

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

March 22, 2022

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Tootin' Hills School cafeteria.

Roll Call:

**Members present:** Mmes. Susan Salina, Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Todd Burrick.

**Members absent:** Mr. Brian Watson

**Also present:** Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Alex Picoult and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Picoult reported that elementary report card conferences were held both in-person and virtually last week. He noted the Tree-planting campaign by the Take Action Club at Squadron Line School. HJMS held a pajama day to raise money for children's cancer and collected \$1,600. Mr. Picoult stated that SAT day for juniors is tomorrow and it will be the first time the test will be taken electronically. He noted the run-a-thon that was sponsored by the SHS National Honor Society to raise money for Ukraine.

Communications

Ms. Tedone stated the NSBA Annual Conference is being held in-person next week. She reviewed some of the proposed CT legislation being addressed in the current legislative session. Ms. Willerup reported on the Hall of Fame dinner where outstanding alumni athletes and teams were honored. She stated that the MLK program that was not held in January is being recorded by SCTV and will be posted on their website.

Ms. Lemke reported that 50 students in grades 3-6 were recognized by the CT Writer's Project. The HJMS production of Frozen Junior runs March 25 & 26, April 1 & 2. Mr. Sullivan stated the staff recognition ceremony is back in person and will be held on April 21 at HJMS. Mr. Sullivan addressed the Latimer Lane renovation project, noting that cost estimates are running over budget due to the current economic environment. There has been a spirit of cooperation in project meetings and the hope is to not slow down the bid process in June.

Mr. Curtis reported that the BOE budget and capital projects were presented to the BOF on March 8<sup>th</sup>. He noted that it should be a successful budget season with no increase in the mill rate.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

<p>A. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2022 Meeting</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>B. Personnel</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignations of Jessica Anastasio and Jenna Nalband effective June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Sharon Schloss effective June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Jill VanVoorhis effective June 30, 2025.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2022</p> <p>Personnel</p>
<p>C. Approval of CSZ Foundation Scholarship</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the CSZ Foundation Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Approval of CSZ Foundation Scholarship</p>
<p>D. Approval of SHS Equity Council Scholarship</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Simsbury High School Equity Council Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Approval of SHS Equity Council Scholarship</p>
<p>E. Approval of 2023-24 School Calendar</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adopt the 2023-24 school calendar as presented.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Approval of 2023-24 School Calendar</p>
<p>F. Cancellation of April 12, 2022 Meeting</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on April 12, 2022.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p><u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u></p>	<p>Cancellation of April 12, 2022 Meeting</p>

<p>A. Tootin' Hills School Report</p> <p>Ms. Lemke introduced the Tootin' Hills School presentation about student intervention supports. She reviewed the guiding beliefs for the student intervention team (SIT) who applies a problem-solving approach when students are not meeting expectations. Sharyl Panyard, Reading &amp; Language Arts Consultant, discussed the tiers of instruction that are utilized districtwide. Tier 1 is instruction for all students delivered by the classroom teacher. Tier 2 provides supplemental intervention provided by an interventionist. This includes the Math Intervention Program (MIP), Simsbury Reading Intervention Program (SRIP) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs. Tier 3 is intensified intervention despite coordinated instruction and intervention in Tiers 1 and 2. Ms. Panyard noted the members of SIT which includes the principal, school psychologist, classroom teacher, primary/intermediate rep, special ed teacher, language arts coach and math coach. Each elementary school has a SIT.</p> <p>Mikayla Alicandro, School Psychologist, reviewed the hypothesis format that is utilized that provides a structure and succinct road map when students are referred for intervention supports. She provided examples of a SEL goal and Math goal formats that are used for individual students.</p> <p>Missy Champagne, Grade 4 teacher, stated that targeted instruction in small groups is provided for all learners. Those in the tiers have a lagging skill. Ms. Panyard stated that 17 students have been serviced across the year through the SIT process. Ms. Champagne noted that the vast majority of learners react to Tier 1. Ms. Lemke discussed the power of the collaborative practice that is in place.</p>	<p>Tootin' Hills School Report</p>
<p>B. School Counseling Report</p> <p>Greg Stillman, Director of School Counseling, noted this year's new staff members. He reviewed the roles and responsibilities of counselors at SHS and HJMS throughout the course of the year. Mr. Stillman noted the CT School Counseling Framework which outlines the themes, domains and components of the school counselor role. He stated that he would like the department to improve what they do relative to assisting students who want to go directly into a career after graduating from high school.</p> <p>Ms. Salina asked if the department has a relationship with technical schools and are students provided information on these options. Mr. Stillman responded that Lincoln Tech, Bristol Tech and Porter &amp; Chester all have a relationship with the school and some come in to meet with students.</p> <p>Mr. Stillman provided 2020-21 end of year academic statistics. He addressed the areas of focus in 2021-22. These have included providing social emotional support for students returning to full in-person instruction and adjusting to the new schedule, expansion of the UConn Early College Experience program, implementation of the digital in-school SAT, focus on a more diversified student body in AP classes, implementation of the Capstone experience, and providing more interactive counseling lessons.</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar asked about our counselor to student ratio. Mr. Stillman replied that at SHS it is 180-185 students per counselor and at HJMS it is 250 students per</p>	<p>School Counseling Report</p>

<p>counselor.</p> <p>Mr. Stillman addressed some of the challenges in 2020-21. He noted the increase in social emotional concerns post-COVID. Mr. Stillman pointed out the increase in the number of 504 students since 2019-20. School Counselors are the case managers for 504 cases and they develop accommodation plans for these students.</p> <p>Mr. Stillman discussed future focus areas for the department. These include developing proactive support systems and strategies for students at all levels, making adjustments to freshman orientation and starting a freshman seminar program, revitalization of programs relative to post-secondary options that have not been run due to COVID, improving the career component of the 7-12 curriculum, addressing the new CSDE remote learning standards, and a redesign of the curriculum in EDU Planet.</p> <p><u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u></p> <p><b>Lori Boyko</b>, 15 Oakhurst Road, stated that study halls during which the teacher checks in with students' grades and assignments is helpful. She also noted the CLEP exam is another cost savings way for students to obtain college credit.</p> <p><b>Liz Peterson</b>, 33 Fox Den Road, suggested the School Counseling Department look into creating a peer counseling drop in center.</p> <p><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u></p> <p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter and include the superintendent.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.</p> <div><div>Jennifer Batchelar Secretary</div><div>Katie Wilde Recording Secretary</div></div>		Public Audience
		Executive Session
		Adjournment