

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2024
BOE Conference Room
6:30 p.m.
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. RECOGNITION
- IV. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS
- VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
 - A. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2024 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
 - D. Review and Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar EXHIBIT III
 - E. Acceptance of Gift from Central School PTO EXHIBIT IV
 - F. Acceptance of Gift to Tariffville School EXHIBIT V
 - G. Acceptance of Gift to Tootin' Hills School EXHIBIT VI
- VII. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. School Year Opening Report EXHIBIT VII
 - B. Policy Second Reading EXHIBIT VIII
- VIII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is anticipated that the Board of Education will enter Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of real estate.
- X. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 2024,
Simsbury High School

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

June 11, 2024

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in room D172 at Simsbury High School.

Roll Call:

Members present: Messrs. Jeff Tindall, Brian Watson and Josh Falco. Ms. Jessica Parise arrived at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Sharon Thomas arrived at 6:43 p.m.

Members absent: Mmes. Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone.

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

Maggie Seidel, SHS Principal, introduced the SHS yearbook editors Ella Cenviva and Paige Mahoney. Ms. Cenviva and Ms. Mahoney spoke about the theme for the yearbook and thanked all who worked to put it together. Yearbooks were distributed to board members.

Mr. Curtis introduced the Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year, Darla Strand, 3rd grade teacher at Squadron Line School. He spoke about her excellence in the classroom, making connections with students, holding students to high standards and her ability to problem solve.

Ms. Lemke introduced the Kathleen Magowan Scholarship awardees from the graduating class of 2024: Charles Steniger, Parker Golden-Jarrell, Rachel Cota, Ruby Scudder and Ashwina Yoganandan. These students represent the 5 elementary schools and will continue their studies in education or a related field.

Jeff Pinney, Director of Athletics & Student Activities, introduced the state champion SHS girls rugby team. The team finished the season 11-1, with the highest margin of victory average of any team. They were also featured on ESPN Sports Center. He recognized first year coach, Ryan Bond.

Mr. Pinney introduced the state champion boys volleyball team who had a 23-0 undefeated season, only dropping 5 sets all season. He noted the many awards the team received and their dominance over the course of the season. Mr. Curtis recognized volleyball coach, Matt Leblanc, who also coaches girls volleyball in the fall.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Diana Yiesley, 78 County Road, spoke on behalf of the Board of Selectmen stating that the town is celebrating Pride month and Alzheimer's Awareness month in June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Watson, Ms. Parise and Mr. Tindall commented on the wonderful graduation

Recognitions

Public Audience

Communications

ceremony that took place on Friday. Ms. Lemke noted the 6th and 8th grade promotions at the elementary and middle schools. Mr. Curtis reflected on the year end celebrations and their importance as an educator. He thanked the board members for their work over the past year.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2024 Workshop

Mr. Watson: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024 workshop.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2024

Ms. Parise: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

C. Personnel

Ms. Parise: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Maureen Billings, Peter Evans, and Audrey Lesieur effective June 30, 2024.

Mr. Falco: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notices of intent to retire of MarieLine Bruhl, Marie Cichocki, and Dawn Medve effective June 30, 2027 and of Denise Temperilli effective June 30, 2024.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

D. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's contract for 2024-27 with a salary increase of 2.9% for 2024-25.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

E. Approval of Policy Revisions

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised Bylaw 304 Standing Committees, effective June 11, 2024.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised Bylaw 412 Participation in Meetings by Telephone, effective June 11, 2024.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy, 4210 - Minority Teacher

Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2024

Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2024

Personnel

Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Approval of Policy Revisions

Recruitment, effective June 11, 2024.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy, 5112.1 – Age of Entering Kindergarten, effective June 11, 2024.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy, 5113 – Required Attendance, effective June 11, 2024.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy, 5146.3 – Suicide Prevention and Intervention, effective June 11, 2024.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy, 6116 – Diplomas and Certificates, effective June 11, 2024.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Falco: MOVE to adopt the revised policy Series 2000 – Administration, effective June 11, 2024.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

F. End of Year Fiscal Authorizations

Ms. Parise: 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. Parise: 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.

Mr. Falco: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Parise: MOVE that the Superintendent, with the approval of the Board Chairman, be authorized to hire staff for the 2024-25 school year during the period of July and August when the Board is not in session.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved

G. BOE Summer Meeting Schedule

End of Year Fiscal Authorizations

BOE Summer Meeting

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education cancel regular board meetings scheduled on June 24, July 9, July 23, August 13 and August 27, 2024.

Schedule

Mr. Falco: Seconded. So moved.

