

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 26, 2023  
Simsbury High School  
Room D-172  
6:30 p.m.  
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. RECOGNITIONS
- IV. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS
- VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
  - A. Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2023 Meeting EXHIBIT I
  - B. Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2023 Special Meeting EXHIBIT II
  - C. Personnel EXHIBIT III
  - D. Acceptance of Gift from Latimer Lane School PTO EXHIBIT IV
  - E. Acceptance of Gift from Tariffville School PTO EXHIBIT V
  - F. Acceptance of Donation to HJMS EXHIBIT VI
- VII. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
  - A. School Opening Report EXHIBIT VII
  - B. SHS Academic Report EXHIBIT VIII
  - C. Year End Financial Results EXHIBIT IX
- VIII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IX. FUTURE BUSINESS
  - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 2023,  
BOE Conference Room

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[www.simsburytv.org](http://www.simsburytv.org).*

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

June 13, 2023

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

**Members present:** Mmes. Susan Salina, Lydia Tedone, Jen Batchelar and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Todd Burrick and Brian Watson. Mr. Jeff Tindall arrived at 6:41 p.m.

**Members absent:** Mrs. Tara Willerup.

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

RECOGNITIONS

Emilie Carroll, SHS Yearbook Editor, presented yearbooks to board members and spoke about the theme of the yearbook. Ms. Lemke introduced the students who were recipients of the Kathleen Magowan Scholarship Awards: Kelsey Alonzo, Megan Alonzo, Carmine Trovato, Libby Tennant, Caitlin Wilde and Madeliene Orosz.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

**Paul Marten**, 8 Karen Lane, referenced a resolution passed by the Colorado teachers union stating that capitalism is in opposition to addressing racism, climate change, and gender inequities. He stated that he has worked for years in socialist countries and socialism is a profound danger to our lifestyle. He suggested that teachers stay out of matters that they know nothing about.

**Lori Boyko**, 15 Oakhurst Road, stated that during the first and second readings of the proposed policies board members have not expressed their opinion. She suggested that there are policies that are inappropriate for children. Ms. Boyko stated that students struggling with mental health can become confused about reality. She stated that it is impossible to become the other sex and these students suffer from body dysmorphia.

**Sarah Pappa**, 8 Buttonwood Drive, expressed her concern with the proposed policy. She stated that the section addressing student and parent disagreement about gender markers should not be the child's decision. She also expressed concern with females not feeling safe if students with male anatomy share the same bathroom. Ms. Pappa stated that allowing students to compete in sports based on their gender identity is in opposition to Title IX.

**Kevin Bradley**, 4 East View Drive, Canton, stated that he has two children in the Simsbury school district. He expressed concern with a book that was provided to his child during Equity Week at SHS. He suggested an option be provided to exclude children from certain discussions. Mr. Bradley stated that pressure from the state is affecting our children in ways that they may never recover from, but at some point,

Recognitions

Public Audience

the tide will turn.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Watson reported on the first HJMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and its success. Ms. Batchelar concurred with Mr. Watson and stated that last night's SHS graduation, regardless of the rain, was amazing.

Ms. Tedone stated she was very impressed with the Capstone presentations at SHS that she attended. She noted the Farmington Valley Transition Academy (FVTA) graduation at Auer Farm and congratulated the students who graduated. Ms. Tedone reported on the legislative session that ended last week and the passing of the education bill. She stated that on Thursday CAFE will hold a legislative wrap-up session.

Mr. Curtis noted the success of the SHS graduation, pointing out that 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduations also took place this week. Ms. Salina also commented on the success of the Capstone presentations in the first year they are required for graduation. She reported on the FVTA graduation of 10 students, 3 from Simsbury. Ms. Salina noted the annual success of the SHS art show.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

#### A. Approval of Minutes of May 23, 2023 Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved. Mr. Burrick abstained.

#### B. Approval of Minutes of May 31, 2023 Special Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2023 special meeting.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved. Messrs. Burrick, Watson and Ms. Thomas abstained.

#### C. Personnel

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Matt Spector, Carolyn Weiser, and Stuart Younse effective June 30, 2023.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Amy Muska effective June 30, 2023.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Paula Garza effective June 30, 2026.

#### D. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Communications

Approval of  
Minutes of May  
23, 2023  
Meeting

Approval of  
Minutes of May  
31, 2023 Special  
Meeting

Personnel

Approval of  
Superintendent's

Mr. Burrick, Chairman of Personnel & Negotiations Committee, stated he leads the review of the superintendent each year. These were complete and comprehensive meetings during which there was reflection on the past year. Mr. Burrick stated he is pleased that we have such a strong superintendent who manages the many moving pieces of running a district.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's contract for 2023-26 with a salary increase of 3% for 2023-24.

Mr. Watson: Seconded.

Mr. Watson stated the district is very fortunate to have Mr. Curtis as superintendent. Ms. Tedone noted that it is an exception to have a superintendent for 11 years in one district. She noted Mr. Curtis' exceptional work and work ethic.

The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Mr. Curtis stated his appreciation for the support of the board.

E. Approval of Policy Revisions

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the 4 step process for the review of policies. He noted that many policy changes are driven by legislative policy changes. He stated tonight is the final review and vote on the proposed policies.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adopt the revised Board of Education policies, as noted, effective June 13, 2023.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded.

Mr. Burrick stated that there was a lot of discussion at the Policy Committee meeting and adjustments were made before the policies came before the board. Ms. Thomas suggested that the policies be voted upon individually, based on the comments tonight, so that more information can get out to the community.

The vote was 6-1. Ms. Thomas voted nay. The motion passed.

F. End of Year Fiscal Authorizations

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to act as the Board's agent in renewing applications for state and federally funded programs.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Thomas abstained.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to transfer funds from those accounts in which a surplus is anticipated into those accounts in which a deficit is anticipated.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Contract

Approval of  
Policy Revisions

End of Year  
Fiscal  
Authorizations

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Superintendent, with the approval of the Board Chairman, be authorized to hire staff for the 2023-24 school year during the period of July and August when the Board is not in session.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

G. Acceptance of Gift from HJMS PTC

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$7,509 from the HJMS Parent Teacher Council be approved.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

H. BOE Summer Meeting Schedule

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education cancel regular board meetings scheduled on June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8 and August 22, 2023.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Farmington Valley Transition Academy Update

Ms. Lemke introduced Katie Krasula, Director of Pupil Services, and Emily Barrett, FVTA Director. Ms. Krasula thanked board members for visiting FVTA and attending graduation. She stated that FVTA is a collaboration between Farmington and Simsbury Public Schools that started in 2000. For many years the program has had a partnership with the University of Hartford and been located on their campus. This year there were 38 students in the program, 14 of which are from Simsbury. Students from the greater Hartford area and Farmington Valley have access to the program through their districts.

Ms. Barrett address what makes this program unique. This transition program teaches students aged 18-22 internship and life skills. The program has community partnerships and provides meaningful access for students to internships. Students receive job coaching and feedback for the internships they hold. Every Friday there are community trips where students practice their skills. Ms. Barrett stated the culture at FVTA is one of family.

Ms. Krasula stated that there are 36 students currently in internships throughout the Hartford area. Each student has 3 internships per week for a total of 108 placements per week. These opportunities create students who are employable and competitive in their pursuit of jobs. Ms. Krasula noted community recognitions the program has received.

Ms. Thomas asked if there is data demonstrating which internships lead to jobs. Ms. Krasula responded that she has that data. She reviewed the timeline for the location of FVTA starting with the move to the Babcock House and resulting with the current location at Auer Farm. Ms. Krasula stated that FVTA has a positive partnership with Auer Farm and continues to collaborate with the University of Hartford. A FVTA subgroup has been formed to work toward finding a permanent location for FVTA,

Acceptance of Gift from HJMS PTC

BOE Summer Meeting Schedule

FVTA Update

and site visits are underway. Ms. Krasula noted that FVTA offers opportunities for kids for a lifetime so they will be as independent as they can be.

**B. Curriculum Platform**

Ms. Lemke presented a K-12 curriculum online platform that will be available for public access in the fall. Over the past year, department supervisors have been creating an outline of the content taught at each grade level and in each course. This newly created tool provides the ability to read the abstract for each course, as well as descriptions of units of study within that course. Ms. Lemke noted that the platform will continue to be refined over the summer. Providing links from the Program of Studies and teacher webpages will also be considered.

Curriculum Platform

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

**Mangie Gerber**, Saxon Woods, Avon, read comments submitted by Jason & Aarti von Bartheld regarding a progress pride flag hanging in an art teacher's classroom.

Public Audience

**Lori Boyko**, 15 Oakhurst Road, expressed concern that the board members are not discussing the policy revisions in public. She suggested that this isn't a board meeting, it is a legislative meeting where details are not provided. Ms. Boyko stated she respects Mr. Curtis and the district administrations, but some of these matters need to be discussed by the board. She stated that students are being gaslighted and we are infringing on the rights of students without dysmorphic body disorders.

**Sara Pappa**, 8 Buttonwood Drive, stated she felt unheard and had just learned about the policy. She expressed concern that public comments were not taken into consideration which is unfortunate as members of the community.

**Nkosi and Grace Lee**, 235 Branford Street, Hartford. Mr. Lee stated that he has 4 sons in the Simsbury Public Schools and he has participated in the work around equity that has taken place since the incident at SHS. He stated that an offensive racist comment was shared with his son at Squadron Line School. Mr. Lee stated that the situation has not been dealt with or resolved, and there has been an overall lack of response. He pointed out that there is still work to be done in the district and he urged the board not be forgetful. He stated that incidents of racism are still happening, and he and his wife are meeting with Mr. Curtis tomorrow.

**Kevin Bradley**, 4 East View Drive, Canton, read comments submitted by Allie Smith expressing concern with children making their own gender identity decisions and sharing bathrooms and locker rooms with students of the opposite sex. Mr. Bradley stated that no one who wants to talk about sexuality with a minor should be with a minor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

Mr. Watson: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

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Jennifer Batchelar  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Wilde  
Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Special Meeting

July 24, 2023

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office at Simsbury Town Hall.

Roll Call:

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

**Members absent:** Ms. Sharon Thomas

**Also present:** Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter executive session to interview an administrative candidate and include Superintendent Matt Curtis at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Appointment of Director of Instructional Technology

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education appoint David Prinstein to the position of Director of Instructional Technology effective August 14, 2023.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter executive session to discuss an attorney-client privileged matter and include Superintendent Matt Curtis at 7:17 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

Executive Session

Appointment of Director of Instructional Technology

Executive Session

Adjournment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Batchelar  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Wilde  
Recording Secretary

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis  
DATE: September 26, 2023  
RE: Personnel Recommendations

## I. Resignations

### **Linda Beers**

Experience 21 years  
Assignment Music Teacher  
Effective July 20, 2023

### **Adam Colagrossi**

Experience 3 years  
Assignment Math Teacher  
Effective June 30, 2023

### **Stephanie Dunn**

Experience 19 years  
Assignment Special Education Teacher  
Effective September 29, 2023

### **Angela Griffin**

Experience 13 years  
Assignment Director of Music & Performing Arts  
Effective October 6, 2023

### **Andrew O'Brien**

Experience 8 years  
Assignment Director of Operations  
Effective July 3, 2023

### **Erica Pandolfi**

Experience 1 year  
Assignment Special Education Teacher  
Effective August 7, 2023

### **Kennedy Quirk**

Experience 2 years  
Assignment Elementary Teacher  
Effective June 30, 2023

### **Alice Shortell**

Experience 5 years  
Assignment Special Education Teacher  
Effective August 14, 2023

## **BOARD MOTION:**

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignations of Adam Colagrossi and Kennedy Quirk effective June 30, 2023; Andrew O'Brien effective July 3, 2023; Linda Beers effective July 20, 2023; Erica Pandolfi

effective August 7, 2023; Alice Shortell effective August 14, 2023; Stephanie Dunn effective September 29, 2023; and Angela Griffin effective October 6, 2023.”

## **II. Retirements**

### **Kim Lawlor**

Experience 30 years  
Assignment School Psychologist  
Effective September 28, 2023

### **Sara Sherry**

Experience 18 years  
Assignment Teacher of the Deaf  
Effective September 29, 2023

### **BOARD MOTION:**

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Kim Lawlor effective September 28, 2023 and Sara Sherry effective September 29, 2023.”

## **III. Notice of Intent to Retire**

### **Mary Boucher**

Experience Currently 24 years  
Assignment Reading Teacher, Henry James Memorial School  
Effective June 30, 2024

### **Leah Coe**

Experience Currently 20 years  
Assignment PK Special Education Supervisor  
Effective June 30, 2026

### **BOARD MOTION:**

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Mary Boucher effective June 30, 2024 and Leah Coe effective June 30, 2026.”

## **II. Appointments**

### **Central School**

### **Kristen Hogan**

Education BA & MA, University of New Hampshire  
Experience 6 years  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 7  
Assignment Grade 2  
Effective August 28, 2023

### **Mary Humason**

Education BA, Lesley University  
MA, Elms College  
Experience 13 years  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 10  
Assignment Special Education Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Anna Matthews**

Education BA, Eastern Connecticut State University  
 MA, University of St. Joseph  
 Experience 10 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 10  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Alexis Schwapp**

Education BA, Central Connecticut State University  
 Experience 2.5 years  
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 4  
 Assignment Grade 3  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Latimer Lane****Carli O'Connell**

Education BA & MA, Central Connecticut State University  
 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Piedmont College  
 Experience 16 years  
 Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Step 10  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Squadron Line****Heather Gilleran**

Education BA, Nazareth College, New York  
 Experience 2 years  
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 3  
 Assignment Music Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Austen Guglielmi**

Education BA, University of New Haven  
 MA, University of Connecticut  
 Experience 4 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 5  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher  
 Effective October 2, 2023

**Kelly Hayden**

Education BA, University of Hartford  
 MA, University of St. Joseph  
 Experience 13 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 10  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher  
 Effective October 2, 2023

**Kerrie Laverde**

Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
 Experience 0  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 1  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Lindsay Linton**

Education BA, Wheaton College  
 MA, University of St. Joseph  
 Experience 0 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 1  
 Assignment Grade 1 Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Carolyn Taylor**

Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
 Experience 7 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 7  
 Assignment Music Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Neyde Velasquez**

Education BA, Central Connecticut State University  
 Experience 0 years  
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 1  
 Assignment Grade 5 Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Tariffville School****Emily Noll**

Education BA, Providence College  
 Experience 1 year  
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 2  
 Assignment Grade 5 Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Tootin' Hills School****Maddie Cutler**

Education BA, Southern Connecticut State University  
 MA, Sacred Heart University  
 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Western Governor's University  
 Experience 4 years  
 Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Step 5  
 Assignment Grade 4  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Javier Rivera**

Education BA & MA, Boston University  
 Experience 3 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 4  
 Assignment Special Education teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Henry James Memorial School****Susan Boehm**

Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
 Experience 2 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 3  
 Assignment Science Teacher  
 Effective August 28, 2023

**Lauren Massaro**  
Education BA, University of New Hampshire  
Experience 0  
Salary Schedule BA, Step 1  
Assignment Wellness Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Sara Silverstein**  
Education BA, Marist  
MA, New York University  
Experience 5 years  
Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Step 6  
Assignment Social Worker  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Simsbury High School**

**Ryan Branch**  
Education BA, Lafayette College  
MA, Boston College  
Experience 10 years  
Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Step 10  
Assignment Family & Consumer Science Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Katherine Keenan**  
Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
Experience 0  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 1  
Assignment Social Studies Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Jeffrey Klein**  
Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
Experience 0  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 1  
Assignment Science Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Gregory Knight**  
Education BA & MA, University of Connecticut  
Experience 6 years  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 7  
Assignment Math Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Blaire Lentz**  
Education BA & MA, University of St. Joseph College  
6<sup>th</sup> year, Quinnipiac University  
Experience 1 year  
Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> year, Step 2  
Assignment English Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Natalia Pylypyszyn**

Education BA, University of Connecticut  
MA, Central Connecticut State University  
Experience 3 years  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 4  
Assignment MathTeacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Amanda Roy**

Education BA, James Madison University  
MA & 6<sup>th</sup> Year, Central Connecticut State University  
Experience 16 years  
Salary Schedule 7<sup>th</sup> Year, Step 10  
Assignment PE/Health Department Supervisor  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Jeffrey Stanwood**

Education BA, Western New England University  
MA, Southern New Hampshire University  
Experience 11 years  
Salary Schedule 6<sup>th</sup> year, Step 10  
Assignment Business Teacher  
Effective August 28, 2023

**Katrina Stodd Knapp**

Education BA, Luther College  
MA, New York University, Polytechnic Institute of New York University  
Experience 11 years  
Salary Schedule MA, Step 10  
Assignment Theater/Music Teacher

MTC:cdf

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: September 26, 2023  
RE: Acceptance of Gift from Latimer Lane PTO

In keeping with the Board of Education Policy 2311, Gifts from the Public, Board approval is required for any gift to the school system which exceeds \$1,500.

The administration is requesting Board of Education approval of a donation to Latimer Lane School from its parent-teacher organization of \$18,540. The purpose of the donation is to purchase and install a 40 foot traverse wall in the new gym.

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$18,540 to Latimer Lane School by the Latimer Lane School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.”

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: September 26, 2023  
RE: Acceptance of Gift from Tariffville School PTO

In keeping with the Board of Education Policy 2311, Gifts from the Public, Board approval is required for any gift to the school system which exceeds \$1,500.

The administration is requesting Board of Education approval of a donation to Tariffville School from its parent-teacher organization of \$3,000. This donation will help to defray the cost of the annual Grade 6 Camp Jewell trip for Tariffville School families.

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$3,000 to Tariffville School by the Tariffville School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.”

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: September 26, 2023  
RE: Acceptance of Donation from i2R Imagination to Reality

In keeping with the Board of Education Policy 2311, Gifts from the Public, Board approval is required for any gift to the school system which exceeds \$1,500.

The administration is requesting Board of Education approval of a donation to Henry James School from i2R Imagination to Reality for a CNC Machine valued at \$6,296. The purpose of the CNC Machine is to enable students in the STEM Lab to use coding and work with plexiglass.

“MOVE that the proposed gift of equipment valued at \$6,296 to Henry James School by the i2R Imagination to Reality be approved.”

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 26, 2023

RE: School Opening Report

We successfully kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with a high-energy, superhero themed convocation on Monday, August 28, 2023. We then welcomed all students back for the first day of the school year on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Tonight, the Central Office team will be providing the board with information relative to school opening from the Offices of Teaching and Learning, Human Resources, and Operations.

Mrs. Lemke will start by framing out the teaching and learning work for the year aligned to the board's strategic plan. Mrs. Lemke will discuss how the administrative team utilized data to prioritize strategic plan goals and set our direction for the coming school year. The specific areas of note and from which all building improvement plans are aligned:

- Ensure that our Vision of the Graduate (VoG) remains the driving force of our priorities.
- Refine our K-12 instruction and intervention processes to ensure all students achieve expected success.
- Focus on belonging for students, staff and families.
- Reboot our professional learning communities.
- Utilize professional development time to address these priorities in order to do better for students and each other, placing a premium on high-quality staff.

Mrs. Lemke will also give a broad overview of our student performance results from our K-8 standardized tests administered during Spring 2023: Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). (High school results will be shared in the second report of the evening). Students' results indicate strong performance as compared to districts in our demographic reference group (DRG). She will note particular highlights and how this data is informing our instructional areas of focus.

**Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) Grades 3-6 Combined**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>At/Above Goal</b>	<b>DRG B Ranking (20 districts)</b>
<b>ELA</b>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>74.0%</b>	<b>7</b>

**Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) Grades 7-8 Combined**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>At/Above Goal</b>	<b>DRG B Ranking (19 districts)</b>
<b>ELA</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>66.4%</b>	<b>5</b>

**Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>At/Above Goal</b>	<b>DRG B Ranking</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>9 (20 districts)</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>2 (19 districts)</b>

Mr. Sullivan will share highlights from our Simsbury New Teacher Orientation, inclusive of sessions offered, as well as teaching experience and academic preparation of our new faculty members. Mr. Sullivan will update the board on start-of-year enrollment as well.

The School Opening Report will conclude with Mr. Jason Casey, Director of Infrastructure and Technology. Mr. Casey will review capital improvement and maintenance projects completed during the summer months. He will also share any pertinent technology infrastructure information with you, and provide an update on the Latimer Lane renovation.

## EXHIBIT VIII

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 26, 2023

RE: Simsbury High School Report

Simsbury High School (SHS) continues to exemplify excellence through preparation, passion and personal growth with pride. The year is off to a great start with newly appointed Principal Maggie Seidel leading staff and students into SHS's next chapter of their success story.

Tonight, Principal Seidel will overview summer events, SHS's strategic goal focus, the high school's vision and priorities (with specific emphasis on our Vision of a Graduate) and 2022-2023 accomplishments. She will share various successes reflected in SHS's most recent school climate survey data, and highlight areas for focused improvement with student engagement, staff belonging and families' perceptions of safety. Further, Assistant Principal Georgia Robert will highlight school priorities specific to school climate, communication and student achievement. Focus areas include:

Climate: Elevating school spirit, providing opportunities for students to share their voice and clarifying behavioral expectations

Communication: Increasing administrator visibility, providing weekly updates of important information, strengthening a positive social media presence, and enhancing teacher communication to families

Student Achievement: Implementing high-level instructional strategies, emphasizing students as producers, and ensuring the Vision of a Graduate attributes are living in our students' experience.

Director of School Counseling, Greg Stillman will overview our most recent data related to Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) results, Advanced Placement (AP) performance, and a summary of Simsbury High School's college acceptances and college diploma attainment. More specifically, the average Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) score is 551 and, for the first time in recent history, math performance parallels that of the literacy counterpart with an average score of 551 as well. State averages are 493 (ERW) and 482 (Math).

Further, at Simsbury High School, 78% of students successfully completed one AP course before graduation (up 10% from last year) and 78% of students earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP exam.

Additionally, our students' science performance was outstanding. Ranked #1 in the DRG and #3 in the State of Connecticut, these NGSS results are formidable.

Finally, for the class of 2023, the following is noted relative to college acceptances:

- 51% of students were accepted into the top 100 colleges/universities
- 13% of students were accepted into the top 50 colleges/universities
- 81% of students will be attending a 4-year college and 6% to a 2-year program

Tonight will be a celebration of the significant successes of our incredible students and talented staff. We will also be well-informed of the focused, informed priority areas for Simsbury High School that will help write the next chapter in their story of excellence.

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
 FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
 RE: Financial Report/Quarterly Budget Analysis  
 DATE: September 26, 2023

Below is the first quarter budget analysis of the Simsbury Public Schools for the fiscal year 2022-23.

#### Revenues

Below is a summary of the District's State grant awards:

- **Open Choice Academic and Social Support** – Funding is used to promote academic and social success for students participating in the Hartford Region Choice program. Simsbury was awarded \$213,675 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$16,775 compared to the prior fiscal year.
- **Open Choice Attendance & Early Learning** - Funding is used to support salaries and benefits for 7 FTE certified staff, tutors, magnet school tuitions, additional Choice student supports, equipment and preschool development. Simsbury's current year entitlement, based on the district's 10/1/22 enrollment, is \$1,823,427, an increase of \$171,427 compared to the prior fiscal year's original entitlement received.
- **Special Education Placements & Excess Cost** – Funding is provided to reimburse the District for special education costs in excess of 4.5 times the cost of educating a regular education student. Simsbury's current year reimbursement totaled \$2,334,718. The prior year reimbursement award totaled \$1,827,251.
- **Adult Education** – Funding to support Connecticut mandated adult education programs is administered through a cooperative program with the Farmington Continuing Education Department. Simsbury was awarded \$6,213 in the current fiscal year. The prior year award totaled \$15,533.
- **Talent Development (TEAM)** – Funding provides partial reimbursement for TEAM mentor stipends. The current year award is not, as yet, determined. Simsbury was awarded \$2,483 in the current fiscal year. The prior year award totaled \$3,532.
- **Private School Health Services** – Funding to support private school health services provided by the District's health services staff as required by Connecticut statute. Simsbury was awarded \$20,219 in the current fiscal year. The prior year award totaled \$20,940.

Below is a summary of the District's Federal grant awards:

- **Title I – Improving Basic Programs** – Funding is used to pay for tutor costs as well as instructional materials and equipment. Simsbury has received an award of \$121,122 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$2,788 compared to the prior fiscal year.
- **Title II Part A – Teacher Quality** – Funding is used to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and provide professional development to teachers and principals. Simsbury has received an award of \$59,994 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$3,391 compared to the prior fiscal year.
- **Title III Part A – English Language Acquisition** - Funding is used to assist students whose native language is other than English in order to obtain English proficiency and literacy. Simsbury has received an award of \$10,137 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$676 compared to the prior fiscal year.
- **Title IV, Part A – Student Support & Academic Enrichment** – Funding is used to (1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, (2) improve school conditions for student learning and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. Simsbury has received an award of \$10,000 in the current fiscal year. No change from prior year funding.
- **IDEA – Part B and Pre-School** - Funding is used to support the education of identified students; salaries for teaching and support staff, professional development, outside consulting, tutoring services, instructional supplies and equipment, and technology licensing. Simsbury has received a final award of \$1,119,885 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$41,194 compared to the prior fiscal year.

- **Carl Perkins** – Funding is used to develop the academic, career and technical skills of secondary students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. Specific expenditures supported by the grant include substitute coverage for professional development, student transportation and equipment. Simsbury was awarded \$34,280, plus a supplemental award of \$41,096 in the current fiscal year. This is an increase of \$10,655 compared to the prior fiscal year.
- **Medicaid School Based Child Health Program** – Section 51 of PA17-2 mandates the district's participation in the Medicaid School Based Child Health Program. Net reimbursements in the current fiscal year totaled \$50,424.

## Expenditures

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2022-23</u>		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>YTD Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Expenditures</u>	<u>% Spent</u>	<u>% Spent</u>
General Control	2,156,716	2,210,502	2,097,226	102.49%	100.24%
Instruction	47,805,024	47,590,366	45,881,432	99.55%	100.64%
Health Services	784,371	756,950	777,051	96.50%	105.24%
Pupil Transportation	2,928,619	3,417,744	2,749,605	116.70%	98.56%
Operation of Plant	5,155,307	5,174,566	5,100,237	100.37%	102.63%
Maint of Plant/Equipment	1,254,851	1,252,331	1,169,056	99.80%	94.77%
Insurance/Pension	14,063,424	13,701,993	14,036,193	97.43%	98.53%
Food Services	8,896	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
Student Body Activities	759,306	771,952	742,657	101.67%	109.88%
Community Services	32,563	46,131	29,481	141.67%	90.53%
Equipment-New/Replace	90,468	109,250	-	120.76%	0.00%
Out of District Tuition	1,417,000	2,011,677	1,956,519	141.97%	138.07%
Total Public Budget	76,456,545	77,043,461	74,539,456	100.77%	100.89%
Total Non-Public Budget	574,034	539,025	546,104	93.90%	96.72%
Total General Fund	77,030,579	77,582,487	75,085,560	100.72%	100.86%

**General Control** – Final spending is in excess of budget mainly due to an increase in legal fees associated with general counsel as well as special education.

**Instruction** – Final spending is in excess of budget mainly due to an increased number of student supports needed during the year (ie tutors, paras, math & reading coaches, behavior specialists), an increased number of student evaluations performed and the cost of substitutes.

**Health Services** – Final spending is less than budget due to staff turnover.

**Transportation** – Final spending is in excess of budget mainly due to an increased number of special education outplacements that required transportation. Our current transportation vendor was not able to accommodate all of the additional outplacements which lead to the utilization of outside transportation vendors that are more costly. In addition, the district has seen a significant increase in fuel costs in the current year.

**Operation of Plant** – Final spending is in excess of budget due to increased fuel costs.

**Maintenance of Plant and Equipment** – Final spending is in line with budget.

Insurance and Pension – Final spending is below budget mainly due to a decreased OPEB contribution in the current year as a result of the plan being fully funded.

Student Body Activities – Final spending is in excess of budget due to an increased number of student clubs and activities being offered and pursued coming out of COVID.

Community Services – Final spending is in excess of budget due to increased building rentals on a regular basis compared to the prior year.

Equipment-New/Replacement – Final spending is in excess of budget due to a decrease use of open choice grant funding in the current year to pay for equipment. Grant funding was re-allocated to cover additional special education costs.

Out of District Tuition – Final spending is in excess of budget due to the volume of students outplaced in the current year. The current year trend was consistent with that of the prior year and budget adjusted accordingly for FY24.

**Enrollment Comparison 2022-23 to 2021-22**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Actual 10/1/2022</u>	<u>Actual 10/1/2021</u>	<u>Difference</u>
K-6	2176	2084	92
7-8	627	643	(16)
9-12	1261	1302	(41)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4064</b>	<b>4029</b>	<b>35</b>

**Staffing Comparison (FTE)**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Certified</b>	388.59	377.49	+11.1
<b>Non-Certified</b>	252.87	251.64	+1.23
<b>Administrative</b>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>-1.0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>662.46</b>	<b>651.13</b>	<b>+11.33</b>