

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
December 13, 2022
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 November 10, 2022 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2022 Meeting EXHIBIT II
 - C. Acceptance of Gift from Ensign Bickford EXHIBIT III
 - D. Acceptance of Gift to SHS FIRST Robotics EXHIBIT IV
 - E. Acceptance of Gift from SHS Class of 1970 EXHIBIT V
 - F. Acceptance of Gift to Cultural Enrichment Committee EXHIBIT VI
 - G. Approval of 2023 BOE Meeting Schedule EXHIBIT VII
- VII. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Open Choice Update EXHIBIT VIII
 - B. NESDEC Enrollment Projections EXHIBIT IX
 - C. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan EXHIBIT X
 - D. 2023-24 Budget Calendar EXHIBIT XI
- VIII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IX. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 10, 2023,
BOE Conference Room

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Special Meeting

November 10, 2022

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. in the Friends Room at the Simsbury Public Library.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson. Ms. Jen Batchelar arrived at 5:56 p.m. Ms. Sharon Thomas arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Members absent: Mr. Todd Burrick.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, Director of Infrastructure and Technology Jason Casey, Latimer Lane School Principal Mike Luzietti and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, noted the escalating costs for the Latimer Lane project. She recommended the project be paused for a year to give the BOE time to reconfigure the usable space and receive a cost analysis around the redistricting of 6th grade students to HJMS.

Mark Scully, 29 Notch Road, Chairman of the Sustainability Committee, requested that the board approve project alternate #1 for the installation of a geothermal HVAC system. He stated the committee would like to review the life cycle cost and the payback period to determine if the findings of the engineering firm are accurate.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Latimer Lane Project Update with Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance

Mr. Curtis introduced Jeff Wyszynski, Principal at Tecton Architects, who will review where we are in the project development and the 8 recommended alternates for inclusion in the project. He noted that the geothermal HVAC system was not included in the original project that went to referendum.

Mr. Wyszynski provided schematics of the renovated building and the renovated building floor plan. He stated the original referendum passed was in the amount of \$36,792,406. As a result of bid results, allowances and soft costs in this economy there is a budget overage of \$1,766,974.

Mr. Wyszynski reviewed the add alternate bids. He noted that all of these items were in the original scope of the project, except for the geothermal system. Mr. Wyszynski pointed out that the boiler system was replaced at Latimer Lane School last year with a much more efficient system than was there previously. The design team had conversations with the engineering firm and analyzed the payback period for the

Public Audience

Latimer Lane
Project Update
w/BOS & BOF

geothermal system which is approximately 300 years.

Mr. Wyszynski addressed alternate #2 site work (seat walls and fixed furniture) which provide outdoor learning spaces. Alternate #3 site work (stamped concrete) would be located in the 3 outdoor courtyard spaces. In lieu of concrete, crushed granite gravel would be utilized. Alternate #4 is also for site work (poured-in-place play surface). Mr. Wyszynski stated that a poured rubber surface would be used in place of wood chips, but the poured surface cost is \$433,456.

Mr. Wyszynski addressed alternate #5 south courtyard which would provide a leveled outdoor space similar to a small amphitheater. Alternate #6 is for a brick storage shed with a cost of \$160,358. The alternative would be to provide a preconstructed shed at a much lower cost. Alternate #8 is a vehicle barrier gate that would be added to the loading dock area. Alternate #7 would provide rubber flooring rather than linoleum flooring throughout the school building. Again, cost is a factor here with rubber flooring costing an additional \$328,377.

First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis asked if the plan is still to move grade 6 to HJMS? Ms. Salina responded that moving 6th grade is not being addressed at this time. If 6th grade was to be moved, then preschool would be moved to Latimer Lane. Board of Finance Chairperson Lisa Heavner asked what items in the project have already been reduced. Mr. Wyszynski stated the team looked at a better way to do the design and changed some of the details. Mr. Curtis gave the example of the gym floor which was changed from wood to rubber at a savings of \$200,000. Board of Finance member Linda Schofield questioned the outdoor space that would be used for instrumental music. Mr. Wyszynski pointed out the Latimer Lane Principal actively used outdoor spaces during COVID. Ms. Schofield questioned the result if that outdoor space is not added. Mr. Wyszynski stated the space would not have the definition of an amphitheater, but the space would remain.

Board of Selectmen member Amber Abbuhl asked if the alternate items would be less expensive if done now. Mr. Wyszynski responded that the contractors will not hold the bid alternate prices not included in the project and costs will go up as well as logistical issues.

BOE Chairperson Lisa Heavner noted that borrowing costs have increased and the town has a debt service limit of 8%. Mr. Curtis stated the BOE would adjust their 6 year capital improvement plan (CIP) to meet the 8% debt service limit. Mr. Wyszynski addressed Ms. Schofield's questions related to the difference between linoleum and rubber flooring.

Board of Selectmen member Chris Peterson stated he has no knowledge about educating children which creates a difficult position to know which of the alternates are best. He noted that the budget increase and all of the alternates would amount to a 4.8% increase in the project. Mr. Peterson stated his belief that the building needs to be improved and will ultimately be voted on by the townspeople. He asked Mr. Luzietti what he needs as it relates to delivering high level education.

Mr. Luzietti stated that alternates #3 and #5 have a programmatic impact and change the function of that space. He stated that alternate #2 directly impacts the use of the space for programs. Mr. Luzietti pointed out the need for level surfaces to provide accessibility for all students. He noted that these alternates were included in the

original design voted on at the original referendum. Mr. Sullivan stated that during the design development process the impact of COVID was felt and the outdoor functional space was part of the design.

Ms. Heavner pointed out that increased costs will affect the CIP. Board of Finance member Art House noted that there will be essential systems that will need to be replaced that need to stay in the CIP.

Board of Finance member Mr. Derek Peterson asked if state funding will increase with the high project cost. Mr. Wyszynski responded that the team met with the CT Office of Construction & Grants yesterday. All eligible costs will be tracked and submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Derek Peterson noted that you can control project costs but you cannot control bonding costs. Ms. Mackstutis asked what the BOE would be asking for in their CNR and CIP in the upcoming budget. Mr. Curtis responded that any necessary adjustments will be made if the project affects debt service.

Ms. Mackstutis asked if costs will increase for taxpayers. Board of Selectman Sean Askham noted that this will be a 7 month discussion, and the board will talk again in March. He stated he assumes that BOE members are considering debt in their CIP.

Mr. Chris Peterson asked the value of the new boilers. Mr. Curtis responded \$600,000 - \$700,000. Mr. Chris Peterson asked if you need a backup with a geothermal system. Brian Hamel, Consulting Engineering Services, responded that you do not need a backup, but the boilers would help if the generator was needed. He noted a lot would need to be done to take out the boilers.

Ms. Salina asked if the debt for the project could be refinanced at a later date. Ms. Meriwether responded that that it could be refinanced. Ms. Schofield stated that ongoing costs could impact the operating budget. Board of Finance member Art House asked about the storage shed and barrier gate alternates. Mr. Curtis stated that it will be better to buy a shed rather than pay \$160,000 to build a shed.

