

TOWN OF SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

April 24, 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, Lydia Tedone, Susan Salina and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Todd Burrick and Tom Frank.

Members absent: Messrs. Mike Goman and 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 Isabelle Dorman and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

RECOGNITIONS

Shannon Gagne, Art Department Supervisor K-12, provided a presentation of the artwork done by 23 students, grades 7-12, who received a Scholastic Art Award. Kevin Daly, Chairman of the CT Special Education PTO Alliance presented the district with the Spirit of SEPTO Award for support of their cause.

Andy O'Brien, SHS Principal, introduced the two new BOE Student Representatives, juniors Katie Galt and Valerie Lee. He spoke about their interests at SHS and why they would like to participate on the BOE.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dorman reported on spring events at the elementary schools. She noted the timing for SBAC testing, and the SAT for juniors at SHS. Ms. Dorman stated the Spring Fling Pep Rally will be held Friday on Holden Field and *The Crucible* performances begin this weekend.

Ms. Salina reported that the SHS Leadership Team met last week and received a presentation on school start time and its effect on transportation. The team will hold a work session in May and a full report will be presented to the board in June.

Ms. Tedone reported on the NSBA conference in Texas. She noted that the CABA Legislative Wrap-up will be held on May 15th and board members are invited to attend.

Ms. Lemke reported that Simsbury has been awarded a grant through the CT Bureau of Special Education. This grant will allow a dozen middle and high school students to attend workshops about youth and leadership. A culmination of the program will take place on May 11th when all CT students participating will meet to create their dream school.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Policy Committee will meet this week to review six

Recognitions

Public Audience

Communications

policies which will then be brought before the board. A meeting of the Personnel & Negotiations Committee will be held in May to discuss the unaffiliated group.

Ms. Murray stated that the spring Math in Focus night for parents was held last night and good parent feedback on the program was received. She reported on the CT Music Educators Association (CMEA) conference held at the Hartford Convention Center during which two Simsbury music ensembles gave outstanding performances. Ms. Murray noted that Simsbury has been chosen as a 2018 Best Community for Music Education, one of 18 districts in CT, and 583 districts nationwide.

Mr. LaClair noted that one week from today is the budget referendum. Mr. Curtis stated that tomorrow is Staff Recognition which takes place at the individual schools and culminates with a gathering at HJMS to honor those achieving milestones.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2018 Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting.

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

B. Personnel

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brian White effective June 30, 2018.

Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Pamela Hammersmith effective June 30, 2018.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Richard Collins effective June 30, 2019.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

C. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the contract of employment of George Williams, Dana Pescatello and John Ford be non-renewed effective June 30, 2018, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

D. Approval of 2019-20 School Calendar

Ms. Salina: MOVE to adopt the 2019-20 school calendar as presented.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of
Minutes of
March 27, 2018
Meeting

Personnel

Approval of
2019-20 School
Calendar

E. End of Fiscal Year Fiscal Authorizations

End of Fiscal
Year
Authorizations

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to act as the Board's agent in renewing applications for state and federally funded programs.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to transfer funds from those accounts in which a surplus is anticipated into those accounts in which a deficit is anticipated.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to request Board of Finance approval for the deposit of unexpended funds at the close of the fiscal year into the non-lapsing account for Unexpended Education Funds Account; as authorized by state law, the amount of said deposit will be no more than 1% of the Board's current year operating budget. Unexpended funds over the 1% threshold will be returned to the Town General Fund Balance.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (or designee), with Board of Finance approval, to approve any and all expenditures from the non-lapsing account for Unexpended Education Funds Account

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Superintendent, with the approval of the Board Chairman, be authorized to hire staff for the 2018-19 school year during the period of July and August when the Board is not in session.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Safety & Security Update

Safety &
Security Update

Mr. Sullivan introduced Officer Jeremy Cormier, the School Resource Officer (SRO) at SHS. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the significant work that has been done in recent years to secure our schools. This includes entrance hardening, a commitment to Standard Response Protocol, the addition of a second SRO, a complete overhaul of the District Safety Plan, as well as enhanced drills, simulations and tabletop exercises with town staff.

Mr. Sullivan addressed current efforts to address school safety. This includes our contract with a nationally recognized school safety expert who has spent time at 2 of our schools and will come back in May to spend time at 2 other schools. Next year he will visit the remaining 3 schools. On May 3rd an additional layer of professional

development will be provided to the School Safety Teams. Officer Cormier has provided staff training in response to active shooter events. The 2018-19 capital improvement plan includes \$850,000 for school safety improvements. Ms. Lemke runs a committee that is focused on mental health support and interventions. Mr. Sullivan reviewed some of the recommendations from the school safety expert that will be implemented in all schools.

Mr. Frank asked what is being done to train the students. Mr. Sullivan noted that training needs to be age appropriate and all students know the Standard Response Protocol which is the emergency procedures for all schools. Officer Cormier stated he has spoken with the SHS Safety Team about providing a reduced version of the training to students next year.

Officer Cormier talked about his role as SRO. He stated that he works to form personal connections with students and to be a positive influence. Officer Cormier speaks to students in their classes about risky behavior. In addition he runs the Police Cadet program and is a SHS junior varsity boy's hockey coach. Officer Cormier stated that his biggest role is as a liaison between SHS and the police department.

B. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Mr. LaClair reported that there has been unexpected positive news. Our Choice entitlements were increased by \$81,639, which was not expected. The preliminary excess cost award we received in February was approximately \$200,000 more than originally estimated. Mr. LaClair stated that the pace of spending is similar to last year. With the unanticipated additional grant revenues, the district is now looking at a potential budget surplus. The pace of spending for out of district tuition is down due to both the timing of payments for tuition and related services, as well as less than anticipated CREC magnet school special education services. At this time it is unlikely that any of the \$145,000 non-lapsing account funds will need to be used.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Frank: MOVE to enter executive session at 8:28 p.m. to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Public Audience

Executive
Session

Adjournment