on the Vision of a Graduate. She stated that the March 26th PD day will be used for the technology conference.

Mr. Curtis stated that the Town Manager will present her budget to the BOS this weekend. With the BOE and BOS budgets combined the result would be a decrease in the mill rate of 2.2 mills. Mr. Curtis noted that he and Burke continue to work with the town to fit the capital projects within the 6.7%-7% debt limit.

Communications

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adopt the minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Salina abstained.

Approval of
Minutes of
February 13,
2018

B. Acceptance of Donations to SHS Trojan Bust

SHS Principal Andy O'Brien, SHS Social Studies teacher Jim Martocchio, and senior class president Brennan McDermott provided background on how the idea for the Trojan bust originated and the means by which it is coming to fruition.

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the proposed gift of up to \$8,500 for the purchase and installation of a Trojan Bust at Simsbury High School be approved.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

SHS Trojan Bust
Donation

C. Adoption of 2018-19 Non-Public School Budget

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2018-19 Non-Public School budget in the amount of \$543,490 which represents a decrease of \$776 or -0.14%.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Adoption of
2018-19 Non-
Public School
Budget

D. Adoption of 2018-19 Public School Budget

Ms. Willerup stated that the administration and board have been working on the budget all winter with a culminating presentation by the superintendent at the last board meeting. Mr. Frank stated that he is very impressed with the rigor, involvement and preparation for board review of the budget. He pointed out the discipline the district team used to provide economies which not effecting the quality of education. Mr. Burrick noted the amount of hard work that went into creating the budget.

Ms. Salina stated her appreciation for the unique approach to get at each budget line item from a different angle. She commented that she is always impressed with the low increase in our budgets while maintaining the quality of our school system. Ms. Willerup pointed out that questions from board members have been answered along the way and the budget meets the BOF request.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2018-19 Public School budget in the amount of \$69,314,552 which represents an increase of \$1,189,382 or 1.75%

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

Adoption of
2018-19 Public
School Budget

E. Cancellation of March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on March 13, 2018.

Cancellation of
March 13, 2018
Meeting

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM)

TEAM

Mr. Sullivan stated that the TEAM program is how we formally support first and second year teachers in the profession. Trained mentors support beginning teachers through development and implementation of individualized growth plans. This is required in order for teachers to be eligible to move from an "Initial Educator" certificate to a "Provisional Educator" certificate. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the teaching skills associated with each of the six TEAM program modules.

Jan Sands, TEAM District Facilitator and SHS Spanish teacher, discussed the TEAM module process. She emphasized the importance of teacher mentors establishing a relationship with their new teacher so that the new teacher feels a connection to the whole. Ms. Sands pointed out that this program is beneficial with regard to teacher retention. She reviewed the TEAM process over the course of the year.

Mr. Sullivan addressed the impact of the state budget cuts on the TEAM program. The state has eliminated all funding for the TEAM program. The state had provided \$500 per mentor which was reimbursed to the mentor annually. The total received from the state was approximately \$10,000. Now the local districts are responsible to pay this reimbursement to mentors. In addition, the state no longer reviews the submissions from new teachers. The district now has to review each module to ensure it is completed and meets the TEAM requirements. Simsbury has developed a Guided Reflection Workshop that is used for mentors to meet with new teachers and ask them specific questions relative to their growth plan.

B. School Start Time Study Update

School Start
Time Study

Mr. Curtis stated that tonight the board will receive a brief presentation about the process that is being used for the study. A detailed report will be presented to the board later this year.

Ms. Murray reviewed the makeup of the Leadership Team that is evaluating school start times. She noted that this is an exploratory year used to identify the potential benefits and questions associated with moving our high school/middle school start times later in the morning. Ms. Murray stated that West Hartford and South Windsor are also investigating school start times this year. Greenwich, Newtown, Wilton, Ridgefield and Newton, MA have altered their school start times. Ms. Murray noted that Newtown is willing to put a panel of students together to meet with us.

Ms. Murray provided an overview of the work the Leadership Team has done since September, which includes reviewing research information, hearing from both a sleep expert and our Athletic Director. The next topic will be an overview of the effect on transportation if school start times were changed.

Ms. Murray reviewed the results of the survey given to students, parents and middle/high school teachers. 71% of parents, 47% of teachers and 40% of students are in favor of a later start time. Ms. Murray stated that in June she will provide the board with more depth and detail based on the potential benefits and questions. At that time the administration will look for guidance on next steps from the board.

Mr. Tindall asked about the shift in time of towns that have changed their start time. Mr. Curtis responded that Newtown starts at 8:00, Greenwich and Ridgefield at 8:30. End times are between 3:15 and 3:30. He noted that data suggests that a change of one hour is best. Ms. Dorman provided her perspective in support of a later school start time.

C. 2016-17 Audit Report

Mr. LaClair presented an overview of the 2016-17 town audit report from Blum, Shapiro and Company, P.C. He noted that it was a positive year overall. The BOE contributed a surplus of \$19,836 at the end of the year. The general fund balance available for appropriation on July 1, 2017 was \$12,272,378. Mr. LaClair thanked Kyra Sheehan, Accountant/Budget Analyst, for her work with the auditors.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to enter Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

2016-17 Audit
Report

Public Audience

Executive
Session

Adjournment