H. Acceptance of Gift to FIRST Robotics

Gift to FIRST Robotics

Ms. Thomas: MOVE that the proposed gift to the FIRST Robotics Team at Simsbury High School from the EB Aerospace & Defense Company totaling \$5,000 be approved.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

I. Approval of Educator Evaluation Plan

Approval of Education Evaluation Plan

Ms. Lemke noted that the plan was shared with the board in April as a result of new guidelines from the state that include development by the district's Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC). She noted the plan at a glance document.

Ms. Thomas asked what platform we are using. Ms. Lemke responded that SIMS is a customized platform that we developed in 2012 and will continue to use. She noted that other data is also housed on this platform.

Ms. Parise asked about the difference in evaluation for tenured vs. non-tenured teachers. Ms. Lemke responded that non-tenured teachers will have more formal observations with a deeper dive into content. Tenured teachers may not require as deep a dive, but observations are still important.

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board accept the Simsbury Educator Evaluation Plan as presented by the administration.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Instructional Technology Update

Instructional Technology Update

Ms. Lemke introduced Dave Prinstein who is completing his first year as the Director of Instructional Technology. She stated that Mr. Prinstein works with the media specialists and technicians in the district.

Mr. Prinstein outlined the instructional technology priorities. These include data management, artificial intelligence (AI), marketing/messaging, and ensuring the Vision of a Graduate lives K-12. Mr. Prinstein stated that an AI Task Force was formed this year with 5 goals. (1) To explore and evaluate AI technologies for educational purposes. (2) To develop strategies for integrating AI into all areas of SPS teaching and learning. (3) To promote ethical considerations and responsible use of AI in education. (4) To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. (5) To stay informed about emerging AI trends and developments. The outcome of the task force is a document that includes knowledge and skill recommendations for 3 sets of stakeholders: students, teachers and families. Mr.

Prinstein stated that these recommendations will influence the work next year.

Mr. Prinstein discussed the work to connect further with the community. He noted the Vision of a Graduate videos that have been produced and the effort to expand our reach into the broader community.

Mr. Prinstein reported on his work with the library media specialists. During their weekly PLC meetings they discuss the Library Media Center (LMC) as the core of each school's teaching and learning. They work to ensure that each LMC has current materials and resources representative of their school. Additionally they work to establish technology skills and knowledge as the connections across grade levels and subject areas. Mr. Prinstein noted the library media specialists continue to work on flexible scheduling.

Mr. Prinstein addressed the work of the six districtwide technicians. The team supports all 7 schools through a rotating schedule, and takes care of installations, repairs and troubleshooting. Mr. Prinstein noted the importance of customer service and getting to know the staff who they work with. The team also provides onsite support for larger scale initiatives such as assemblies and student testing.

Mr. Prinstein discussed upcoming challenges. He noted that the elimination of the Instructional Technology Resource Teacher creates the need to redistribute that work. He pointed out the quickly changing instructional technology landscape, including AI, as well as the need to find ways to consistently engage the community. Mr. Prinstein stated that costs related to software, applications and subscriptions continue to rise. Subscriptions for the coming year have increased 10-15%.

Ms. Thomas asked how often we evaluate the technology that we use. Mr. Prinstein responded that this occurs twice per year and teacher/student usage is a big part of the equation.

Mr. Prinstein stated that in the 2024-25 school year, 5th, 6th and 9th graders will receive new Chromebooks. Additionally 40 Newline panels will be installed throughout the district this summer to bring the total number of classrooms with these panels to 45%, not including all new panels at Latimer Lane School as part of the renovation project.

Ms. Thomas questioned what we do with the Chromebooks after they reach their sunset date. Mr. Prinstein stated that we repurpose them in LMCs and classrooms, not assigned to individual students. He noted that senior year students have the option to keep their Chromebook or donate it back to the district.

Mr. Watson asked why the panels are the better way to go. Mr. Prinstein responded that the panels have all of the outputs with picture, sound and connectivity much improved. He noted that apps are built directly into the operating system. Mr. Tindall asked the lifetime of a panel. Mr. Prinstein responded 5-10 years.

Mr. Prinstein addressed how the board can assist with his department. He stated he would like to provide feedback to the board on the elimination of the Instructional Technology Resource Teacher. He would like the board to have an understanding of the fluctuating instructional technology market, as well as a belief in the importance of integrating technology into classrooms to build 21st century skills and thinking,

which impacts all departments

Ms. Thomas asked if there are parents on the AI Task Force. Mr. Prinstein responded that it is planned for next year. Mr. Watson stated it is great we are embracing AI in education, especially since kids are going to use it regardless. Mr. Prinstein stated that the district wants students learning AI in classrooms with adults and provide our students with an advantage moving forward Ms. Parise asked if AI will be integrated in all subject areas. Mr. Prinstein responded that it will. Mr. Watson asked how we compare with other districts with IT. Mr. Prinstein stated that Simsbury is on track or ahead of the game. He noted that it is always a consideration in how we do things, and technology ties all of the departments together.

Mr. Falco asked if we have thoughts on the topic for the next Vision of a Graduate video, and suggested the Communications Committee meet in September. He also suggested that the board be made aware of the budgetary effects from the increase in technology costs.

B. Policy First Reading

Mr. Sullivan noted that during the board workshop the formation of a new standing committee, specifically a Finance Committee, was discussed. The addition of this committee into the bylaws is coming forward so that it can be approved in the fall and the committee can get up and running.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Parise: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Sharon Thomas
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Policy First Reading

Public Audience

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: Personnel Recommendations

I. Resignations

William Antonitis

Experience 8 years
Assignment English Department Supervisor, Henry James
Effective June 30, 2024

Kelly Dell'Aera

Experience 14 years
Assignment Art Teacher, Tootin' Hills
Effective June 30, 2024

Amy Joyce

Experience 2.5 years
Assignment Special Education Teacher, Central School
Effective July 16, 2024

Rebecca Levine

Experience 2 years
Assignment Special Education Teacher, Squadron Line
Effective July 1, 2024

Melissa Nimmo

Experience 2 years
Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist, Simsbury High School
Effective July 31, 2024

Erin Szymanski

Experience 3 years
Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist, Squadron Line
Effective September 20, 2024

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignations of William Antonitis and Kelly Dell'Aera effective June 30, 2024; Amy Joyce effective July 16, 2024; Rebecca Levine effective July 1, 2024; Melissa Nimmo effective July 31, 2024; and Erin Szymanski effective September 20, 2024.”

II. Notice of Intent to Retire

Sharon Geoghan

Experience Currently 22 years
Assignment Family & Consumer Science, Henry James
Effective June 30, 2027

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Sharon Geoghan effective June 30, 2027.”

III. Appointments

Central School

Katrina Pisani

Education BA, Susquehanna University
MA, University of St. Joseph
Experience 2 years
Salary Schedule MA, Step 3
Assignment Special Education Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Florian Vining

Education BA, University of Connecticut
MA, University of Connecticut
Experience 0
Salary Schedule MA, Step 1
Assignment Music Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Squadron Line

Laleh Golafshani

Education BA, Massachusetts College of Art & Design
MA, American College of Education
Experience 9 years
Salary Schedule MA, Step 9
Assignment Art Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Genevieve Grube

Education BA, Central Connecticut State University
Experience 0
Salary Schedule BA, Step 1
Assignment Grade 2
Effective August 26, 2024

Angela LoStocco

Education BA, University of Connecticut
MA, Sacred Heart
Experience 2 years
Salary Schedule 6th Year, Step 3
Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist
Effective October 21, 2024

Alexandra Marecki

Education BA, University of Connecticut
MA, University of St. Joseph
Experience 0
Salary Schedule MA, Step 1
Assignment Special Education Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Kailey Schmarr

Education BA, Eastern Connecticut State University
Experience 1 year
Salary Schedule BA, Step 2
Assignment Grade 2
Effective August 26, 2024

Nikolas Touros

Education BA, Central Connecticut State University
Experience 1 year
Salary Schedule BA, Step 2
Assignment Physical Education Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Julia Wagner

Education BA, Saint John's University
MA, Saint John's University
Experience 12 years
Salary Schedule MA, Step 10
Assignment Special Education Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Joelle Zeiner

Education BA, Salve Regina University
MA, East Carolina University
Experience 7 years
Salary Schedule MA, Step 8
Assignment Special Education Teacher
Effective August 26, 2024

Tootin' Hills School

Krisela Karaja

Education BA, University of Connecticut
MA, University of Massachusetts
6th Year, Fitchburg State

Experience 4 years

Salary Schedule 6th Year, Step 5

Assignment Elementary Spanish Teacher

Effective August 26, 2024

Claudia Surprenant

Education BA, University of St. Joseph

Experience 1 year

Salary Schedule BA, Step 2

Assignment Special Education Teacher

Effective August 26, 2024

Henry James Memorial School

Chloe Blumberg

Education BA, Assumption College
MA, University of St. Joseph

Experience 11 years

Salary Schedule MA, Step 10

Assignment Special Education Teacher

Effective August 26, 2024

Charles Buckingham

Education BA, Tulane University
MA, University of Pennsylvania

Experience 6 years

Salary Schedule MA, Step 7

Assignment English Teacher

Effective August 26, 2024

Taylor Doyle

Education BA, Eastern Connecticut State University
MA, University of St. Joseph
MA, Bay Path College

