

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings	Regular Meeting	March 23, 2021
<p>Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Central School Gymnasium.</p> <p><u>Roll Call:</u> Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina and Jen Batchelar. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson.</p> <p>Members absent: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone and Sharon Thomas.</p> <p>Also present: Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, Student Representative Shannon Zeilman and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.</p> <p><u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u> None.</p> <p><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS</u> Ms. Zeilman provided an update on activities in the schools. Mr. Watson provided a brief update on the Communications Committee meeting. Ms. Lemke noted that next week is Equity Week at SHS. One hour sessions are offered to students each day. They can choose from 25 sessions. Ms. Lemke reported that first dose vaccinations have been completed through the Farmington Valley Health District. More than 2,000 educators have come through the clinics.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan provided an update on the number of distance learners today compared to October 1st, noting that the number of elementary distance learners has decreased from 399 to 314. Additional students will return to the classroom after the spring recess.</p> <p>Ms. Salina provided a brief CAGE legislative update provided by Ms. Tedone. Ms. Salina provided an overview of CAGE Day on the Hill which both she and Ms. Tedone attended.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDED ACTIONS</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2021</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Personnel</p> <p>Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Kathleen Larkum, Sandra Lefebvre, and Ann Ruskino effective June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p>		<p>Public Audience</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2021</p> <p>Personnel</p>

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brianna Loyot effective April 8, 2021.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

C. Approval of Revised 2021-22 Public School Budget

Mr. Curtis stated that after receiving new insurance information, the BOE budget presentation to the BOF included a budget increase of 1.85% which is less than what the BOE adopted at 2.12%.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the revised 2021-22 Public School budget in the amount of \$73,643,930 which represents an increase of \$1,335,455 or 1.85%.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

D. Approval of Revised 2021-22 School Calendar

Ms. Lemke reviewed changes to next year's school calendar due to the lateness of Labor Day in 2021. The school year will start on September 1 and the first 3 days will be early release days for students in order to transition from the current school year.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to adopt the revised 2021-22 school calendar as presented.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

E. Approval of Policy Revisions

Mr. Tindall: MOVE to adopt the revised Board of Education policies, as noted, effective March 23, 2021.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

F. Appointment to The Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting Committee

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education appoint Simsbury resident Mr. Joseph Slattery as a member of the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

G. Acceptance of Donation to SHS Fencing Club

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$2,500 from the Cordani family be approved.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

H. Cancellation of April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

Approval of
Revised 2021-
22 School
Budget

Approval of
Revised 2021-
22 School
Calendar

Approval of
Policy Revisions

Appointment to
Suffield
Regional
Agriscience
Center
Consulting
Committee

Acceptance of
Donation to SHS
Fencing Club

Cancellation of

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on April 13, 2021.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Central School Program – Understanding Equity

Ms. Hennessy introduced those who will be speaking this evening: Spanish teacher Diane Tobio, grade 6 teacher Heather Donlon, grade 5 teacher Moira Honyotski, and students Adam Kelly, Maggie Peterson, and Daniela Sanetti.

Ms. Hennessy stated the school's approach to Black History Month was related to our social/emotional wellbeing and equity work. Ms. Tobio spoke about her personal reflection and shared the work students completed for the book *The ABCs of Black History*. As part of the Black History Museum project, Ms. Donlon stated that her class selected late civil rights activist Congressman John Lewis. Paraeducator Sharon Strong facilitated a Google Meet with her aunt who was a friend of John Lewis.

Adam Kelly spoke about learning things about John Lewis that weren't included in the book and his importance to our world and where we are today. Maggie Peterson stated that learning about different people contributes to us having equality. Daniela Sanetti stated that every day the class was able to see different slideshows from different projects. He noted that what they learned about John Lewis made him feel like a real person.

Ms. Honyotski spoke about the compassion, resilience and passions around equity that became obvious after Black History Month. Ms. Hennessy played a video of Central School staff reciting the district's equity statement.

B. Latimer Lane Renovation Project

Mr. Sullivan spoke about the work being done to communicate this project with the public and the work of the Communications Committee. He noted the informational flyer that has been created and the website being put together. Mike Luzietti, Latimer Lane School Principal, pointed out the pressing needs at the school including addressing core spaces, the lack of large spaces and accessibility issues. He presented a video on the condition of the school to the board.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the communication plan for the project and the steps necessary for producing a grant application that will be due to the state June 30 if the project is approved at referendum. He explained the roles of Tecton Architects, the school district and the town in the grant process.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

April 13, 2021
BOE Meeting

Central School
Program –
Understanding
Equity

Latimer Lane
Renovation
Project

Public Audience

Adjournment

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary