

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2024
Simsbury High School
Room D-172
6:30 p.m.
AMENDED 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 September 10, 2024 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
 - C. Approval of Policy Revision EXHIBIT III
 - D. Year End Financial Results & Transfer of Surplus Funds
to Non-Lapsing Account EXHIBIT IV
- VII. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Simsbury High School Academic Report EXHIBIT V
 - B. BOE Committee Assignments EXHIBIT VI
- VIII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IX. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2024,
BOE Conference Room

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www.simsburytv.org.*

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

September 10, 2024

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Jeff Tindall, Brian Watson and Josh Falco. Ms. Jessica Parise arrived at 6:56 p.m.

Members absent: Ms. Sharon Thomas

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Infrastructure & Technology, BOE Student Representative Macie Goetz and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Curtis introduced the 2025 Simsbury Teacher of the Year, Diane Tobio. Diane teaches Spanish to grades 3-6 at multiple elementary schools. Mr. Curtis spoke about Diane's energy during her speech at Convocation and the importance of teacher voice in the district. He noted the positive energy and juice that Diane brings to the district. Ms. Tobio noted the feeling of support and love that has continued into the school year, along with the feeling of community.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Lori Boyko, 14 Oakhurst Road, expressed concern that the schools are adopting curriculum on how to speak and grading students on their social interactions. She stated that she doesn't believe students should be asked to use the same dystopian speech, noting that she doesn't want her child to be friends with some of the other students. Ms. Boyko suggested that the district is teaching social achievement while academics are abysmal. She asked when the board adopted the Everyday Speech curriculum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Falco reported that the Communications Committee will be scheduling a meeting soon. Ms. Tedone stated that CAFE is working on their educational platform, CREC had their 50 anniversary celebration, and advocacy continues at the federal level.

Mr. Casey stated that the Simsbury Fire Marshal performed the annual inspections at the schools prior to the start of the school year, and all schools passed inspection. Mr. Tindall thanked the central office staff for their hard work over the summer working on a lot of big issues.

Ms. Goetz reported on the Encouraging Words campaign, as well as back to school assemblies and activities at the elementary schools. She noted that fall sports are underway at SHS. Ms. Goetz stated that the student cell phone policy is going well and September 23-27 is spirit week that will include a spirit rally.

Recognitions

Public Audience

Communications

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Watson: MOVE to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Falco: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Tedone and Ms. Willerup abstained.

B. Personnel

Ms. Tedone: 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.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Sharon Geoghan effective June 30, 2027.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the list of new faculty who were hired over the summer in 5 of the 7 schools. In response to Mr. Tindall, he stated that we have one vacant position for a Speech and Language Pathologist.

C. Review and Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the 2025-26 school calendar as presented.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

D. Acceptance of Gift from Central School PTO

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

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

E. Acceptance of Gift to Tariffville School

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

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

F. Acceptance of Gift to Tootin' Hills PTO

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$7,249 from the Tootin' Hills PTO be approved.

Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2024

Personnel

Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar

Gift from Central School PTO

Gift to Tariffville School

Gift to Tootin' Hills PTO

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. School Year Opening Report

Ms. Lemke stated that this year's Convocation theme was around a continuation of the Olympics, carrying the torch of excellence into the school year. She addressed 3 goals areas from the Strategic Plan and the priorities for the school year. Student success includes elementary curricular updates and a curricular review of math, PE/Wellness, and library media. Positive school culture addresses how we go about our business each day and the implementation of the Encouraging Words campaign. Premier workforce includes the new educator evaluation plan and providing quality feedback.

Ms. Lemke reviewed student learning data. The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) results for grades 3-6 are 77.8% at or above benchmark in ELA and 76% in math. These results rank Simsbury 2nd and 3rd in DRG B respectively. In grades 7-8 73.4% are at or above benchmark in ELA and 59.8% in math. Simsbury ranks 10th and 15 in DRG B respectively. Ms. Lemke noted that rankings are climbing at the elementary level and there is a correlation with math performance and THINK math pilot classrooms. She stated that percentages for grades 7-8 are not what we want them to be and there will be an instructional focus at HJMS this year, as well as a math curriculum review.

Mr. Tindall expressed concern with the HJMS rankings. Ms. Lemke stated there will be a focus on instructional practices in non-honor math classes. In response to Ms. Batchelar, Ms. Lemke noted that a strong cohort had moved to SHS and the incoming 7th grade class was a strong cohort in 6th grade. Mr. Watson asked if moving 6th grade to HJMS would help. Ms. Lemke stated that the administration is looking into that now. Ms. Parise questioned whether the scores at the elementary level are consistent across the 5 schools. Mr. Curtis responded that a breakdown will be provided in the elementary curriculum report to the board. In response to Mr. Falco, Mr. Curtis stated that Mr. Baker will provide historic data in his HJMS academic report to the board.

Ms. Lemke provided the Next General Science Standards (NGSS) scores for grades 5, 8 and 11. Grade 5 has a rating of 70.7% at or above benchmark, with a DRG B ranking of 10. Grade 8 has a rating of 74.8% at or above benchmark, with a DRG B ranking of 4. Grade 11 has a rating of 86.6% at or above benchmark, with a DRG B ranking of 1. Ms. Lemke stated that there will be continued focus on strengthening grade 5, noting that 7th grade is when students start having science every day.

Ms. Lemke provided grade 11 SAT ELA data with 85.3% at or above benchmark, ranked #1 in DRG B; in math 60.0% at or above benchmark, ranked #2 in DRG B. She stated that ELA scores increased by 5% and math by 0.6% over last year. Benchmark scores are 530 in ELA and 480 in math.

Mr. Sullivan reported on New Teacher Orientation with 20 new educators coming to the district. He reviewed the 3 day orientation schedule. Mr. Sullivan presented new certified staff experience, noting that 66.7% of new certified staff have 0-5 years of experience. He pointed out that we are mindful of the budget when hiring new

School Year
Opening Report

teachers. Mr. Sullivan noted that 66.7% of new staff have a master's degree or higher.

Mr. Sullivan addressed the August 30, 2024 school enrollment. The 4,069 enrollment is 35 fewer students than on October 1, 2023. Mr. Sullivan stated that an additional 1st grade class was added at Latimer Lane School due to enrollment. He noted that enrollment at HJMS is the largest it has been in a long time and there are 3 full teams in both 7th and 8th grade. Mr. Tindall asked if enrollment is increasing at the lower grades. Mr. Sullivan responded that affordability in Simsbury, for young families, may be the reason those grade levels are not increasing. Mr. Curtis pointed out that the Kindergarten starting age legislation is also affecting the elementary cohort.

Mr. Casey introduced Kyle Loveland, Supervisor of Maintenance, and noted that this summer saw the most facility improvement projects completed. He provided an update on the Latimer Lane School project, stating that the project is ahead of schedule and the nurse's and main office should be completed by the end of October.

Mr. Casey addressed technology in the district, noting the addition of 965 Chromebooks and a refreshed copier fleet which allows staff to print at the copier using their FOB. He stated that relative to security, upgrades were made to our cameras with digital cameras replacing analog cameras. Additionally, some cameras were added to buses. Mr. Casey stated that the FOB system at 4 of the schools was replaced so that now all 7 schools are on the same system.

Mr. Tindall asked if behavior on the buses has improved with the addition of the cameras. Mr. Curtis responded that the cameras were installed in April and if there is an issue a parent can watch their child's behavior on the bus. In response to Ms. Parise, Mr. Sullivan stated that the cameras are in full view to the children. Mr. Casey noted that the cameras can be moved to different buses if there is need.

Mr. Casey addressed the maintenance projects completed over the summer. Partial roof replacements were completed at Tariffville and Central Schools and a plumbing overhaul was done at Tootin' Hills School. Mr. Casey stated that the maintenance staff made HVAC improvements at SHS, Central, Tariffville and Squadron Line schools utilizing reallocated equipment from Latimer Lane School. Painting and flooring improvements were made in 20 locations at 6 of our schools.

