

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

May 11, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Tootin' Hills School cafeteria.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Jen Batchelar and Sharon Thomas.
Messrs. Todd Burrick and Brian Watson.

Members absent: Mmes. Lydia Tedone and Tara Willerup. Mr. Jeff Tindall.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, BOE Student Representative Shannon Zeilman and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None.

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zeilman reported on activities at the elementary schools and middle school. Ms. Thomas stated that CAFE sent out a survey for BOE members relative to diversity and inclusion from a board member perspective. They continue to gauge interest in forming affinity groups. Ms. Thomas reported on the progress of the Equity Council, noting they are getting to a point where they can share their recommendations with the BOE.

Communications

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Squadron Line Assistant Principal process is going well with finalist interviews on Thursday. Ms. Lemke reported that graduation will be held June 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the Simsbury Meadows. The rain date is June 8. A meeting will be held on May 19 to determine the number of guests who will be allowed. Ms. Lemke noted that 12 proposals have been submitted for the Magowan grant.

Mr. Curtis noted the positive results of the budget referendum. He thanked Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen members for their support of the Latimer Lane School renovation project throughout the process.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of
Minutes of April
27, 2021
Meeting

B. Personnel

Personnel

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Catherine

Hoerle effective June 30, 2021.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

C. End of Year Authorizations

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

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

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

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: 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 fund to the General Fund operating fund for COVID-19 related expenditures.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Superintendent, with the approval of the Board Chairman, be authorized to hire staff for the 2021-22 school year during the period of July and August when the Board is not in session.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

D. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Nurses Association

Mr. Sullivan thanked those who participated in the negotiation process. He reviewed the particulars of the contract.

Mr. Burrick: 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 July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Latimer Lane Project Education Specifications

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Latimer Lane School project grant is due to the state by June 30. He reviewed the schedule over the next 6 weeks in order to meet that deadline.

End of Year
Authorizations

Approval of
Simsbury
School Nurses
Association
Contract

Latimer Lane
Project
Education
Specifications

Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects, provided a high level overview of the education specifications for the project. He stated that the education specifications are the most important piece of the grant process as these specifications will be used by the state to determine what pieces of the project are eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Wyszynski briefly reviewed the 15 components of the education specifications that need to be developed. He presented a milestone schedule demonstrating a 2 year project timeline, noting that the timeline could possibly be condensed.

Ms. Salina asked if the project has been determined as “renovate as new” or “new”. Mr. Wyszynski responded that the status won’t be determined by the state until after the grant is submitted. He noted that in prior meetings with the Office of School Construction Grants Review (OSGCR) the discussion was around “renovate as new”.

Mr. Wyszynski reviewed the projected cost summary, noting the project cost estimate is equal to the amount approved at referendum. He presented conceptual site plans, noting they are a test fit of the education specifications and program needs. Mr. Wyszynski walked the board through the design for the proposed renovations and addition. In response to Mr. Burrick, he explained how the current stair situation will be addressed, adding ramps in 3 locations. In response to Mr. Curtis, Mr. Wyszynski stated the amount of new construction is 16,000 square feet. He pointed out that the special education locations are centralized as part of the core spaces.

Ms. Salina asked if the amount of parking will be increased. Mr. Wyszynski stated that there are currently 100 spaces and the number will be increased slightly, along with stabilizing other locations for potential parking when needed. In response to Mr. Watson, he addressed the playgrounds and fields.

B. Proposed 2021-22 Textbooks

Ms. Lemke stated that there is one new textbook proposed for next year. The text is for the AP Statistics class, *The Practice of Statistics* by Starnes/Tabor. Ms. Lemke stated that the text matches the updated AP Central curriculum and uses technology throughout the text. The text has been reviewed by teachers and the administration, and is available for review in the Assistant Superintendent’s office.

C. Fee Schedule for Use of Simsbury Public Schools

Mr. Sullivan briefly reviewed the proposed fee schedule. He noted the increase is approximately 2% over last year in order to cover costs, such as custodial wages.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Ms. Batchelar reported that at the last Curriculum Committee meeting the addition of the American Sign Language course for next year was discussed. Ms. Lemke stated that there has been enough enrollment in the course to offer 2 sections. Seniors interested in taking the course will receive the curriculum through Proximity Learning, which the district also uses for Chinese. Students in grades 9-11 will have an in-person class for American Sign Language.

Ms. Salina asked about the process for changing Columbus Day. Ms. Lemke responded that information is being put together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Proposed 2021-22 Textbooks

Fee Schedule for Use of SPS

Public Audience

Executive

Ms. Thomas: MOVE to enter executive session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thomas: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Session

Adjournment