Experience 8 years

Salary Schedule 7th Year, Step 8

Assignment Special Education Teacher

Effective August 26, 2024

Phoenix Holden

Education BA, University of Connecticut
 Experience 1 year
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 2
 Assignment Social Studies Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

Hyunjin Story

Education BA, SungKyunKwan University
 MA, Oklahoma City University
 MA, University of Connecticut
 Experience 7 years
 Salary Schedule 6th Year, Step 8
 Assignment Special Education Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

Simsbury High School**Sandra Cangelosi**

Education BA, University of Connecticut
 MA, Western Connecticut State University
 Experience 3 years
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 4
 Assignment Science Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

Nicole Mazza

Education BA, University of Connecticut
 MA, University of Connecticut
 Experience 3 years
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 4
 Assignment Wellness Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

Alessandra Rimkie

Education BA, King's College, Pennsylvania
 Experience 1 year
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 2
 Assignment Science Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

Benjamin Rondinone

Education BA, Roger Williams University
 Experience 3 years
 Salary Schedule BA, Step 4
 Assignment Science Teacher
 Effective August 26, 2024

MTC:cdf

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: 2025-26 School Calendar

This calendar was prepared in accordance with state law guidelines, BOE school calendar established policies, SEA contractual working days, and the ad-hoc 2009 Calendar Advisory Committee's recommendations. The spring recess is the second week in April, following the Good Friday holiday. Additionally, January 2 is included in the holiday recess as given it falls on a Friday. The calendar presented this evening includes the required 180 days of instruction and an additional day for professional development in the spring at a date yet to be determined.

The administration is recommending that the Board review and adopt the 2025-2026 calendar as presented.

"MOVE to adopt the 2025-26 school calendar as presented."

MTC:kdw



Simsbury Public Schools Calendar 2025-26 *DRAFT*

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
25	26	27*	28	29

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

APRIL				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10**	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	26	26
29	30			

*First Day of School

**School will close for the year upon completion of the 180th student school day.

School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

Early Dismissal

School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

August 27*	Students' First Day	January 19	MLK Day
September 1	Labor Day	February 17-18	Winter Recess
September 23	Rosh Hashanah	March 13	Professional Development
October 2	Yom Kippur	April 3	Good Friday
October 13	Columbus Day	April 6-10	Spring Recess
November 4	Election Day/Prof. Development	May 25	Memorial Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Recess	June 10**	Students' Last Day
Dec. 24 – Jan. 2	Holiday Recess	June 19	Juneteenth

** Subject to change if needed to make-up for inclement weather days.

SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 INFORMATION K-12

REGULAR DAY SCHOOL HOURS

Simsbury High School	7:32 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Henry James Memorial School	7:32 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Central School	8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Latimer Lane School	8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Tariffville School	8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Tootin' Hills School	8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
Squadron Line School	8:45 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHOOL HOURS (Professional Development, Elementary Report Card Conferences, day before Thanksgiving and last day of school)

Secondary 7-12 early dismissal time

Simsbury High/Henry James	11:15 a.m.
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Elementary early dismissal times

Central School	12:00 p.m.
Latimer Lane School	12:00 p.m.
Tariffville School	12:00 p.m.
Tootin' Hills School	12:00 p.m.
Squadron Line School	12:30 p.m.

In the event of an early closing due to inclement weather or other emergency reasons the above early release schedule will be followed in all grades. Lunch will be served at all elementary schools on early release days. Grab and go lunch will be available at HJMS and SHS on early release days.

Announcements will be listed on the following stations:

Television Stations: Channel 3 WFSB; Channel 8 WTNH; Channel 30 WVIT
Emergency closing information is also posted on the SPS website

DATES SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION

September 1	Labor Day	January 1-2	New Year's Day
September 23	Rosh Hashanah	January 19	MLK Day
October 2	Yom Kippur	February 17-18	Winter Recess
October 13	Columbus Day	March 13	Professional Dev.
November 4	Election Day/Prof. Dev.	April 3	Good Friday
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Recess	April 6-10	Spring Recess
December 24-31	Holiday Recess	May 25	Memorial Day

REFERENCE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Central School	860-658-4732	Henry James Memorial School	860-651-3341
Latimer Lane School	860-658-4774	Simsbury High School	860-658-0451
Squadron Line School	860-658-2251	Board of Education Office	860-651-3361
Tariffville School	860-658-5825	Special Services Department	860-658-3873
Tootin' Hills School	860-658-7629	Salter's Express Company	860-651-3311

EXHIBIT IV

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: Acceptance of Donation from Central 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 Central School from its parent-teacher organization of \$9,100. This donation is to purchase new tables and seating for the Central School Library Media Center

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$9,100 to Central School by the Central School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved.”

