

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

December 12, 2017

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. Mike Goman, Todd Burrick, Tom Frank 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.

RECOGNITION

SHS senior Brennan McDermott and 8th grader Ben Warner were recognized as recipients of the CAPSS Superintendent's Student Award which was presented during a luncheon in November.

Recognition

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fitch noted activities throughout the district including elementary report card conferences, PJ Day, Math in Focus parent night and music concerts.

Communications

Mr. Batchelar reported that she attended CAFE's new board member training which provided a great day of learning. Ms. Tedone reported on the CAFE/CAPSS Conference. She noted that Simsbury received a communications award honorable mention for our See the Need marketing materials and the new Simsbury Arts Academy logo. The Simsbury BOE was recognized as a board of distinction.

Ms. Salina reported that the district team evaluating a later secondary school start time has convened. She noted that Mr. Curtis sent a survey to all families within the district on this topic.

Mr. Sullivan reported on the outside security expert who evaluated SHS and Squadron Line School. He stated that, once received, his recommendations will be replicated at other schools. Mr. Murray stated that the early release day this week will be a building-based professional day for faculty. She noted that the parent Math in Focus session had an attendance of 75-85 parents and positive feedback was received.

Mr. LaClair provided an update on energy efficiency and savings efforts. He stated that a proposal to locate a fuel cell at SHS, to generate electricity to meet the needs of the building, will likely come before the board this winter. Mr. LaClair also noted that there is also the potential for a microgrid project at SHS.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

<p>A. Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2017 Meeting</p> <p>Mr. Goman: MOVE to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Salina and Mr. Burrick abstained.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2017</p>
<p>B. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2017 Workshop</p> <p>Mr. Frank: MOVE to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2017 workshop.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved. Mmes. Tedone and Salina abstained.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2017</p>
<p>C. Gift from Latimer Lane PTO</p> <p>Ms. Salina: MOVE that the proposed gift of funds to purchase Chromebooks and iPads to Latimer Lane School from the Latimer Lane School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Gift from Latimer Lane PTO</p>
<p>D. Election of Officers</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: MOVE that Ms. Willerup be nominated for Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: MOVE that Ms. Willerup be elected as Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Mr. Frank: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that Mr. Goman be nominated Vice Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that Mr. Goman be elected as Vice Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: MOVE that Mr. Burrick be nominated for Secretary of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Ms. Salina: MOVE that Mr. Burrick be elected as Secretary of the Simsbury Board of Education.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</p>	<p>Election of Officers</p>

A. Special Education Program Review

Special Ed Program Review

Ms. Lemke stated that students are always at the center of special education. She provided SBAC and SAT DRG B comparative data for special education students. Ms. Lemke noted that Simsbury scores the highest in both the ELA and Math SAT. The SBAC ELA scores are also high, and as with general education students the math scores need further work. Ms. Lemke provided assessment data on the performance of general education students versus special education students in Simsbury.

Ms. Lemke discussed how the achievement gap is being addressed. She stated that test results were shared with teachers at the beginning of the year. Growth and development goals were set for teachers. Ms. Lemke noted that the curriculum shift to Math in Focus involves collaboration between special education and general education teachers. STAR assessment data is being used to see how students are progressing throughout the year. The practices of co-teaching are also being broadened.

Nancy Forsberg, Supervisor of Special Education Instruction, addressed dyslexia. She stated that the state looks at dyslexia as a sub-area of students with disabilities. In collaboration with Simsbury Reading Instruction Program (SRIP), and the Reading Intervention teachers, layers of intervention are put in place in order to identify students with dyslexia early on.

Ms. Lemke discussed the focus on transition. She stated that there is a Transition Task Force in place to ensure transitions for special education students are effective and as easy as possible. This year there is a focus on assessment practices; increasing students' independence; Chamber of Commerce collaboration: SEPTO and the STEP program. The STEP program develops opportunities for SHS special education students to engage in employment.

