

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2024
Squadron Line School
Media Library Center
6:30 p.m.
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS
- V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
 - A. Latimer Lane Furniture & Equipment Specs Approval EXHIBIT I
 - B. Approval of Peter T. Blake Scholarship EXHIBIT II
 - C. Adoption of 2024-25 School Budget EXHIBIT III
- VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Squadron Line School Report EXHIBIT IV
- VII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 2024,
BOE Conference Room

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TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
RE: Approval of Latimer Lane Phase 3 Procurement
DATE: February 27, 2024

The Latimer Lane School renovation project seeks authorization to procure the remaining services and materials necessary to implement the addition and renovation work for the originally budgeted amount of \$1,615,000. To advance this effort, the Simsbury Board of Education (and likewise the Public Building Committee) must vote to approve the plans, drawings and project manuals for Phase 3 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) & Technology to be submitted to the Office of Grants Administration for their review and approval, and authorization to procure the items via Public Solicitation and State Contract.

To file for this review and approval, the administration requests adoption of the following motion:

“MOVE that the Board of Education approve the plans, drawings and project manuals for Phase 3 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) & Technology as prepared by Tecton Architects dated February 2, 2024 along with the professional cost estimate for the Latimer Lane Renovation Project.”

/kdw

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 27, 2024
RE: The Peter T. Blake Memorial Music Scholarship

The Board of Education approves all proposed scholarships available to Simsbury Public School students. Below are the guidelines for the Peter T. Blake Memorial Music Scholarship. This has been reviewed by Maggie Seidel, Simsbury High School Principal, Greg Stillman, Director of School Counseling, and central office administrators. We recommend the approval of this scholarship.

This scholarship will honor Peter Blakes's love of music. Peter was a 2016 graduate of both Simsbury High School and Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. He was active in the music department of both schools and played in his band at the graduation. He was a member of Boy Scouts Troop 76 and First Church of Christ Youth Group where they formed their own music group. After graduation, Peter attended Western Connecticut University where he studied music theory and jazz. He was a self-employed musician playing jazz with his ensemble as an upright bassist. He wanted nothing more than to play music with great friends, spreading his love of jazz to everyone who would listen.

AMOUNT: One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to a graduating senior starting with the Class of 2024.

CRITERIA: A graduating senior that is enrolled in the instrumental music program with a B average who is planning to pursue a degree in music and shares a love for Manga.

SELECTION: SHS Scholarship Committee with personal input

DISBURSEMENT: A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by Kay Ellen Bernardo, Christopher Black and family

CONTACT: Kay Ellen Bernardo
102A Spithead Rd, Waterford, CT 063855
Phone: 860-995-5647
Email address: kayellenbernardo9@gmail.com

"MOVE that the Board of Education approve The Peter T. Blake Memorial Music Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2024."

MTC:da

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 27, 2024
RE: Adoption of 2024-25 Public School Budget

After reviewing the 2024-25 proposed budget with the board last week, no changes have been made to the budget as presented. The proposed budget includes an increase of 5.15%, based on the main budget drivers listed below.

Contractual Obligations	\$2,738,069	3.33%
Staffing Requests	\$ 655,298	.80%
Market Driven Increases	\$ 783,109	.95%
Prior Year Deficits	\$ 984,689	1.20%
Insurance, Pension, Misc	\$ 405,502	.49%
CNR Allocation	\$ 140,000	.17%
Reductions & Reallocations	<u>(\$1,478,135)</u>	<u>1.80%</u>
Total	\$4,228,533	5.15%

The administration recommends adoption of the 2024-25 operating budget.

MTC:kdw



Report to Simsbury Board of Education

Leader: Meg Evans, Principal

Date: February 27, 2024

School or Program: Squadron Line Elementary School

1. **Share some of your school/program staff and student achievements?**

SQL's 2023-2024 goals are focused in three areas: teaching and learning, community and belonging, as well as behavior. Tonight we are showcasing one celebration from each area.

Teaching and Learning:

- *SPED Service Delivery:* The focus on SPED service delivery - how general education and special education come together to ensure students get what they need - has had a positive impact for general education teachers, special education teachers, and most importantly our students. Testimonials from teachers are shared, along with things to consider as we move this work forward next year.

Community and Belonging:

- *SHINE Rebrand:* We always SHINE at Squadron Line. This year we updated what it means to SHINE by incorporating the VoG and recent growth mindset work. We redesigned our individual student suns to reflect the changes. We also added class and staff suns to our character education program.
- *Kindness Day:* We have increased the number of SHINE assemblies that are held throughout the year. We committed to have one day devoted to acts of service. On February 16th all of our students participated in one of four community service projects: making bookmarks for the SQL and Simsbury Public Library, making trail mix bags for Loaves and Fishes shelter in Hartford, creating inspirational placemats for Meals on Wheels, or assembling goody bags for our community. Each project included a sticker that encouraged recipients to pay kindness forward.
- *ILN Door Decorating:* In the spirit of Kindness Day, inspirational messages were put on each K-6 homeroom door. Students participating in our ILN program are enhancing our door decor!

Behavior:

- *SQL Tiers of Behavior Resource Guide*: Our SQL Leadership Team's focus this year is developing a SQL-specific resource guide for faculty and staff. The goal is to have a tool that provides common expectations for adults and students, proactive tier I supports/resources, as well as outlined consequences.

2. What are your leadership priorities this year?

My leadership priorities were established by aligning the district's strategic plan goals with highlights from SQL's academic & survey data, feedback, and constituent reflections regarding the glows and grows from the 2022-2023 school year. Those steps resulted in setting the following priorities:

- Teaching and Learning:
 - Special education service delivery
 - Achievement data: Subgroup performance
 - Rebooting professional learning communities (PLCs): norms/expectations and professional learning to best meet our students' needs.
- Community and Belonging:
 - SHINE rebrand
 - Power of a Positive Team
- Behavior:
 - Clear expectations
 - Accountability for our actions

You will hear more about these priorities, celebrations and next steps, in my presentation.

3. What are your current and future challenges?

- **Space**: We have several programs sharing space. Special education enrollment increases have added additional stress in a concentrated building. Preschool is a vibrant part of our building, yet also increases the space constraints. Orchestra rotates space on a daily basis, from classrooms to the gym to the gym stage. This is not ideal. Finally, increases in the size and amount of student equipment yields inadequate storage/accessibility.
- **Intensive Learning Needs**: The unanticipated enrollment/growth and program refinement needs are challenges that need to be addressed. We have appreciated the focused attention on this program in the current budget proposals. The addition of a ILN Coordinator will third ILN K-6 teacher will assist with caseload sizes.

4. What are the financial implications for your program and planning?

- Space: The continued pressure points will need to be addressed and all will come at a cost.

- Staffing for ILN: The increased unanticipated enrollment and subsequent staffing requests have resulted in significant financial increases placing additional pressure on our operating budget.

5. What additional support do you need in order to maintain and enhance your program's success?

- Thank you for your support through the 2024-2025 budget development. As building principal, I will continue to advocate for what is needed short-term, while we denote longer term solutions of special education programming, staffing, as well as overall space. I anticipate that once the Latimer Lane project is complete, SQL is the next school that will need to be addressed. As we plan for the future, we need to balance immediate needs with what may be addressed once the plan for SQL is developed and implemented.