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: Acceptance of Donation from Lawrence Paul White

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 Lawrence Paul White of \$3,430. This donation is to purchase new basketball backboards for the Tariffville playground

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$3,430 to Tariffville School by Lawrence Paul White be approved.”

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / Tootin Hills School

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 gift to the Tootin Hill's School from the Tootin Hill's PTO of \$7,249 to offset the cost of the 6th grade Camp Jewell field Trip.

"MOVE that the proposed gift of \$7,249 from the Tootin Hill's PTO be approved."

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 10, 2024

RE: School Opening Report

We successfully kicked off the 2024-20245 school year with a high-energy, Olympic themed spirit rally as convocation on Monday, August 26, 2024. We then welcomed all students back for the first day of the school year on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. 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, intervention and assessment processes to ensure all students achieve expected success, with a particular eye on elementary curricular changes in math and reading.
- Focus on our Encouraging Words campaign for students, staff and families.
- Roll-out our newly minted educator evaluation plan, with a focus on providing high-quality feedback to our staff.
- Utilize professional learning 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-12 standardized tests administered during Spring 2024: Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). 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. Results are as follows:

Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) Grades 3-6 Combined

Subject Area	At/Above Goal	DRG B Ranking (19 districts)
ELA	77.8%	2
Math	76.0%	3

Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) Grades 7-8 Combined

Subject Area	At/Above Goal	DRG B Ranking (19 districts)
ELA	73.4%	10
Math	59.8%	15

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Grade	At/Above Goal	DRG B Ranking (19 districts)
5	70.7%	10
8	74.8%	4
11	86.6%	1

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Subject Area	At/Above Goal	DRG B Ranking (18 districts)
ELA	85.3%	1
Math	60.0%	2

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 & Technology and Mr. Kyle Loveland, Supervisor of Maintenance. 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

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 10, 2024
RE: Board of Education Policy – Second Reading

The Policy Committee recently reviewed revisions to the BOE By-Laws. The Policy Committee is recommending adoption of the following policies:

- BOE By-Law Revision
 - Bylaw 304 Standing Committees

A copy of the recommended policy has been provided to you this evening for your review. Following any discussion, these policies will be brought forward for approval at the next Board of Education meeting.

MTC:kdw

Bylaw 304. Designation of Standing Committees

The Board will have **five** standing committees as follows: Policy, Personnel and Negotiations, Curriculum, Communications and **Finance**. The general charge and specific duties of each of these standing committees will be as follows:

(a) Policy Committee

General Charge:

To develop policy upon the recommendation of the Board. To revise existing policy and eliminate, revise and /or develop new policies, as necessary.

Specific Duties:

1. Formulate policies to be presented to entire Board for action.
2. Suggest amendments or revisions to existing policies;
3. Serve as a resource to provide policy reference to other board members;
4. Conduct annual reviews of policies; and
5. Review legislative updates to ensure District policy compliance;

(b) Personnel and Negotiations Committee

General Charge:

To oversee all contracts and negotiations and plan for future negotiations. To review and recommend to the Board salaries for non-bargaining group employees.

Specific Duties:

1. Negotiate contracts with administration, professional staff and non-certified personnel; and
2. Oversee the District's personnel development programs, including staff evaluation and development

(c) Curriculum Committee

General Charge:

To review and consider recommending for approval new courses and/or major revisions to courses and programs; to review recommendations and monitor the implementation of recommendations presented by the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning resulting from annual curriculum and program evaluation reports; to follow up curriculum-related policy issues as identified by the Board of Education;

Specific Duties:

1. Oversee curriculum and quality of school life issues within the schools
2. to review the annual curriculum budget as presented by the Assistant Superintendent.

(d) Communications Committee

General Charge:

To oversee district-wide communication plan. To review, recommend and provide input on enhancing district level communications.

Specific Duties:

(e) Finance Committee

General Charge:

To advise the Board of Education on matters related to budget, financial procedures and financial reports.

Specific Duties:

1. To recommend to the Board of Education guidance for the superintendent of schools in advance of the development of a preliminary estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year.
2. To conduct a continuing review of financial practices, financial report format and procedures.
3. To review revisions to the estimate of the cost of maintenance of the district's schools when submitted by the superintendent.

Previous Bylaw: BL-112

Revised: September 24, 2024