

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

May 8, 2018

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Susan Salina and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Mike Goman and Tom Frank.

Members absent: Mrs. Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Todd Burrick 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.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dorman reported that teacher and staff appreciation week was celebrated at all of the schools. HJMS will hold their Unified Theater production on May 15th. Reader's Theatre will be held at SHS on Saturday. AP testing is occurring between May 7th and May 18th.

Communications

Mr. Goman congratulated everyone on the approval of the HJMS project, noting that the project has been on the capital plan for 16 years. Ms. Willerup thanked residents for coming out to vote in support of the project.

Ms. Lemke reported on Community for Care and SEPTO end of year events. Mr. Sullivan reported that the hiring process is underway for the fall. Ms. Murray stated that Diane Sweeney, an author and national presenter on coaching, will be providing professional development to principals and coaches for two days next week.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Appointment of HJMS Principal

Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Board of Education appoint Scott Baker to the position of Middle School Principal effective July 1, 2018.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Appointment of
HJMS Principal

B. Approval of Minute of April 24, 2018 Meeting

Ms. Salina: MOVE to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2018.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved. Mr. Goman abstained.

Approval of April
24, 2018
Minutes

C. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between the Simsbury

Approval of

Board of Education and the Simsbury School Nurses Association	Nurse's Contract
<p>Mr. Goman: MOVE that the Board of Education ratify the proposed changes in the collective bargaining agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Nurses Association for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.</p>	
<p>Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.</p>	
<p>D. Adoption of Health Food & Beverage 2018-19</p>	
<p>Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that pursuant to Sections 10-215f and 10-221q of the C.G.S., the Simsbury Board of Education hereby certifies that all food and beverage items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply said standards during the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Such certification shall include food and beverage not exempted from said nutrition standards and offered for sale to students at all times, in all schools, and from all sources, including, but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Excluded from this certification are food and beverage items meeting the following conditions: 1) that are sold at events after the end of the regular school day or on weekends; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) and the items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.</p>	<p>Adoption of Healthy Food & Beverage 2018-19</p>
<p>Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.</p>	
<p><u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u></p>	
<p>A. Guidance Report: Program Review</p>	
<p>Ms. Murray introduced Jane Ellen Peregrin, Director of Counseling for grades 7-12. Ms. Peregrin stated that school counselors work with students in three areas: academic, social/emotional, and college and career readiness. The counselors advise students on what courses to take, monitor academic progress, and when necessary provide students with academic assistance and recommend students for support centers.</p>	
<p>Ms. Peregrin noted that guidance counselors are the case managers for Section 504 students. She pointed out that there has been an increase in ADHD, anxiety and depression diagnosis for secondary students. The department introduced a mindfulness initiative last year. Practicing mindfulness helps to manage stress and increases attention and focus. Mindfulness activities are run before and after school for students and teachers at SHS. The program also runs at HJMS.</p>	
<p>Ms. Peregrin discussed new initiatives related to career readiness. She stated that counselors are exploring job shadow and internships for SHS students. Ms. Peregrin noted that the internship initiative aligns with the Vision of the Graduate. Guidance counselors keep apprised of college trends and continue to attend events offered by colleges.</p>	<p>Guidance Report</p>

Mr. Frank asked about the ratio of guidance counselors to students. He noted that it appears the challenges have become greater, and he asked if we need more guidance counselors. Ms. Peregrin responded that the case load is in line with our DRG, approximately 200 students per counselor. She expressed her feeling that the counselors are meeting the needs of the students.

Mr. Frank asked if we use a metric to determine the effectiveness of our counselor program. Ms. Peregrin stated that it is hard to measure the effect you have on a student and sometimes you don't know it until years later. She noted that guidance works to have every student leave SHS with a plan for the future. More than 90% of SHS students go on to college. Mr. Sullivan noted that seniors are given exit surveys and the responses regarding guidance are always positive.

Ms. Salina suggested that internships be included in the Program of Studies. Mr. Goman suggested that if the number of counselors were doubled it would be a good investment as it could be an enormous differentiator from other towns. Ms. Salina expressed concern that counselors make sure they reach the students who are in the middle academically and possibly just floating through school.

B. Proposed Textbooks for 2018-19

Ms. Murray stated that she is recommending the purchase of two new textbooks for next year. One is for AP U.S. History and the other is for AP English Literature. Ms. Murray noted that the AP U.S. History curriculum has been redesigned and the new book is aligned with the curriculum and AP exam. The AP Literature book is used at UConn and this course offers Early College Experience (ECE) credit. Ms. Murray discussed the price difference between purchasing books and purchasing online subscriptions, noting that a combination of both will be purchased.

C. Proposed Fee Schedule for Use of Public Schools

Mr. LaClair reviewed the proposed building use fee schedule for 2018-19. He stated that due to increased costs the fee for next year would increase by approximately 1.5%.

D. Policy First Reading

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the six policies recommended for revision. He noted that the Policy Committee has met and reviewed the policy revisions. The policies will come before the board for a second reading at the next board meeting.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Frank: MOVE to enter executive session at 8:14 p.m. to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent.

Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.

Proposed
Textbooks for
2018-19

Proposed Fee
Schedule for
Use of Public
Schools

Policy First
Reading

Public Audience

Executive
Session

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Ms. Salina: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary