

# TOWN OF SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

October 9, 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, Tom Frank and Jeff Tindall.

**Members absent:** Mr. Mike Goman.

**Also present:** Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Erin Murray, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Business Manager Burke LaClair, Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Katie Galt and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Galt noted Fire Department visits and lockdown drills took place at the elementary schools. HJMS is celebrating Spanish month. She stated that SHS held the SAT's last Saturday and will hold the PSAT tomorrow.

Communications

Ms. Tedone reminded everyone of the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November.

Mr. Sullivan stated that October 24<sup>th</sup> is a half-day of school and in the afternoon the town's emergency services will create a simulation of an active threat at SHS. The police, fire and ambulance departments will all be involved in conjunction with the school district administration. SHS teachers will test our procedures as this event unfolds.

Ms. Murray provided an update on the school start time study. She stated that Hanover Research is working with us to gather information into a one page summary and to administer the survey after Thanksgiving. Mr. LaClair stated that there were 8 responses to the Facilities Master Plan RFP. After firms are interviewed, and a selection is made an update will be provided to the board.

Mr. Curtis stated that he and Ms. Murray met with Richard Lemons today to prepare for next week's strategic planning workshop.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Frank: MOVE to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting.

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

B. Gift from Latimer Lane PTO

Approval of  
Minutes of  
September 25,  
2018

<p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the proposed gift from the Latimer Lane School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>C. Gift to Cultural Enrichment Committee</p> <p>Ms. Salina: MOVE that the proposed gift of funds from all the elementary school parent-teacher organizations to provide cultural programming to elementary school students be accepted.</p> <p>Mr. Tindal: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Gift from Latimer Lane PTO</p> <p>Gift to Cultural Enrichment Committee</p>
<p><u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u></p> <p>A. Oct. 1 Enrollment Report/Magnet School Enrollment</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan presented the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment for 2018 versus 2017. Overall enrollment decreased by 21 students. With regard to elementary enrollment, Tootin' Hills School had the largest difference with an increase of 18 children. The actual enrollment districtwide is 22 students higher than projected. Mr. Sullivan reviewed enrollment by grade level. He pointed out that 3 kindergarten teachers needed to be hired after approval of the budget.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan presented a 10 year history of the projected enrollment versus actual enrollment. He pointed out that over the past 3 years the actual enrollment has been greater than projected. Over the past 5 years overall enrollment has decreased by 236 students, or 5.5%, most of which has occurred at the upper elementary and middle school levels. For 15 year elementary enrollment has decreased, but we expect it will start to trend upward. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that we have 101 Pre-K students who are not included in the number we report to the state. Currently the largest cohorts are in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. As they move out of the high school, and with classes of 300 coming in from HJMS, we will see a drop in enrollment at SHS.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan stated that we have 167 Open Choice students in the district. We have met the 4% threshold for the highest level of reimbursement from the state. Mr. Sullivan discussed magnet school enrollment for Simsbury students. There are 143 students in full-time programs. Half of these students are in Pre-K or Kindergarten programs. We have 9 students in magnet school half-day programs. Ms. Willerup asked how much we pay for Simsbury students who attend magnet schools. Mr. LaClair stated that it is an expenditure of approximately \$200,000, or \$4,000 per student.</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan reviewed new housing developments and new construction in town. He noted the increased enrollment as a result of the developments that already have occupancy. Mr. Sullivan also provided information on when the newer developments will be ready for occupancy.</p> <p>B. Class Size Report</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan addressed class size at the elementary level. He provided data on the number of classes exceeding the range and the number of classes below the range. Currently there are 4 classes exceeding the range. This is comprised of one 4<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Oct. 1 Enrollment Report/Magnet School Enrollment</p> <p>Class Size Report</p>

grade classroom at Tootin' Hills School and three 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms at Squadron Line School. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that enrollment in Kindergarten and Grade 1 has grown every year over the past ten years.

Anjanette Belmonte, HJMS Assistant Principal, noted that overall there has been a decrease in the number of classes at the middle school. This year the number of students declined by 48 students, therefore lowering the number of sections. A new Wellness course was added to the schedule this year. Currently there are 4 Math classes exceeding the class size range, and 5 Wellness classes. There are 25 classes below the range, which is a decrease from 51 classes last year.

Ken Pera, SHS Assistant Principal, stated that there are not too many changes in the high school schedule compared to last year. The number of classes exceeding class size guidelines is 44, which is a decrease from 63 last year. The number of classes below the guideline is 84, down from 105 last year. Mr. Pera noted that there are 64 singleton classes and 45 doubleton classes. He pointed out that offering these singleton classes provides the ability for our students to explore areas they may not have the opportunity to do otherwise, and it is what makes SHS great.

Ms. Willerup asked how many core classes exceed the guidelines. Mr. Pera responded that there are 10 hi-level core classes with more than 25 students.

#### PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Frank: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

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Todd Burrick  
Secretary

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Katie Wilde  
Recording Secretary

Public Audience

Adjournment