Ms. Schofield asked about the state level of reimbursement for the additional cost of the project. Mr. Wyszynski stated that the reimbursement will depend on the amount the state determines are ineligible costs. He noted that gmp (guaranteed maximum price) and contingencies are built into the cost. Ms. Salina pointed out that any extra reimbursement goes directly to the town. Mr. Askham noted that the increased interest rate cost could be mitigated such that it does not impact the taxpayer. When asked if the project includes solar energy, Mr. Wyszynski responded that it does not, but the infrastructure is in place to add solar at a later date.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Latimer Lane Additional Appropriation

Mr. Watson stated he trusts the process, the advice of the experts, and Mr. Luzietti. Ms. Tedone stated that she agrees with Mr. Chris Peterson that we can't be shortsighted on the project and taking care of items now will save costs down the road. Ms. Salina asked what the break even is for the geothermal system. Mr. Casey responded that the project is an efficient build and the new boilers are very energy efficient. It would take a long time to gain an advantage with geothermal

Approval of
Latimer Lane
Additional
Appropriation

given the starting point of the project.

Ms. Batchelar asked if the barrier gate addresses a safety issue. Mr. Luzietti stated that it would be located in front of the custodial area and students are not permitted in that area. It is not a safety hazard. Ms. Batchelar pointed out that outdoor space is critical for elementary students.

Mr. Tindall stated that the additional \$1.7 million necessary to complete the project is a big number. He agreed that Mr. Luzietti's suggestions are educationally appropriate. Mr. Tindall pointed out that the request for geothermal was added after the BOE recommended the project and the referendum was held. He expressed concern that to add it now would create a dangerous precedent related to process. Mr. Tindall noted that the school district has a large master plan, and the discussion around geothermal would be appropriate with regard to future projects. He stated his agreement with following Mr. Luzietti's lead.

Ms. Thomas stated her support for alternates #3, #5 and #2. She noted that the additional costs are high and other items can remain on a list for the future. Ms. Salina expressed her support for alternates #3, #5, and #2, stating she will follow the lead of Mr. Luzietti and the team. She pointed out the Facilities & Enrollment Task Force worked on this project for a long period of time.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Board of Education recommend to the Board of Selectmen additional funding of the Latimer Lane Renovation Project in the amount of \$2,261,837, bringing the total project cost to \$39,054,243, be approved.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Adjournment

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Special Meeting

November 15, 2022

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Todd Burrick.

Members absent: Mmes. Susan Salina and Sharon Thomas. Mr. Brian Watson

Also present: Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Emilie Carroll and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Communications

Ms. Carroll reported that 80-90 SHS students took the optional national math exam. She stated that she has not heard negative comments about the security pass system in place since the start of the school year. Ms. Carroll reported on the fall sports teams and choral concerts at SHS. She stated that she wanted to form a group for Unified Theater but was unable to get enough regular ed students to participate.

Ms. Willerup reported that the Curriculum Committee met to review changes to the graduation requirements at SHS. She stated that the intent is to give more flexibility to the categories for credits. Ms. Batchelar noted all of the great school programs held for Veteran's Day.

Ms. Lydia stated that the CABA/CAPSS conference starts on Thursday. She noted that CREC Council, comprised of 35 districts, have been discussing energy efficiency in districts.

Mr. Sullivan noted the board's action on the Latimer Lane project at the tri-board meeting. He reported that the BOS affirmed that decision and recommended the 3 alternates to the BOF. The next step is for the BOF to move the matter to a public hearing. Mr. Tindall thanked the BOS and BOF for attending the tri-board meeting, and the BOS for their support of the three alternates.

Ms. Lemke addressed the full day of professional development held on November 8. The theme was around engagement, how to engage in work around the district. Ms. Lemke pointed out that 60 staff members were presenters that day. She noted that STEM night for elementary students will be held on Thursday, with 200 students already signed up.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2022 Meeting

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

B. Approval of Squadron Line HVAC Education Specs

Mr. Sullivan stated the district will take the opportunity to apply for grants that CT is offering to improve air quality in schools. Approval of the education specifications is part of the grant process. Mr. Sullivan noted that the air handling system at Squadron Line School is original to the building and there have been some air quality issues due to humidity in the building. Currently there is a patchwork of air conditioning units in the building. This project is estimated to cost \$225,000 with one-third being grant eligible. The remainder would likely be paid through CNR.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the educational specifications for the Squadron Line Elementary School Air Quality Improvement Project.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

C. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between The Simsbury Board of Education and The Simsbury Education Association (SEA)

Mr. Burrick, Personnel & Negotiations Committee Chair, noted the largest asset in the district is our employees and the largest bargaining group is comprised of teachers. He thanked Mr. Sullivan and members of the committee for their work to reach a settlement. Mr. Burrick also thanked the teachers negotiating team comprised of Kara Maslar, Jamie Sepa, Tim Walczak and Keira Brown.

Mr. Sullivan stated that negotiations took place during a time of high inflation and settlements across the state are coming in higher. The total salary increases, over 3 years, is 11.98%. Mr. Sullivan noted that we have many experienced teachers at the top of the scale. During negotiations work was done to close the salary gap we have with other districts. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the changes to health insurance and contractual language changes.

Mr. Tindall thanked Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Burrick and Mr. Curtis for their leadership during negotiations. He noted the conversations with the teachers were good and respectful. Mr. Tindall stated he believes this is a fair settlement.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education ratify the proposed changes in the collective bargaining agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury Education Association for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved

D. Cancellation of November 15, 2022 Meeting

Approval of
Minutes of
October 11,
2022

Approval of
Squadron HVAC
Ed Specs

Approval of SEA
Contract

Cancellation of
November 15,

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on November 22, 2022.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Henry James Memorial School Report

Scott Baker, HJMS Principal, reviewed some highlights from the 2021-22 school year as well as the current year, noting the work of the SEL Committee, extra-curricular participation, community service activities, spirit days and team assemblies.

Mr. Baker addressed the school's indicators of success, noting that the assessment data is not consistent. SBAC data reflects a decrease of 9% from last year, to 72% of students at or above goal in ELA. Mr. Baker noted that the ELA score is 4% from the top in DRG B, with no DRG B schools reaching 80%. SBAC Math remains unchanged from the prior year at 57%. The NGSS Science score is up 1% over last year at 75% which is top in DRG B.

Mr. Baker pointed out that there were mixed results in comparable districts. He stated the STAR data reflects that growth targets were met. Mr. Baker stated that areas where there is a preponderance of students having difficulty are being addressed. He noted that comparative data is kept on each student starting in grade 5 and interventions vary student to student. Mr. Baker explained how a spiral review approach is utilized such that concepts continue to be revisited during the teaching process.

Jacqueline Petrella, HJMS Assistant Principal, reviewed the results of the student Panorama survey. She noted that 60% of students responded favorably as to whether they feel safe in school. 49% of students responded favorably to school climate. Ms. Petrella noted the strengths and concerns expressed in the comment section of the survey and how the school is addressing each of these concerns.

Ms. Petrella addressed the results of the staff Panorama survey. 66% of staff have a positive feeling of belonging. 57% responded favorably to their feeling of wellbeing. Ms. Petrella noted the areas of strength and concern. She outlined how the areas of concern are being addressed. Ms. Petrella addressed the survey trends from the family survey and the actions the school is taking.

Ms. Petrella noted the new HJMS logo, ROAR and how it is being incorporated into the school community. Mr. Baker reviewed the school's priorities for 2022-23. Areas of focus include engagement, student growth and instruction. These priorities create the road map for staff in the building.

B. Quarterly Budget Report

Ms. Lemke noted the summaries of state and federal grant awards where there is a delta between this year and last year. She noted the description of expenditures in major accounts. Enrollment and staffing comparisons are also included in the report.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

2022 Meeting

HJMS Report

Quarterly
Budget Report

Public Audience

None		Adjournment
<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>		
Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.		
Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.		
<hr/> Jennifer Batchelar Secretary	<hr/> Katie Wilde Recording Secretary	

EXHIBIT III

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Gift from Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company

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 renewable gift of \$12,500 to STEM K-12 to be used to support the Vision of the Graduate competencies. This is the first year of the donation, which will support critical thinking, communication, collaboration, self-directed learning, innovation, and global citizenship and the Technology Department Vision. This 3 year gift award of \$37,500 will be paid in 3 increments over the duration of the 3 year award.

"MOVE that the proposed gift of \$12,500 to STEM K-12 from the Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company be accepted."

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: December 13, 2022
RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / SHS FIRST Robotics

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 Simsbury High School FIRST Robotics Team from the Estate of Shirley Johnson of \$5,000.

“MOVE that the proposed gift to the FIRST Robotics Team at Simsbury High School from the Estate of Shirley Johnson totaling \$5,000 be approved.”

/cm

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / SHS Student Activity Fund

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 Simsbury High School Student Activity Fund to help families in need participate in various student activities from the Class of 1970 of \$4,000.

“MOVE that the proposed gift to the Student Activity Fund at Simsbury High School from the Class of 1970 totaling \$4,000 be approved.”

/cm

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / Cultural Enrichment Committee

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 gifts from each elementary school parent-teacher organization to fund the programming efforts of the district's Cultural Enrichment Committee. This committee schedules unique cultural programming for our elementary students. The 2022-23 school year total donations from these five PTO's is \$17,430.

"MOVE that the proposed gift of funds from all the elementary school parent-teacher organizations to provide cultural programming to elementary school students be accepted."

/cm

EXHIBIT VII

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

RE: Approval of 2023 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

DATE: December 13, 2022

The Freedom of Information Act of the Connecticut General Statutes requires all town agencies to file with the Town Clerk on or before January 31 of any given year the meeting schedule for that calendar year. Board of Education By-Laws state that "regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month."

Below are the scheduled meeting dates for 2022 that coincide with the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The February 22 meeting will be held on Wednesday as Tuesday is included in the winter recess. The time of the meeting will be set for 6:30 p.m.

January 10	Board Conf. Room	July 11	Board Conf. Room
January 24	Squadron Line School	July 25	Board Conf. Room
February 7	Board Conf. Room	August 8	Board Conf. Room
February 22	Central School (Wed.)	August 22	Board Conf. Room
March 14	Board Conf. Room	Sept. 12	Board Conf. Room
March 28	Tootin' Hills School	Sept. 26	Simsbury High School
April 11	Board Conf. Room	October 10	Board Conf. Room
April 25	Tariffville School	October 24	Henry James School
May 9	Board Conf. Room	November 14	Board Conf. Room
May 23	Latimer Lane School	November 28	Board Conf. Room
June 13	Board Conf. Room	December 12	Board Conf. Room
June 27	Board Conf. Room		

"MOVE that the Board of Education set their 2023 meeting schedule as outlined in the December 13, 2022 board exhibit."

MTC:kdw

EXHIBIT VIII

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Open Choice Grant Update

Simsbury has valued its long-held partnership with the Open Choice program. In fact, Simsbury was one of the charter districts over fifty (50) years ago. Tonight, our Director of Equity and Access, Dr. Tayarisha Batchelor will provide the board an update of the program to include: historical background, current enrollment and promotional strategies, student supports, academic performance, indicators of student engagement, financial structures and next steps toward improvement.

Historical background: Simsbury became a founding district in 1966 for then-named Project Concern. Twenty three years later in 1989, the Sheff v. O'Neill school desegregation case began with a lawsuit challenging the racial and economic segregation and inequalities between Hartford schools and those in its mostly white, more affluent suburbs. In 1997, Project Concern became part of the school choice program through the legislative ruling the year prior. Simsbury has continued its dedication throughout this evolution. It became the first district in Open Choice to begin a preschool program in 2012, and along with two other districts in 2018, recorded the highest enrollment in the state.

Enrollment: Simsbury's Open Choice enrollment has remained healthy for decades, increasing to a 4% rate in 2018. There are a myriad of strategies we use to produce these results. From personalized phone calls to families who express interest, school tours, parent meetings and a family orientation, Simsbury shows its commitment to ensure families who choose Simsbury feel a sense of belonging from "go". In addition, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan works closely with the Open Choice administration to communicate throughout the enrollment process and open up additional seats to meet individualized family needs while balancing class size. Currently, we have 166 students enrolled, Pre-K through grade 12. Dr. Batchelor will give you the specific breakdown by school during this report.

Student Supports: One of the ways we continue to actualize healthy enrollment in Open Choice is through the student supports we provide. In collaboration with our Open Choice School Liaison, Ms Gertrude Banks, a multitude of secondary supports are offered including the After School Trojan Support Center, summer academic intervention, formal mentoring for young men at Henry James, and many after school

school offerings. Elementary supports include a robust Summer Learning Academy and various celebrations at the school level to include breakfasts and other special events.

Student Engagement: Forty-seven (47) percent of high school students in Open Choice participated in a fall sport this year. Additionally, students are accessing resources to increase academic performance, and are consistently represented throughout all seven schools' celebrations, particularly involved in our fine and performance arts programs and K-12 extracurricular clubs and activities.

Academic Performance: Nearly 82% of all students in Open Choice participate in college preparatory courses at Simsbury High School with an additional 13% enrolled in honors and advanced placement courses. Despite this, there still exist achievement gaps between students in Open Choice and their Simsbury peers. This is an area of continued focus for our teaching and learning team led by Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke of which Dr. Tayarisha Batchelor is a crucial part.

Financial Structures: Financial support is offered through Open Choice through three main grants - one that focuses upon attendance, the second for early beginnings resources and the third for academic/social opportunities. The attendance grant is based upon the percentage of Open Choice students when compared to the total student enrollment in Simsbury. We are currently at a 4% threshold. The early beginnings awards are allotted by the number of preschool and kindergarten students we have in Open Choice. Finally, a set amount of dollars is provided for each elementary and secondary student to subsidize programs and service access. In total, Simsbury receives over 1.3 million dollars in Open Choice grant awards.

Continuous Improvement: Although Simsbury has experienced decades of successful partnership with Open Choice, program improvement remains our goal. To that end, and through the leadership of Dr. Batchelor and Ms Banks, the following next steps will be implemented in the coming year:

- Increase family partnerships through book clubs and hybrid events
- Identify strategies to address barriers to engagement
- Provide professional development for staff in areas of academics and social supports
- Enhance student voice and agency through the use of forums, clubs, and inclusive teaching practices.
- Brand Simsbury's Choice Program

We look forward to our continued work together to ensure another successful 50 years of partnership with Open Choice.

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matt Curtis
Superintendent

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: NESDEC Enrollment Report

Overview

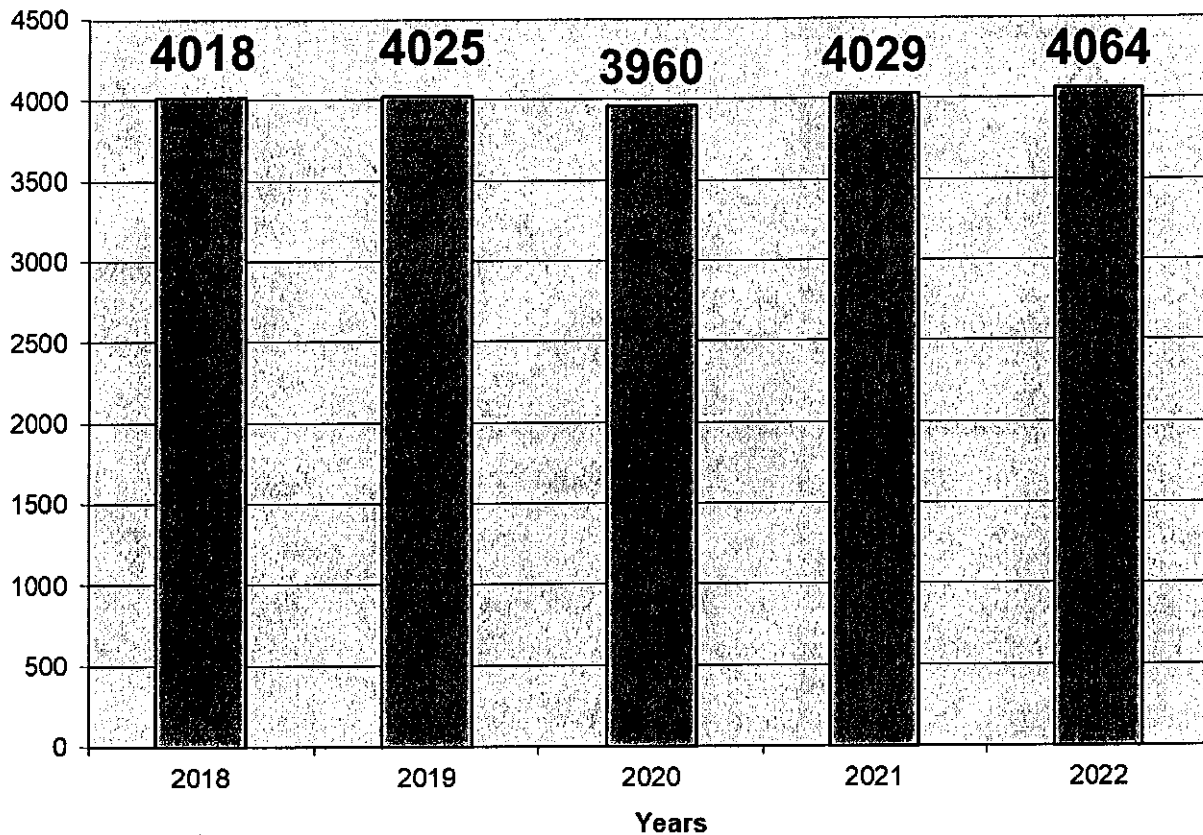
The following enrollment projections for the period 2022-23 through 2027-28 have been developed by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC).

NESDEC employs a modified cohort-survival method in developing these projections. This procedure involves the calculation of ratios, based upon historical enrollment data, to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades.

After study and analysis of the historical ratios and based upon the assumptions above and those regarding births, migration rates, and retention rates, ratios most indicative of future growth patterns are determined for each pair of grades. Each ratio represents the cumulative effect of the following factors:

- Real estate turnover.
- New residential construction.
- Migration, in or out, of the schools.
- Births to residents.
- Retention in the same grade.

I. Table I--October 1 Enrollment History: 2018-19 through 2022-23

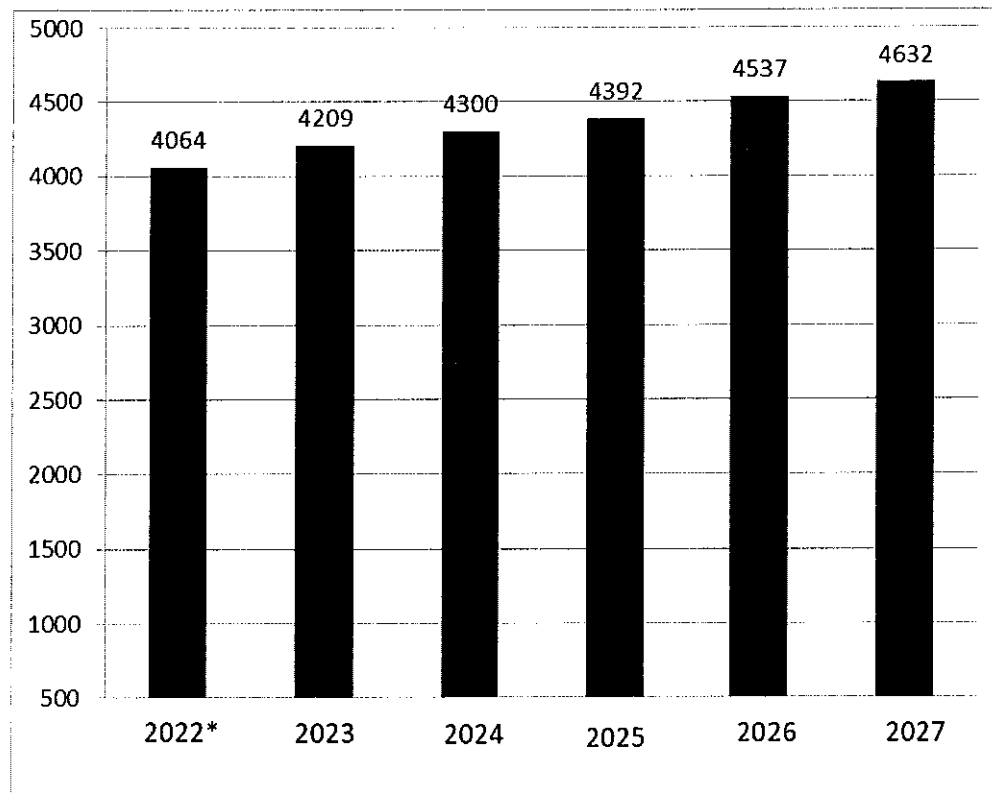


Comments:

- Table I illustrates that K-12 enrollment has increased from 4029 students in 2021 to 4064 students in 2022; this represents a total of 35 students or less than 1%.
- In grades K-6 there were 1989 students in 2018 and 2176 students in 2022. This marks an increase of 187 students or 9.4%
- In grades 7-8 there were 610 students in 2018 and 627 students in 2022. This marks an increase of 17 students or 2.8%.
- In grades 9-12 there were 1419 students in 2018 and 1261 students in 2022. This marks a decrease of 158 students or 11.1%.

II. **Table II -- 5-year Projected Enrollments K-12: 2022-23 through 2027-28**

Note: 2022-23 enrollment numbers are actual October 1, 2022 data

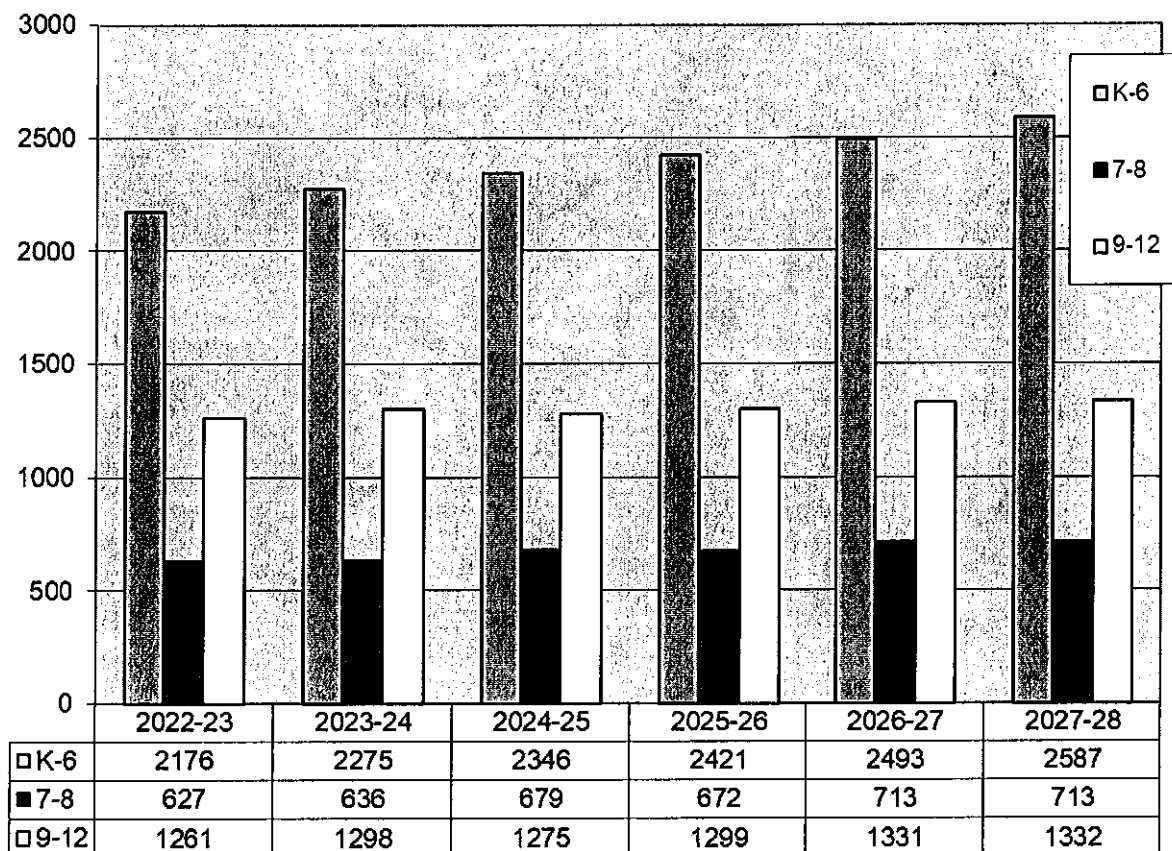


Comments:

Table II suggests that enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12 is expected to increase by 145 students for school year 2023-24. Over the next five years, K-12 enrollment is expected to increase by 568 students. The present enrollment of 4064 students is expected to increase to 4632 students by 2027-28, an overall increase of 14% in the student population.

III. Table III -- 5-year Projected Enrollments by Grade Configuration:
2022-23 through 2027-28

Note: 2022-23 enrollment numbers are actual October 1, 2022 data

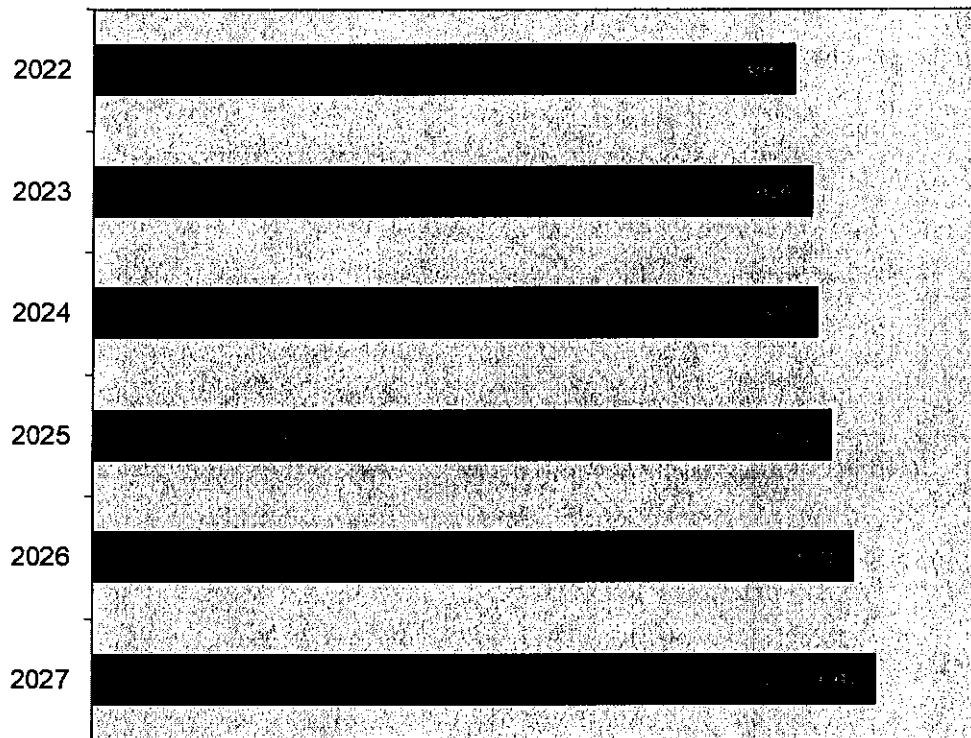


Comments:

- As illustrated in Table III, enrollment in grades K-6 is projected to increase by 99 students by school year 2023-24. Over the next five years, K-6 enrollment is expected to increase by 411 students. The present K-6 enrollment of 2176 is expected to increase to 2587 by 2027-28, an overall increase of 18.9% in the student population.
- Table III suggests that enrollment of Henry James Memorial School will increase by 9 students in 2023-24. Over the next five years, 7-8 enrollment is expected to increase by 86. The present 7-8 enrollment of 627 is expected to increase to 713 by 2027-28, an increase of 13.7%
- Table III suggests that enrollment at Simsbury High School is expected to increase by 37 students in 2023-24. Over the next five years, 9-12 enrollment is expected to increase by 71 students, an increase of 5.6%.

IV. School by School Enrollment Projections

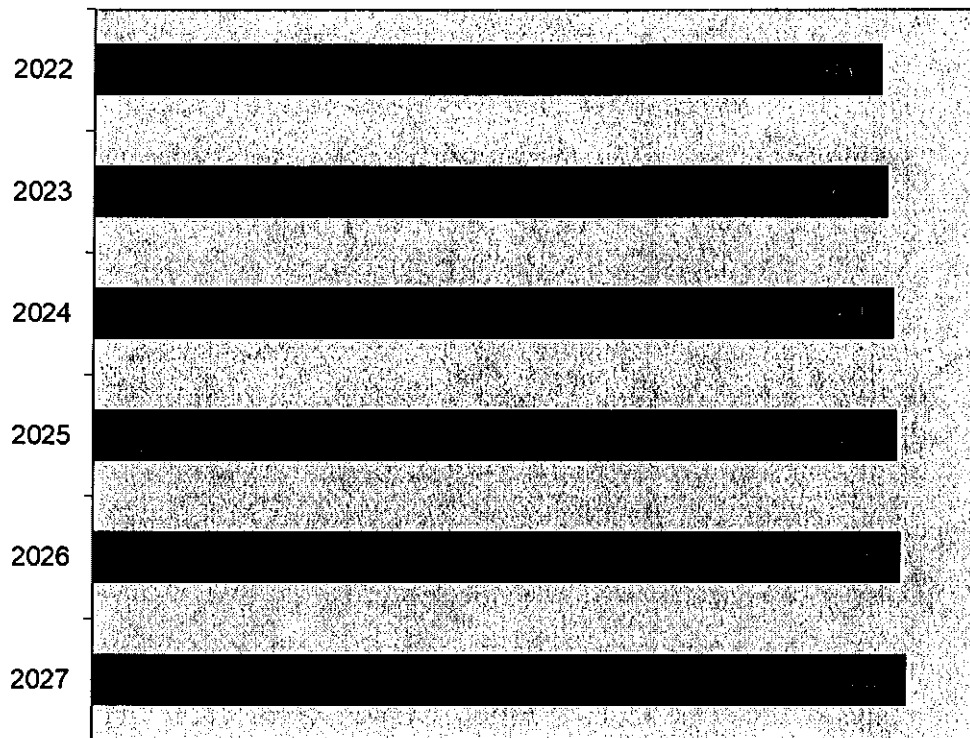
Central School:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	394	404	407	415	428	440

- Central School is projected to increase by 10 students or 2.5% in 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 46 students or 11.7%.

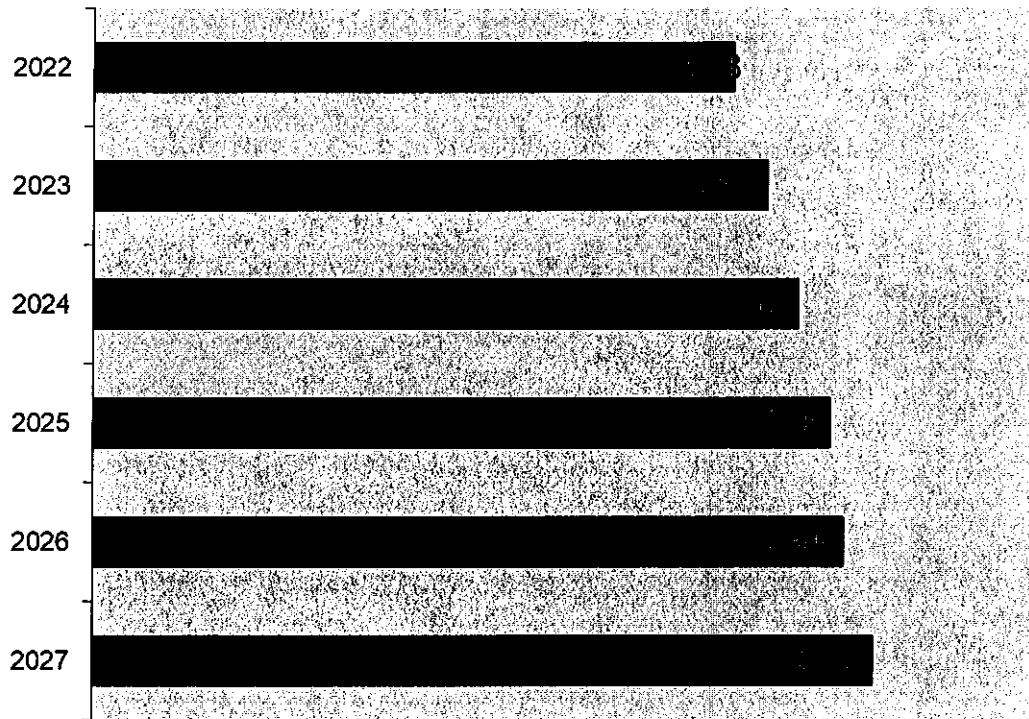
Latimer Lane:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	450	473	499	513	525	552

- Latimer Lane School is projected to increase by 23 students or 5.1% in 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 102 students or 22.7%.

Squadron Line School:

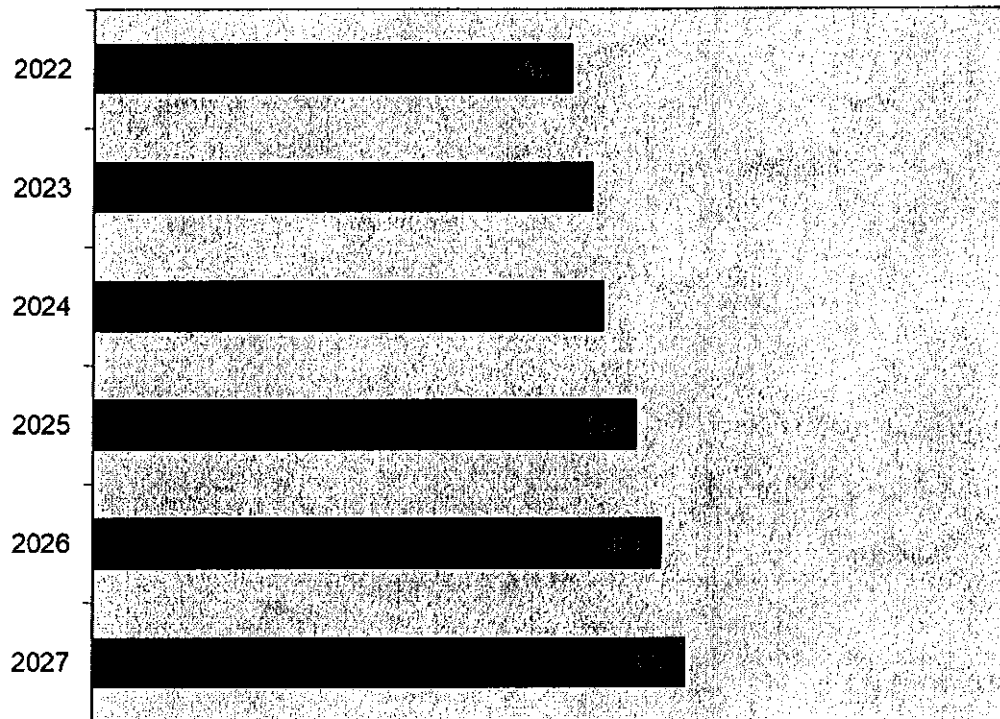


	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	678	713	746	779	794	825

- Squadron Line School is projected to increase by 35 students or 5.2% in 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 147 students or 21.7%.

Note: These projections do not include preschool enrollment, which is 88 students (full- or part- time) in 2022-23

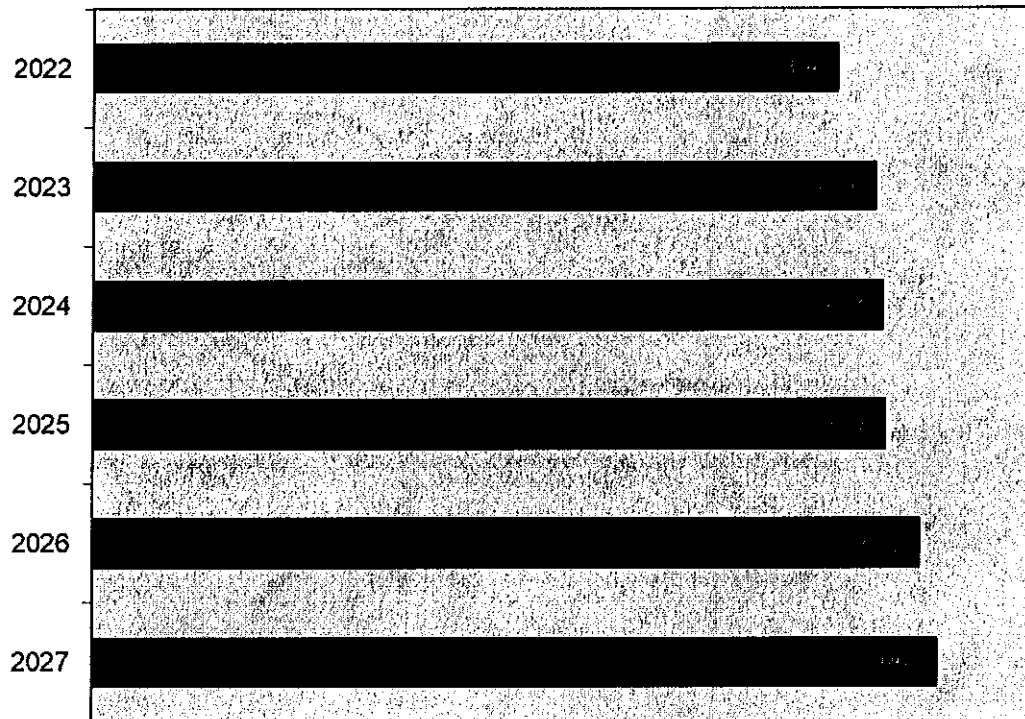
Tariffville School:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	260	271	277	295	309	322

- Tariffville School is projected to increase 11 students or 4.2% in 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 62 students, or 23.8%.

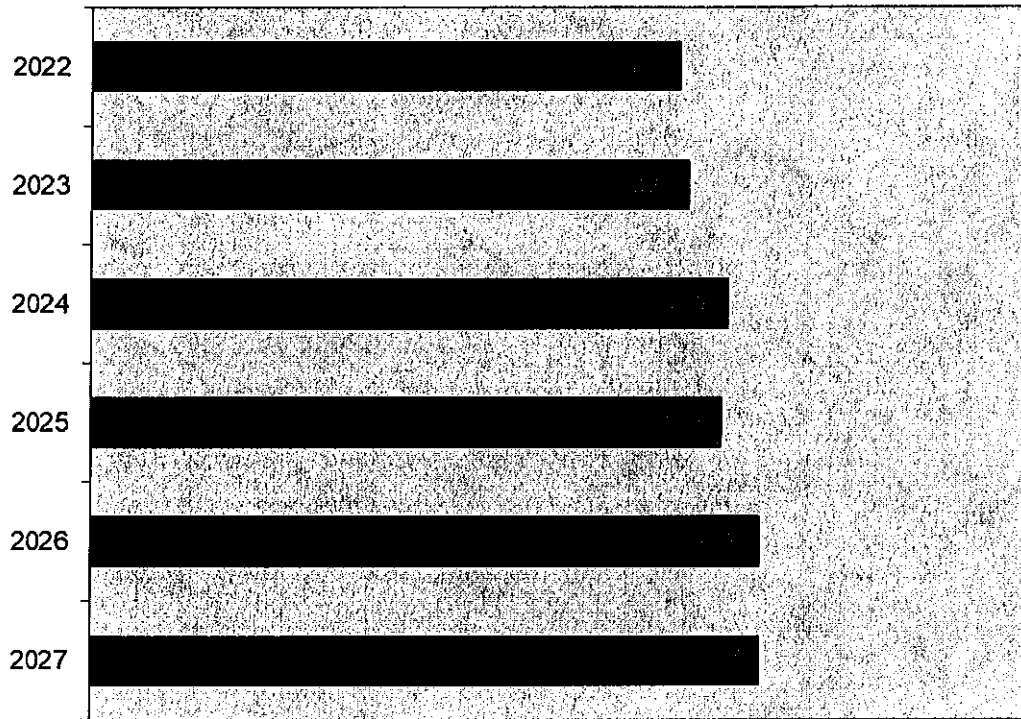
Tootin' Hills School:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	394	414	418	419	437	447

- Tootin' Hills School is projected to increase by 20 students or 5% in 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 53 students, or 13.5%.

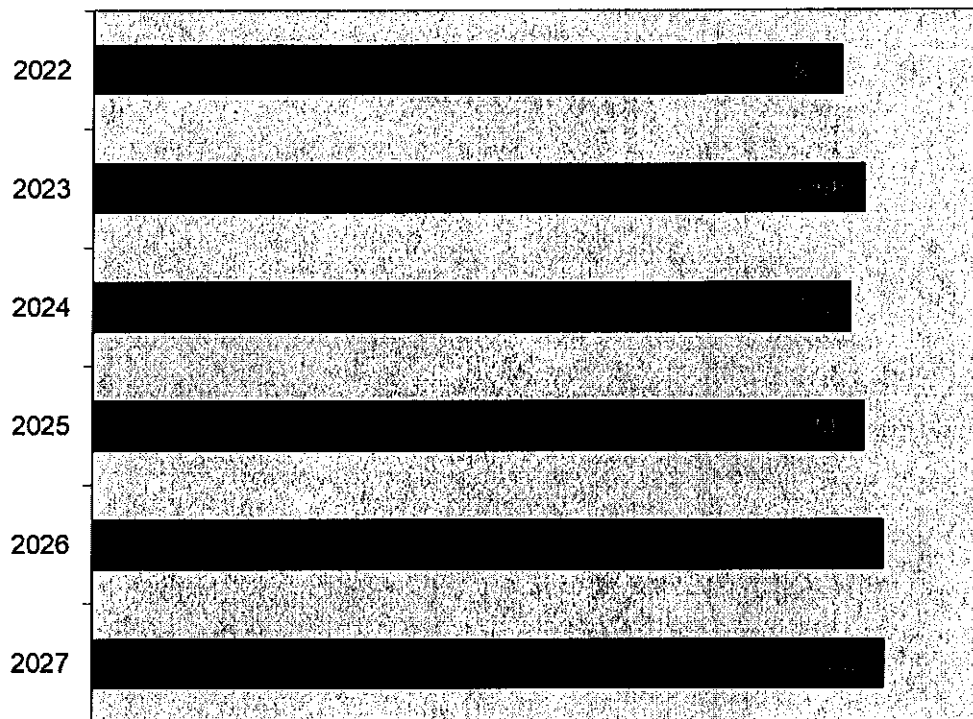
Henry James Memorial School:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	627	636	679	672	713	713

- Henry James Memorial School is projected to increase by 9 students or 1.4% for 2023. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 86 students or 13.7%.

Simsbury High School:



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Enrollment	1261	1298	1275	1299	1331	1332

- Simsbury High School is projected to increase by 37 or 2.9% in 2022. Five-year projections indicate an increase of 71 students or 5.6%.

**V. Historical & Projected (P) Enrollments Birth to Kindergarten
(School-Year 2018-19– 2027-28)**

Birth Year	# Births	Year Students Entered K	K Enrollment
2013	167	2018-19	268
2014	181	2019-20	283
2015	195	2020-21	252
2016	178	2021-22	303
2017	191	2022-23	294
2018	230	2023-24	354 (P)
2019	210	2024-25	323 (P)
2020	206	2025-26	317 (P)
2021	234	2026-27	360 (P)
2022	214 (P)	2027-28	330 (P)

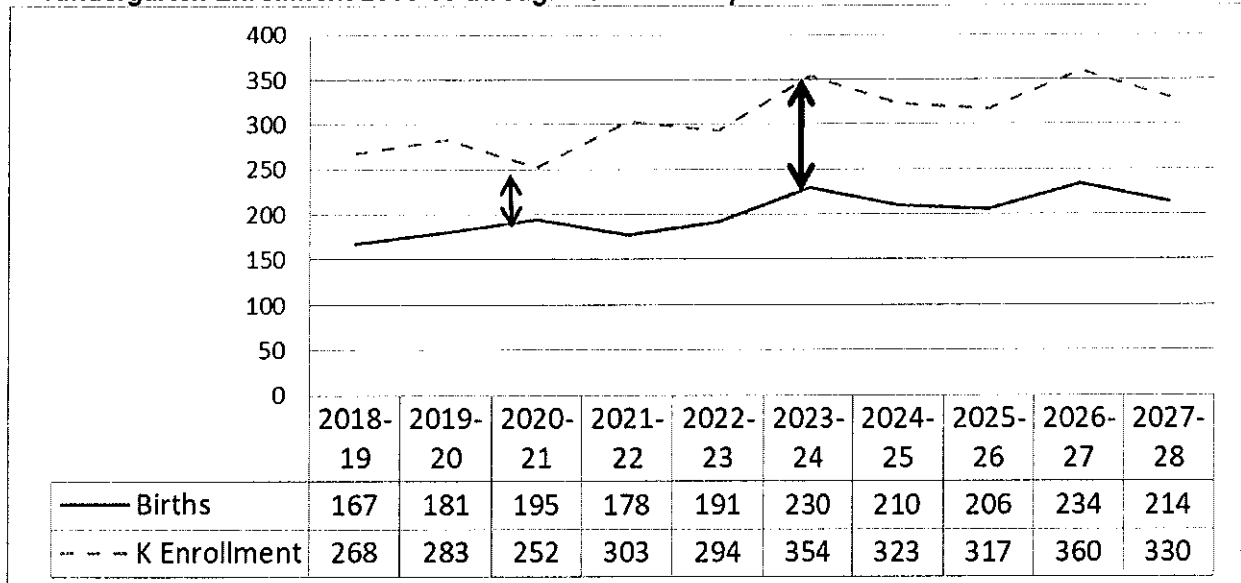
The relationship between Simsbury births and Kindergarten enrollments is displayed on the table above. Over the past four years, Simsbury has registered an average of 153 kindergarteners for every 100 births. This fall there were 154 kindergarteners for every 100 births.

During the period 2022-23 through 2027-28, the number of students entering kindergarten each year is projected to average 337 students per year. Kindergarten projections are directly related to the number of births to area residents five years earlier, coupled with data on in-migration of students new to Simsbury. Since these factors serve as the primary influence on enrollment projections, it is of value to examine them. This table provides a record of births to area residents during the last several years. The administration will continue to monitor the birth-to-kindergarten ratio, which has increased slightly in the last few years.

This year, consistent with past practice, the annual census of pre-school children residing in Simsbury will be undertaken. Since the number of students eligible to enroll in kindergarten each year ultimately drives enrollments at the other grades, the importance of obtaining accurate census information cannot be underestimated. The data derived from the census provides additional information for future planning.

Births/Enrollment Comparison

Kindergarten Enrollment 2018-19 through 2027-28 compared to Birth Year 2013 - 2022



Note: 2023-24 through 2027-28 K enrollment = projections

VI. Enrollment Increases Kindergarten to Grade 1:

Year	Kindergarten	Year	Grade One	Growth/Decline
2012-13	245	2013-14	276	+31
2013-14	231	2014-15	244	+13
2014-15	262	2015-16	278	+16
2015-16	225	2016-17	242	+17
2016-17	262	2017-18	278	+16
2017-18	258	2018-20	283	+25
2018-19	268	2019-20	283	+15
2019-20	283	2020-21	288	+5
2020-21	252	2021-22	269	+17
2021-22	303	2022-23	325	+22

Note:

- Historically, we have seen an increase in the student population entering 1st grade. Over the 10-year period illustrated the increase in population was an average of 17.7 students per year.

VII. Conclusions:

- The 2022 NESDEC projections suggest that K-12 student enrollment in the Simsbury Public Schools will increase by an average of approximately 113.6 students per year for the next five years. The present enrollment of 4064 students is projected to increase to 4632 students in the year 2027-28.
- Enrollment projections are very useful when planning for areas such as staffing and its associated budget implications; however, projections are merely a forecast, not a certainty or guarantee. Although the historical data are accurate, many of the variables influencing the movement of families to and from Simsbury are not predictable and do have the potential of impacting future enrollment numbers. In addition, it is important to note that projections are most reliable for the immediate future, i.e., into the following school year. Projections become increasingly less reliable the further they extend into the future, specifically after a 5-year period.
- These projections will be important to monitor, especially the size of incoming K classes, over the next few years. As the district continues with its plans for renewal of the facilities at the elementary level, it may be necessary to reconvene the Facilities & Enrollment Task Force to confirm or adjust priorities. Fortunately, the Latimer Lane project, scheduled to be completed during the 2024-25 school year, will address enrollment concerns in that area of town, and some Latimer Lane classrooms could be available to relocate programming from other schools.

MTC:cdf

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: December 13, 2022

RE: Capital Improvement Project Plan – Review

Attached you will find an updated draft of the Board of Education Projects for the 2023/24 fiscal year. The plan “rolls forward” the projects from last year’s plan. This budget demonstrates the immediate needs of our schools and the importance of continuing our renovation discussions.

The budget addresses the following 3 areas:

Tariffville Modulares – The Tariffville modulares, originally constructed in 1984, are far beyond their life expectancy and were scheduled for replacement this past summer. However, the budgeted \$350,000 which was based on estimates from the early days of the Latimer Lane renovation project were not in line with estimates requested this summer. Some key differences included a building code requirement for a sprinkler system, a challenging location for the movement of building materials, and the overall change in market conditions. The new structure will provide 2 classrooms and office space within 3000 square feet.

Central Modulares – Devoting six classrooms to the preschool program at Squadron Line school is leading to increased class sizes as enrollment there increases. Constructing modular classrooms at Central will allow for the preschool to be split between these two locations. This will also help prepare for a future in which all of the elementary schools will be capable of housing their own preschool populations. The new structure will provide 3 large classrooms and special education space within 5000 square feet.

District Security Improvements – This is a recurring biennial capital fund which provides for upgrades and improvements to the district’s security infrastructure. This year, analog security cameras, first installed in 2006, will be replaced with digital cameras. It will provide higher resolution, greater coverage, and the proactive replacement of devices that are beginning to fail in increasing numbers.

Simsbury Board of Education
Six Year Capital Improvement Program
Fiscal Year 2023/24 - Fiscal Year 2028/29

	<u>FY22/23</u>
CENTRAL SCHOOL	
Add Modular Classrooms	1,350,000
<hr/>	
Total Central School	1,350,000
TARIFFVILLE SCHOOL	
Replace Modular Classrooms	500,000
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Total Tariffville School	500,000
District Wide	
District Security Improvements	250,000
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Total District Wide	250,000
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TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	<u>2,100,000</u>

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE
PREPARATION OF THE 2023-24 BUDGET**

December 13, 2022	Board of Education Budget Meeting/ 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-24 Budget Calendar
January 10, 2023	Board of Education Budget Meeting / 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of budget context and major drivers • Special Education Program Review
January 17, 2023	<u>BOF-BOE-BOS Meeting / 5:45 p.m. Location TBD</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-24 Budget
January 24, 2023	Board of Education Budget Meeting / 6:30 p.m. Location TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment and Staffing • BOE to receive budget books
February 3, 2023 (Sat.)	Board of Education Budget Workshop / 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. HJ Library Media Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line Item Budget • Curriculum, Textbooks and Professional Development • Equipment and Supplies • Technology Software • Insurance and Pension • Capital Non-Recurring Fund (CNR) • 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) • Revenues and Grants
February 7, 2023	Board of Education / 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Superintendent's 2023-24 Budget • Non-Public School Budget • Approval of the 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan for submission to the Board of Selectmen
February 23, 2023 (Wed.)	Board of Education Adoption of 2023-24

BUDGET DEADLINES / CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

Projected Dates – Subject to Change

February 15, 2023	Submission Deadline for 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan
March 7, 2023	Board of Education Budget Presentation to Board of Finance 5:45 p.m.
March 23, 2023	Board of Finance Discussion (if needed) 5:45 p.m.
April 4, 2023	Board of Finance Public Hearing on Capital and Operating Budgets 6:00 p.m.
April 18, 2023	Board of Finance Final Public Hearing (continuation, if needed) 5:45 p.m.
May 2, 2023	Budget Referendum at Henry James Memorial School (tentative)