Mr. Casey spoke about projects moving forward. He stated that the addition of 4 irrigated grass fields at SHS would help to regulate practice times for SHS athletic teams. HVAC improvements will likely occur as CT Statute now requires that regular assessments of our systems be done. Striping of parking lots, playgrounds and courts will be completed. A partial roof replacement at Tootin' Hills School and the replacement of seating and flooring in the SHS amphitheater have already been funded and will be completed next summer. An additional 2 buses and 1 van are on order and were also previously funded.

Mr. Falco asked if we sell outgoing buses. Mr. Casey responded that we must certify that they've been destroyed. Mr. Sullivan noted that Salters scraps everything possible. Ms. Batchelar asked if all bus driver positions are filled. Mr. Sullivan responded that we have the same number of drivers as last year, enough to start the year.

B. Policy Second Reading

Mr. Sullivan stated that this is the second reading to add a Finance Committee to the BOE By-Laws. The board will vote on the revision at the next meeting.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Lori Boyko, 14 Oakhurst Road, stated she moved here for the schools and academics and paid more in taxes to do so. She stated that she expects Simsbury to be at the top of the DRG and is concerned that 40% of 11 grade students taking the math SAT are not at or above goal. Ms. Boyko stated that social and emotional learning time should be used for academics, expressing concern that funds, teachers and curriculum have been moved toward special education leaving the kids in the middle to get squeezed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to enter Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of real estate, and include Mr. Curtis, at 7:59 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Ms. Parise: Seconded. So moved.

Sharon Thomas
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Policy Second Reading

Public Audience

Executive Session

Adjournment

EXHIBIT III

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 24, 2024
RE: Board of Education Policy Approval

The Policy Committee recently reviewed revisions to the BOE By-Laws. The Policy Committee is recommending adoption of the following by-law to add Finance Committee to the board's standing committees.

- BOE By-Law Revision
 - Bylaw 304 Standing Committees

"MOVE to adopt the revised Bylaw 304 Standing Committees, effective September 24, 2024."

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

TO: Members of the Board of Education
 FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
 RE: Financial Report/Quarterly Budget Analysis
 DATE: September 24, 2024

Below is the fourth quarter budget analysis of the Simsbury Public Schools for the fiscal year 2023-24.

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 \$194,617 in the current fiscal year, a decrease of \$2,958 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 10/1/23 enrollment, was \$1,870,501.
- **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 award is 2,513,303. The prior year award totaled \$2,334,718.
- **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 \$5,242 in the current fiscal year. The prior year award totaled \$6,213.
- **Talent Development (TEAM)** – Funding provides partial reimbursement for TEAM mentor stipends. Simsbury was awarded \$2,858 in the current fiscal year. The prior year award totaled \$2,483.
- **Private School Health Services** – Funding to support private school health services provided by the District's health services staff as required by Connecticut statute. The current year award is \$20,438, a \$219 increase compared to the prior year.

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 \$124,776 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$3,654 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 \$59,419 in the current fiscal year, a decrease of \$575 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 \$10,781 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$644 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 \$1,176,082 in the current fiscal year, an increase of \$56,197 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 \$37,262 in the current fiscal year along with a supplemental award of \$49,707. The supplemental award increased \$1,282 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 \$51,977.92.
- **National School Lunch Program – Equipment Assistance Grant** - Funding is provided through this program for the purchase of equipment needed to serve healthier meals and improve food safety. Nutrition Services received \$3,833.80 through this competitive grant process to replace a refrigerator at Tootin’ Hills.

Expenditures

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2023-24</u>		<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>YTD Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Expenditures</u>	<u>% Spent</u>	<u>% Spent</u>
General Control	2,451,498	2,248,180	2,210,502	91.71%	102.49%
Instruction	50,003,729	49,826,815	47,554,087	99.65%	99.48%
Health Services	742,608	799,032	756,950	107.60%	96.50%
Pupil Transportation	3,057,488	3,584,153	3,567,744	117.23%	121.82%
Operation of Plant	5,495,325	5,359,538	5,173,621	97.53%	100.36%
Maint of Plant/Equipment	1,392,472	1,262,615	1,259,995	90.67%	100.41%
Insurance/Pension	15,502,856	14,374,812	13,544,329	92.72%	96.31%
Food Services	8,896	86,295	-	970.05%	0.00%
Student Body Activities	832,785	881,958	771,952	105.90%	101.67%
Community Services	32,563	48,050	46,131	147.56%	141.67%
Equipment-New/Replace	139,218	104,401	109,250	74.99%	120.76%
Out of District Tuition	1,917,000	2,512,029	2,011,677	131.04%	141.97%
Total Public Budget	81,576,438	81,087,879	77,006,238	99.40%	100.72%
Non-Public Budget	605,699	540,104	539,025	89.17%	93.90%
Total Education Budget	82,182,137	81,627,983	77,545,263	99.33%	99.57%

General Control – The rate of spending is lower mainly due to a decrease in legal services paid in the current year compared to the same time in the prior year.

