

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Special Meeting

June 13, 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, Lydia Tedone and Jen Batchelar. Messrs. Mike Goman, Todd Burrick and Jeff Tindall.

Members absent: Mrs. Susan Salina and Mr. Tom Frank.

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

SHS Yearbook Editors, Isabelle Dorman and Keara Dennehy, presented board members with the 2018 yearbook and spoke about how the musical theme was woven throughout the book. Ms. Murray introduced Nicole Briand who is one of the recipients of the Kathleen Magowan Scholarship Award. Other winners, not in attendance, were Allison Driscoll, Mary Firestone, Katherine Keenan and T'ajah Howard. Each student earned a \$1,000 scholarship during Awards Night.

Recognitions

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Duane Royce, 26 Harvest Hill Road, requested that pickle ball lines be added to the tennis courts at either HJMS or SHS. He noted the number of senior citizens playing pickle ball in town and the need for additional courts.

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Dorman reported on end of year school activities and thanked the board for her time serving as student representative. Ms. Tedone reported on NSBA activities in Washington D.C.

Communications

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Tariffville School principal search process has begun. Cabinet members held screening interviews yesterday. Chosen candidates will be forwarded to the screening committee on June 20th and the selection committee on June 25th. The anticipated appointment by the board is in early July. Ms. Murray noted the Simsbury teachers who were honored in this year's CT Writer's Magazine, along with our students.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 meeting.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded.

B. Personnel

Approval of
Minutes of May
22, 2018
Meeting

<p>Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Chris Cannata effective June 30, 2018</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.</p>	Personnel
<p>C. Approval of Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments</p> <p>Mr. Burke noted that health insurance employee contributions were increased.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: MOVE that the salary range for the unaffiliated Board of Education employees and salaries for the Central Office Administrators be increased by 2.50% for the 2018-19 fiscal year.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p>	Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments
<p>D. Approval of Superintendent's Contract</p> <p>Mr. Goman stated that it is the goal of the board to maintain competitive salaries across the district. He noted that compensation structures for superintendents are complex. In reviewing the compensation packages of neighboring towns it appears that Simsbury is no longer consistent with being competitive, and this year the board would like to start to move in the right direction to correct this situation. Mr. Goman suggested that the superintendent's contract be reviewed during next year's budget process so that an allowance can be provided to compensate the superintendent in line with others going forward.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's contract for 2018-21 with a salary increase of 3.0% for 2018-19.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p>	Superintendent's Contract
<p>E. Approval of Educational Specifications for Henry James Phase III Project</p> <p>Mr. LaClair noted that this is a requirement of the state grant process and the grant is due June 30th. He briefly reviewed the components of the educational specifications and stated that he will meet with the state on June 20th. Mr. Goman stated that the document is very thorough.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the Educational Specifications for the proposed Henry James Memorial School Extension/Alteration Phase III Project.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p>	Educational Specifications for HJMS Phase III Project
<p>F. Gift from Tariffville PTO</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$2,000 to Tariffville School from the Tariffville Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p>	Gift from Tariffville PTO
<p>G. Carl D. Perkins Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant Sustainability Plan Approval</p>	Carl D. Perkins

Ms. Murray stated that Joncia Lytwynec put forward this enhancement grant geared toward career and technology development departments. Ms. Lytwynec stated that a laser cutter and an automotive diagnostic program will be purchased with the grant funds.

Mr. Goman: MOVE that the Carl D. Perkins Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant Sustainability Plan be approved.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

H. Adoption of Policy Revisions

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to adopt both new and revised Board of Education Policies: Truancy, Class Size, Student Discipline, Wellness, Website ADA Compliance Disclaimer and Gifted Children Program, effective June 13, 2018.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

I. BOE Summer Meeting Schedule

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education cancel regular board meetings scheduled on July 10, July 24, August 14 and August 28, 2018.

Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. School Start Time Report

Ms. Murray stated that the topic of school start time came up during a yearlong study on student stress at SHS. The SHS Leadership Team conducted research over the course of this year during which they reviewed literature, gathered initial stakeholder input, heard a presentation by a sleep expert, and were presented information about the impact on athletics and transportation. The team identified potential benefits and questions associated with moving our high school/middle school start times to later in the morning.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed how transportation to and from the 7 schools is currently run. He stated that the transportation study looked at 3 potential start times: 8:00, 8:15 and 8:30. The initial conclusion is that a 2 bus wave system, rather than the current 3 wave system would need to be implemented. Mr. Sullivan reviewed transportation configurations based on the 3 potential start times. He noted that if the switch was made to 2 waves then it is unlikely we could continue to bus St. Mary's students and would instead need to reimburse Simsbury families for the mileage they would drive to and from St. Mary's School.

Ms. Murray discussed the potential benefits in favor of a later start time. This included the health benefits of additional sleep for students and the impact of additional sleep on athletic performance and academics. Ms. Murray also discussed the potential challenges in changing school start times, in particular the effects on athletics and transportation. She reviewed suggested next steps in the study process that include (1) a more specific survey to stakeholders with actual start times, (2)

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School Start
Time Report

review of what other districts have found after making this change , (3) how our athletic facilities can support this change, (4) possible teacher contract issues, (5) potential adjustments to the homework policy, (6) the impact on Choice student transportation, (7) the effect of daycare costs for parents, (7) the potential loss of instructional time for athletes and teacher coaches, and (8) how the buses would be reconfigured.

Mr. Curtis pointed out that this year's initial survey was only conceptual; the next survey would question the actual impact of specific start times on families/stakeholders. Mr. Goman suggested that there be consideration of just moving the SHS start time, and not HJMS.

Mr. Burrick stated that he was on the Leadership Team and his concerns would be addressed in the further study. He noted that there are benefits, but it is necessary to make sure it is the right thing for our district.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Laura Rodenbusch, 4 Sherwood Lane, stated that the primary reason to have a later start time at SHS is mental health. She noted statistics relative to lost sleep and mental health for teenagers. Ms. Rodenbusch spoke about making public health a priority.

Ms. Willerup stated that Mr. Frank has similar feelings to Ms. Rodenbusch. She pointed out that this must be a community based decision.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Goman: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Public Audience

Adjournment