Ms. Forsberg briefly discussed mental health, noting that the Ross Greene method of collaborative problem solving is utilized in the district. This concept is that kids will do well if they can, from a behavior standpoint. Ms. Forsberg noted that school psychologists and social workers have formed Professional Learning Communities with each other to discuss school anxiety, mindfulness, executive functioning and collaborative problem solving.

Ms. Lemke stated that during fall professional development special education teachers taught general education teachers what to look for and how to address it. She addressed program service delivery and ensuring that specialists implement instruction at content level standards.

Ms. Lemke addressed state reporting. She noted that the state indicated that Simsbury is over-identifying white students with intellectual disabilities. As a result, a comprehensive report had to be submitted to the state. Also, in this year's state budget there is a new requirement that districts engage in Medicaid billing. Ms. Lemke stated that she is working with Mr. LaClair on the process, which will begin this spring. Farmington Valley Transition Academy (FVTA) student Derek Regenauer addressed the board and discussed his education experiences in Simsbury, his accomplishments and his plans for the future.

B. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Mr. Sullivan discussed NESDEC's enrollment projections through 2022-23. He noted that the largest cohorts are currently in the high school and the largest cohort in the district is 8th grade. Mr. Sullivan stated that a K-12 decline of 291 students is projected over the next 5 years. Enrollment begins to increase after 5 years.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out that next year enrollment at SHS is expected to increase by 3 students but over the 5 year period is projected to decline by 193 students. Mr. Sullivan stated that although enrollment at HJMS will decline next year, it will go back up the following year as there is a large 5th grade class currently. Mr. Sullivan noted that based on projections there is a substantial decline in enrollment at SHS between 2018 and 2020, at which time staffing will need to be addressed. Mr. Sullivan stated that with the current economy and real estate developments we can continue to anticipate stronger in-migration. He noted that he tracks the student yield from the new developments in Simsbury.

C. 2018-19 Budget

Mr. Curtis provided a high level look in order to provide context for the 2018-19 budget. He stated that the central office administrators have met with all of the principals regarding their individual school budgets and will debrief in the coming days. Mr. Curtis reviewed Simsbury's per pupil expenditure and how it compares to other towns in Connecticut. He pointed out that declining enrollment causes this number to increase. In addition, any capital projects paid for in cash goes into the per pupil cost.

Mr. Curtis gave a recap of the 2017-18 budget. He noted that as superintendent he requested an increase of 2.48%, and the final budget was an increase of .99%. Mr. Curtis stated that there will be no significant efficiencies in classroom teachers next year based on projected enrollment. Mr. Frank asked if technology allows us to increase class size and teach just as effectively. Mr. Curtis responded that there are some areas and courses where technology can make a difference, but with all of the curriculum changes and state mandates we would not make that kind of change at this time.

Mr. Curtis noted that at the three board meeting the BOS and BOE were given a budget cap of 1.75%. He stated that the important factors to consider are (1) the state deficit in the current year and future years; (2) an expected grand list growth of 1.5-2.0%; town reserve levels; and the health insurance internal service fund. Mr. Curtis stated that the BOF is open to transferring town funds to the internal service fund. In 2015-16 the BOF transferred \$3 million from the internal service fund into OPEB. In prior years the BOE would budget \$200,000 to \$300,000 toward the internal service fund. Last year the cost was \$700,000 and next year it is likely to be \$1,000,000.

Mr. Curtis reviewed the fixed budget costs, noting that they equate to a budget increase of 3.12% next year. There are six known retirements which brings the increase down to 2.9%. Mr. Curtis outlined the next steps in the budget process.

D. Review of BOE Committee Assignments

Ms. Willerup stated that the committee assignments have been updated with the

NESDEC
Enrollment
Projections

2018-19 Budget

Review of BOE
Committee
Assignments

<p>addition of Ms. Batchelar as a board member.</p> <p><u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u> None</p> <p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.</p> <div><div><hr/><div>Todd Burrick Secretary</div></div><div><hr/><div>Katie Wilde Recording Secretary</div></div></div>		<p>Public Audience</p> <p>Adjournment</p>
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