Instruction – This line item came in under budget mainly due to the spending freeze instituted during the year.

Health Services – The rate of spending is higher in the current year due to the Health Director becoming vacant for a partial year in the prior year.

Pupil Transportation – This line item is in excess of budget due to an increased need for outside vendor transportation for Special Education students.

Operation of Plant – The rate of spending is lower mainly to due electricity and natural gas savings.

Maint of Plant/Equipment – This line item came in under budget mainly due to the spending freeze instituted during the year.

Insurance/Pension – This line item came in significantly under budget due to employee changes in medical and dental insurance during the year. The district netted well over \$1M in dropped coverage due to terminations while only added \$600K in coverage for new hires. There were also more decreased in coverage during the year than increases. Lastly, the Board budgeted for a cliff from the prior year that did not come to fruition.

Food Services – Simsbury was subject to a nutrition services audit in the current year which was conducted by the State of CT. Unfortunately, our Food Services Director does not meet the State of CT education standards and the Cafeteria Fund can no longer absorb the salary of the Food Services Director until the educational requirements are met. Our Food Services Direct DOES meet the federal requirements and management has been back and forth with the State to get the requirements waived based on experience and the federal standards but unfortunately, this has been to no avail. Therefore, the Food Services Director salary will need to be charged to the General Fund.

Student Body Activities – This line item is in excess of budget due to coaching stipend payouts.

Community Services – This line item is in excess of budget due to anticipated school building rentals during the year requiring custodial services. This line item is offset by revenues received within the general fund.

Equipment – This line item came in under budget mainly due to the spending freeze instituted during the year.

Out of District Tuition – Rate of spending is higher mainly due to increased costs for out of district services and a lower excess cost reimbursement.

Non-Public Budget – This line item is under budget mainly due to transportation savings associated with parent reimbursement for transportation to private schools.

Overall, the Board of Education ended in a surplus position of \$551,160. The Superintendent recommends transferring this surplus into the Non-Lapsing fund. If the Board supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

MOTION: “Move, effective September 24, 2024 to transfer Board of Education surplus funds in the amount of \$551,160 into the Non-Lapsing Fund.”

Enrollment Comparison 2023-24 to 2023-22

Grade	Actual 10/1/2023	Actual 10/1/2022	Differential
K-6	2177	2176	+1
7-8	634	627	+7
9-12	1293	1261	+32
Totals	4104	4064	+40

Staffing Comparison (FTE)

	2023-24	2022-23	Difference
Certified	391.29	388.59	+2.7
Non-Certified	255.61	252.87	+2.74
Administrative	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>-1.0</u>
Total	666.9	662.46	+4.44

Non-Lapsing Fund Summary

Non-Lapsing Fund Summary

Beginning Balance as of 6/30/2022	651,308
FY24 Use of Non-Lapsing	(353,700)
FY25 Use of Non-Lapsing	(297,608)
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2023	-

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 24, 2024
RE: Simsbury High School Report

Simsbury High School (SHS) continues to exemplify excellence through preparation, passion and personal growth. The year is off to a great start with Principal Maggie Seidel beginning her second year in the role. There is much to celebrate from 2023-2024! It was a year of listening, learning, and strengthening the current systems and structures at SHS.

Tonight, Principal Seidel, Director of School Counseling, Greg Stillman, and Assistant Principals Vanessa Massiah, Ken Pera and Georgia Robert will overview this past year's successes - academically and culturally.

First Principal Seidel and Director Greg Stillman will overview our most recent student performance data related to Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) results, Advanced Placement (AP) performance, and a summary of Simsbury High School's college acceptances and college diploma attainment.

