

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

October 27, 2020

Ms. Susan Salina called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Lydia Tedone and Jen Batchelar. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson.

Members absent: Mmes. Tara Willerup and Sharon Thomas.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Erin Murray, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Miriam Johnson, 320 Bushy Hill Road, expressed concern with an 8th grade assignment relative to the presidential election. The assignment involved a comparison of both candidates, and she suggested that leading words were used and the assignment did not employ critical thinking.

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Tedone reported on a NSBA Public School Transformation webinar she participated in. Mr. Sullivan noted that 4 schools will be used as polling locations and he thanked those principals and custodians for all they have done to make sure the schools are safe and clean. Ms. Murray reported on how Veterans Day will be celebrated in the schools. She stated that 198 SHS students participated in an online math competition.

Communications

Mr. Curtis stated that he and Amy met with Jeff Wysznski (Tecton) and Jeff will facilitate a meeting with the state. Mr. Curtis met with the PTO presidents this morning and talked the through the first months of school. Mr. Curtis presented the most recent data from the Farmington Valley Health District, noting that he will share more detailed information in a parent/staff letter at the end of the week.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2020 Special Meeting

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 Special Meeting.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of
Minutes of
October 7, 2020
Special Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of
Minutes of
October 13,
2020 Meeting

C. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between the Simsbury

Approval of

<p>Board of Education and The Simsbury Federation of Educational Personnel Local No. 3656 (SFEP)</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan stated that the SFEP includes paraprofessionals, secretaries and some library assistants. He reviewed the revisions to the previous contract.</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar:MOVE that the Board of Education ratify the proposed changes in the collective bargaining agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury Federation of Educational Personnel for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p><u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u></p> <p>A. Capstone Coordinator Overview</p> <p>Ms. Murray introduced Liz McKay, Capstone Coordinator and former SHS social studies teacher. Ms. Murray stated that the capstone program aligns with Simsbury's Vision of a Graduate, and will be state requirement starting with the class of 2023.</p> <p>Ms. McKay stated that students will complete their capstone experience in grades 11 or 12. She noted that as a result of the learning clusters at SHS, some students are already on a path that includes capstone components. Students with interests that are unique are community based or who prefer a self-study, will be allowed to choose their own area of inquiry. A two semester capstone framework to support student-driven capstone projects explicitly aligned with the Vision of a Graduate is being designed. Revised course registration materials and procedures will be developed to clarify capstone experience paths.</p> <p>Ms. McKay reviewed the core capstone components and the eight phases of the capstone experience. She noted that assessments at the end of each phase allows for student self-direction. The emphasis will be on the process and the student's ability to grow and improve, not just on the end product. Ms. McKay discussed the communication channels and types of communication that will be shared with students, families and staff this school year. She shared her vision for the role of the capstone coordinator during 2020-21.</p> <p>Mr. Curtis stated that the capstone work brings our strategic plan to fruition, and will provide coherence K-12. Ms. Murray noted that this work provides an opportunity that can follow students through life.</p> <p>Ms Salina stated that she is glad students can choose from opportunities outside of the learning clusters. She asked if a student's capstone project will be tied to an advisor and graded at points along the process. Ms. McKay responded that there will be a course framework in place and students can work with a faculty advisor or community member if they choose. Mr. Tindall asked how the capstone project has been received by teachers. Ms. McKay stated that the teachers she has spoken with are already doing this work and other teachers want to grow their programs through the capstone program.</p> <p>B. HJMS Project Update</p>	<p>SFEP Contract</p> <p>Capstone Coordinator Overview</p> <p>HJMS Project</p>
---	---

Jason Casey, Interim Director of Special Projects/Director of Systems Technology, reported on the status of Phase 3 of the HJMS construction project. The project is substantially complete and the space can be occupied for its intended use. Contractors remain onsite finishing up the approximately 20 items remaining. Contractors should no longer be onsite by the end of November. Mr. Casey stated that the project is coming in approximately \$1.2 million under budget. He presented pictures of the renovated spaces.

C. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Ms. Meriwether reported on state and federal grant awards to the district, noting that not all grants have been awarded yet. She reviewed expenditures to date. Ms. Meriwether noted that specifically, there is an increase in the insurance/pension budget line item due to an increase in the defined pension plan annual contribution that was budgeted for. It is expected that the out of district tuition budget line item will be in a deficit due to two unanticipated outplacements this year.

Ms. Meriwether stated that there have been no COVID related expenditures in the past couple of weeks. She stated the district has applied for the re-distribution of funds from the CARES Act, for an additional \$80,000, if awarded.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Update

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Public Audience

Adjournment