

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

April 25, 2023

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Tariffville School cafeteria.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone, Jen Batchelar and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson.

Members absent: Mrs. Susan Salina and Mr. Todd Burrick.

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None.

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Carroll reported that all of the schools are busy with the approach of the end of the school year. She noted that NGSS testing was completed last week for juniors and AP testing will be held next week. Over the spring recess SHS students participated in trips to France, Italy and Costa Rica after a few years when these trips weren't possible. Ms. Carroll noted the concert schedule and the spring play Romeo & Juliet.

She stated the athletic signing ceremony is scheduled on May 19 and there are a number of senior events coming up. Seniors need to make their college choice by May 1.

Ms. Tedone stated the CT legislative session ends on June 8. There are some revised bills and public acts still being discussed. She noted that the appropriations committee released their budget last week.

Ms. Thomas stated that the town's Social Services Department is holding Narcan training for parents on Thursday.

Ms. Willerup reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting. She stated that the entire HJMS school is reading one book, Nowhere Boy, over the summer and the author will come to the school in the fall.

Ms. Lemke reported that SBAC, Math performance tasks, and NGSS testing are taking place in the elementary schools. She stated that Capstone presentations will be held on May 25. Ms. Lemke addressed tomorrow's half day of professional development during which curricular areas will be the focus at the elementary level and secondary departments will be working on strategic plans.

Ms. Sullivan reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with the SFEP. He noted that staff recognition will be held Thursday when staff reaching milestone

Communications

years and retirees will be honored.

Mr. Curtis stated that the Board of Selectmen moved the operating budgets and capital projects to referendum which be held on May 16. He noted that Dick Ostop, who has served for 40 years on the Public Building Committee, will be stepping down from his position as Chairman.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2023 Meeting

Mr. Watson: MOVE to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

B. Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2023 Special Meeting

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 special meeting.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Tedone abstained.

C. Personnel

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Deborah Manning and Steve Patrino effective June 30, 2023 with great thanks and appreciation for a job well played.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Kim Zisa and Erin Jones effective June 30, 2023.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the contract of employment of Cristina Riloff be non-renewed effective June 30, 2023, and that the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Thomas abstained.

E. Adoption of Healthy Food & Beverage for 2023-24

Ms. Thomas: Move that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Simsbury Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdictions, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from

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Adoption of
Healthy Food &
Beverage for
2023-24

reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school store, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Watson: MOVE that pursuant to Sections **10-215f** of the C.G.S., the Simsbury Board of Education hereby will allow the sale to students of **food items** that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education will allow the sale to students of **beverages** not listed in Section **10-221q** of the C.G.S. provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

F. Approval of Abigail Harris Memorial Hockey Scholarship

Ms. Thomas: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Abigail Harris Memorial Hockey Scholarship, to be disbursed in 2023.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Tariffville School Report

Ms. Lemke introduced Erin Naspo, Social Worker and Kim Wolf, 6th grade teacher. She stated that with this year’s theme of engagement, Tariffville Schools has been engaging students by providing opportunities for student voice and leadership. Ms.

Approval of
Abigail Harris
Memorial
Hockey
Scholarship

Tariffville School
Report

Lemke noted that they use the tenets of their character education (CLIMB) program and embed the social emotional learning (SEL) competencies as well as equity.

Ms. Naspo stated they started the year looking at the five social emotional competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. These areas are addressed through the CLIMB program which is the foundation of the school's culture. Student's receive recognition through the CLIMB program.

Ms. Wolf stated that when SEL was developed they still wanted to keep CLIMB at the core and put SEL under the umbrella of CLIMB. The character traits of CLIMB are looked at through an SEL lens. Ms. Thomas asked how parents are kept informed of this work. Mr. Matyczyk responded that parents are informed through email and phone calls and CLIMB cards are sent in the mail to the student's home. Ms. Wolf noted that in addition to teachers, students nominate each other to receive CLIMB recognition.

Ms. Wolf addressed student council which is comprised of 5th and 6th graders, 3 from each class. She meets with them 1 or 2 times per month during lunch. During these meetings they discuss leadership opportunities at school. A video of 2 student council members was played and they spoke about their activities and work with all of the grade levels at the school.

Ms. Wolf stated that students are offered different leadership opportunities, other than student council This year the Student Equity Team was formed. A video of 3 students was played and these students discussed some of their activities that include equity walks and sharing different culture and languages. Board members were provided with a scorecard for student classroom equity walks.

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to recess the meeting for board members to participate in small group discussions with staff members regarding equity work at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to reconvene the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

B. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Mr. Curtis reported that revenues have been consistent, outside of ECS. The anticipated ECS revenue is \$2,362,190 which is an increase in last year's award of \$1,827,251. Mr. Tindall asked what number for ECS was included in the budget. Mr. Curtis responded that the district budgets for net what we receive from the state. He stated that this year's projected deficit is approximately \$600,000-\$700,000. This will be offset with the current spending freeze, unfilled director positions in nutrition services and health services, as well as Open Choice funding. These offsets will allow the district to maintain the non-lapsing fund of \$651,000.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Public Audience

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Adjournment