Scholastic Aptitude Test:

- 86% College Ready in ELA - 1st in DRG
- 60% College Ready in Math - 2nd in DRG
- SHS Mean SAT Score = 1130 (last year 1102)
 - State Mean SAT Score = 966 (last year 975)
 - National Mean SAT Score = 952 (last year 960)

Advanced Placement:

- 465 students took at least 1 AP class and 957 AP Tests were taken this past year.
- 794 out of 957 tests scored a 3 or higher = 83% (previous year was 77%)
- 69 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award; 31 for AP Scholar with Honor; 73 for AP Scholar of Distinction, and 8 students earned the Capstone Diploma

Additionally, our students' Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) performance was outstanding. Nearly 87% of our students were at/above the benchmark. Ranked #1 in the DRG and #2 in the State of Connecticut (up from #3 last year), these results are formidable.

Finally, for the Class of 2024, the following is noted relative to college acceptances:

- 19% of graduates were accepted to a Most Competitive College*

*Most Competitive Colleges = Top 50 Universities and Top 50 Liberal Arts Colleges as determined by US News & World School Report

- 76% of graduates attending a four-year college; 14% pursuing a two-year degree
- Steady performance in percentage of students earning a college degree within six years of graduation: 2016 (72%), 2017 (75%) and 2018 (72%)

The assistant principals will review the overwhelmingly positive school climate survey results from students, staff and families alike. Results indicate a direct correlation between the climate focal points/issues and increased satisfaction percentages related to targeted areas.

Students noted a 43% increase in teacher excitement about their work, a 32% decrease in behavioral distractions impacting their learning, and a 30% increase in SHS valuing diversity. Family feedback resulted in an 11% increase in a feeling of safety, a 9% increase in a welcoming school environment and a 10% increase in feeling as though disciplinary procedures at SHS are fair. Staff noted a 23% increase in feeling engaged with building administrators, a 16% increase in feeling connected with SHS, and 17% in professional learning meeting their individual needs.

Principal Seidel will then frame out the next level of work in 2024-2025 for Simsbury High School aligned with the district strategic plan.

Student Growth/Success: Student feedback and the Vision of a Graduate; common assessments by course; using this information to inform our teaching.

Compassionate/Connected School Culture: Encouraging Words; student celebrations and assemblies; cellphones; attendance

Premier Workforce: New evaluation plan; artificial intelligence.

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 Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 24, 2024
RE: 2024-25 Board Committees Assignments

The Board of Education Bylaws, adopted in November 2004, provide for the establishment of committees in order to facilitate the work of the Board on a wide range of issues and topics. The Bylaws identify four types of committees: Standing Committee, Temporary Committee, Committee of the Whole, and Advisory Committee. Through the Bylaws, the Board has established the following Standing Committees: Policy, Personnel & Negotiations, Curriculum, Communications and, approved this evening, Finance.

This evening the board will have the opportunity to review the 2024-25 committee member list, which will be included in board members folders.

MTC:kdw

**SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
2024-25**

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

Sharon Thomas, Chair Lydia Tedone
Josh Falco Jessica Parise

Personnel & Negotiations 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.

Brian Watson, Chair Tara Willerup
Jen Batchelar Jessica Parise

Curriculum 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 resulting from annual curriculum and program evaluation reports; to follow up on curriculum-related policy issues as identified by the Board of Education

Tara Willerup, Chair Lydia Tedone
Jen Batchelar Sharon Thomas

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

Jeff Tindall, Chair Brian Watson
Jessica Parise Josh Falco

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

Josh Falco, Chair Sharon Thomas
Tara Willerup Brian Watson

Temporary Committees:

Facilities & Enrollment Task Force – Jen Batchelar, Chair, Jeff Tindall, Tara Willerup and Josh Falco

Liaisons to Administrative/Town Committees:

Equity Council – Tara Willerup

SHS Leadership Team – Jen Batchelar and Jeff Tindall

Trojan Council – Jeff Tindall

Magowan Grants & Scholarships – Tara Willerup

Technology Advisory Council – Brian Watson

Retirement Plan Sub-Committee – Brian Watson