

TOWN OF SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

November 14, 2017

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Mrs. Susan Salina and 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 Dylan Fitch and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Ms. Willerup acknowledged Boy Scout Troop 175 with some of their members in the audience.

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fitch updated board members on activities at the elementary schools and HJMS. He noted that SHS and HJMS held their Freedom Pen-a-Thon on Veterans Day and created wooden pens that were given to service members. Mr. Fitch also noted that on Saturday a celebration was held in honor of long-time SHS English teacher Marie Miller who passed away in the spring.

Communications

Ms. Tedone reported that the CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held this upcoming weekend. Mr. Goman stated the Facilities & Enrollment Task Force met and received updates on areas related to enrollment.

Ms. Lemke reported that the SHS Unified Flag Football Team competed with 20 schools in CT and MA and placed 2nd in the tournament. SHS is one of two high schools in CT with a Unified Flag Football team. Ms. Murray reported on professional development activities that occurred on Election Day. She noted that a districtwide Math in Focus parent night will be held on December 6th at Latimer Lane School.

Mr. Curtis pointed out the 2016-17 District Annual Report which provides a snapshot of the district's performance last year. The report is available at the schools, central office and town offices. Mr. Curtis discussed the HJMS \$23 million project that was proposed last year and put on hold due to the uncertainty of the state budget. He stated that the possibility of a grade 6/7/8 school was discussed at the Facilities & Enrollment Task Force meeting. Mr. Curtis suggested that the board hold a capital improvement project workshop to review the HJMS project and discuss the additional school projects going forward, as now the projects are backed up because only the SHS tennis court project moved forward in last year's budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2017

Approval of

Mr. Goman: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting.	Minutes of October 24, 2017
Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Tedone abstained.	
B. Personnel	Personnel
Mr. Sullivan provided information on Dana Pescatello who will teach the English classes at SHS that were previously taught by Nilda Irizarry.	
C. Acceptance of Marie V. Miller Scholarship	Marie V. Miller Scholarship
Mr. Frank: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Marie V. Miller Scholarship, to be disbursed beginning in 2018.	
Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.	
D. Approval of 2018 BOE Meeting Calendar	2018 BOE Meeting Calendar
Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education set their 2018 meeting schedule as outlined in the November 14, 2017 board exhibit.	
Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.	
E. Cancellation of November 28, 2017 Meeting	Cancellation of November 28, 2017 Meeting
Ms. Tedone: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on November 28, 2017.	
Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.	
<u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u>	
A. Elementary Academic Report	Elementary Academic Report
Mike Luzietti, Latimer Lane School Principal, stated that the school year began looking at student benchmark data and performance over time to understand the areas needing supports. He noted that the BOE 5 year goals include 2 related to elementary school academic performance. These achievement indicators are: (1) Grade level performance in Reading at the end of 3 rd grade; and (2) grade level performance in Reading, Writing, and Math at the end of 6 th grade. Mr. Luzietti pointed out that reading is assessed in all grades, but 6 th grade is the gateway to middle school.	
Mr. Luzietti presented data on 3 rd grade DRA2 (Developmental Reading Assessment 2) and DRP (Degrees of Reading Power) scores, as well as 6 th grade DRP scores. He pointed out the growth from 3 rd grade to 6 th grade in the DRP score. He noted growth in the elementary writing data as well. Mr. Luzietti briefly reviewed the CMT Science data, noting that this was the last year for this test and it was the first year it was taken online. The NGSS (Next Generation State Standards) test will be piloted with a practice test next year and the real test the following year.	
Meg Evans, Squadron Line School Principal, reviewed the SBAC ELA/Literacy	

scores. She noted that Simsbury continues to have strong scores and last year adopted new Teachers College reading units. Ms. Evans addressed the Math scores, noting that the district is working to improve the scores with the Math in Focus curriculum. She stated that with the STAR assessment, which is used as an internal marker, there has been improvement. She also noted that three of the DRG B districts who outperformed Simsbury use Math in Focus.

Ms. Evans addressed SBAC scores for special education and regular education students. She stated that the district continues to address the achievement gap and monitoring of student progress. At the end of the marking period mid-cycle conversations will be held reviewing the data, our instructional practices and reflection on the results.

Ms. Evans discussed the culture and climate programs in each of the elementary schools. She reviewed the areas of strength and areas of focus resulting from the climate survey that was given to 3rd and 5th grade students and parents, as well as all faculties in each school. An area of concern for families is to increase learning activities that better match the interests of their children. This is being addressed through the inquiry thinking that is part of the Math in Focus and Science curriculums.

Mr. Luzietti addressed the areas of focus for the current school year. These include: (1) The implementation of Math in Focus; (2) Math coaching support; (3) ongoing support in Language Arts; (4) data review cycles in PLC meetings; and (5) growth mindset. Mr. Luzietti commented on the value of the Math coaches and the desire to have one in each building.

Ms. Evans provided a budget preview. She noted the importance of maintaining professional development. Support in preparation for NGSS will be important, as the testing date was pushed up to 2019 when the state received a federal waiver for the testing. Ms. Evans pointed out that how we teach Science will be similar to how we now teach Math. She stated that principals would prefer to have a building-based Math coach. Principals would also like to continue to enhance resources that maintain the rigor and support student interests. Ms. Evans pointed out that our facilities need attention and there is a need to focus on building maintenance and updates.

B. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. LaClair presented the preliminary draft of the 2019-2024 capital improvement plan. He noted that since the SHS tennis court project was the only item funded in 2017-18, there are a number of projects now on the schedule for next year. Mr. LaClair reviewed the projects that fall into fiscal year 2019. He stated that 105,000 square feet of the SHS roof needs to be replaced and will be out of warranty in 2018. Mr. LaClair noted that additional projects for review are: (1) Additional school roof replacements, (2) district security improvements; (3) school facilities master planning; and (4) building maintenance/improvements too large for CNR funding.

C. 2018-19 Budget Calendar

Mr. LaClair briefly reviewed the 2018-19 budget calendar.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

6 Year Capital
Improvement
Plan

2018-19 Budget
Calendar

Public Audience

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Frank: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Adjournment