

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
June 8, 2021
BOE Conference Room

6:30 p.m.
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- III. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS
- IV. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
 - A. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2021 Special Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2021 Meeting EXHIBIT II
 - C. Personnel EXHIBIT III
 - D. Approval of Superintendent's Contract EXHIBIT IV
 - E. Approval of Northwest Community Bank Scholarship EXHIBIT V
 - F. Approval of Professor Gilbert Maffeo Jr. Scholarship EXHIBIT VI
 - G. Acceptance of Gift from Squadron Line PTO EXHIBIT VII
 - H. BOE Summer Meeting Schedule EXHIBIT VIII
- V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. ESSER Grant Overview EXHIBIT IX
 - B. Equity Council Update EXHIBIT X
- VI. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 14, 2021,
BOE Conference Room

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Special Meeting

May 19, 2021

Mrs. Susan Salina called the virtual meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson.

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

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the Board of Education enter executive session to interview an administrative candidate and include Superintendent Curtis.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Watson: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Executive
Session

Adjournment

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

May 25, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Tariffville School cafeteria.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Mr. Brian Watson.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Tedone reported on the CSDE forum where the department is requesting input on how they are doing. Ms. Tedone noted that she has been elected once again as Chairperson at CREC. The CABA Legislative Wrap-up will be held on June 14. She reported that NSBA will be hosting an Advocacy Institute online June 8-10.

Communications

Ms. Thomas noted that today is the annual remembrance of George Floyd and the board paused for a moment of silence. She stated that Avon is hosting a voices of equity event this evening and hopefully next year Simsbury can do something similar. Ms. Thomas reported that the Equity Council is finishing their work resulting from the data composition and will bring recommendations to the board.

Ms. Batchelar reported on the success of the prom and the senior outing. She praised the 6th grade teachers for incorporating distance learning into their classrooms. Ms. Willerup commended Ms. Lemke for running the Equity Council that has been a working group for a long time. She noted that the council is really making headway.

Mr. Sullivan reported that last Thursday the district celebrated staff recognition for 2020-21, including the recognition of this year's retirees. Mr. Curtis noted that the timing of the Equity Council recommendations is perfect as we look to reboot the strategic plan in the fall. He reported on positive COVID news with high vaccine rates in the Farmington Valley and a positive outlook for the fall from the Farmington Valley Health District. Mr. Curtis pointed out that the mask mandate is still in place for schools. He introduced Alex Picoult, one of the new BOE student reps for next year.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Appointment of Squadron Line Assistant Principal

Appointment of

<p>Mr. Curtis stated his recommendation of Nysheria Sims-Oliver to the position of Squadron Line Assistant Principal. He reviewed the hiring process which included a screening interview and then two committee interview rounds. Ms. Sims-Oliver was chosen from a pool of more than 100 applicants and brings a multitude of skills that will benefit the district.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: MOVE that the Board of Education appoint Nysheria Sims-Oliver to the position of Assistant Principal for Squadron Line School with an effective date of July 1, 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Ms. Sims-Oliver stated that she is grateful to be chosen for this position and she is excited to begin her work in this special place.</p>	<p>Squadron Line Assistant Principal</p>
<p>B. Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2021 Meeting</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Tedone and Ms. Willerup abstained.</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2021 Meeting</p>
<p>C. Personnel</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Burke LaClair effective May 31, 2021 and Jane Ellen Peregrin effective June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Suzanne Szekeres effective June 30, 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Kim Roth effective June 30, 2024.</p> <p>Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Personnel</p>
<p>D. Approval of Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the salary range for the unaffiliated Board of Education employees and salaries for the Central Office Administrators be increased by 2.50% for the 2021-22 fiscal year.</p> <p>Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.</p>	<p>Approval of Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments</p>
<p>E. Approval of Latimer Lane Education Specifications</p> <p>Mr. Sullivan noted that the board received a presentation on the specifications at their last meeting.</p>	<p>Approval of Latimer Lane Education Specifications</p>

<p>Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Latimer Lane Education Specifications.</p>	<p>Approval of 2021-22 Textbooks</p>
<p>Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.</p>	
<p>F. Approval of 2021-22 Textbooks</p>	
<p>Ms. Lemke noted that the board was presented with the AP Statistics textbook at their last meeting.</p>	
<p>Ms. Thomas: MOVE that the Board approve the textbook adoption for the 2021-22 school year as submitted by the administration.</p>	
<p>Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.</p>	
<p>G. Adoption of Fee Schedule for Use of Public Schools</p>	<p>Adoption of Fee Schedule for use of Public Schools</p>
<p>Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the fee schedule for use of the public schools for 2021-22 be approved as submitted by the administration.</p>	
<p>Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.</p>	
<p><u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u></p>	<p>Tariffville School Program</p>
<p>A. Tariffville School Program</p>	
<p>Mr. Curtis stated that this evening's program focuses on the culture and well-being of our students which is a tenet of the district's strategic plan. Mr. Matyczuk introduced sixth grade teachers Kim Wolf and Chris Liss, as well as sixth grade students Aoibheann Browne and Madeline Padin. He noted the four character traits that are the foundation of everything done at Tariffville School: caring, respect, responsibility and citizenship. Mr. Matyczuk, Ms. Roth and Ms. Liss reviewed the brochure for the character education (CLIMB) program at Tariffville School. CLIMB stands for Character Lives In My Behavior. They discussed various parts of the program such as charms given to students who exhibit positive behavior, service projects, student recognition and Better Choice slips. Ms. Browne and Ms. Padin spoke about what the CLIMB program means to them and the school mascot, Kip, assisted the students in distributing charms to board members.</p>	
<p>B. Spirit Council Recommendations</p>	<p>Spirit Council Recommendations</p>
<p>Mr. Curtis noted that as a result of the racial incident at SHS the equity work began at the education level and the community level. Cheryl Cook, Co-Chair of the Spirit Council, stated that Spirit stands for Simsbury Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together. The purpose of the council is to give residents a community forum to be heard. Ms. Cook stated that Ms. Lemke has been an invaluable partner as liaison to the Spirit Council.</p>	
<p>Nicole Kodak, Co-Chair of the Spirit Council, briefly reviewed the history of the Spirit Council that was formed two years ago. She noted that in September 2020</p>	

<p>the BOS passed a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis. Ms. Kodak reviewed the vision and mission of the council, as well as its 18 members. She stated that there are four subcommittees: Events, Outreach, Data/Audit and Housing. The council has five focus areas: Education, Food Security, Health, Housing and Criminal Justice. Ms. Kodak noted the events that the Spirit Council has held each month.</p> <p>Lloyd Huie, Spirit Council member, discussed the work of the Outreach Subcommittee. The subcommittee goals include connecting with organizations in Simsbury, facilitation of a racial history discussion series, partnering with Simsbury groups also working on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and collaboration with regional and state entities.</p>	
<p>Mr. Huie discussed the work of the Data/Audit Subcommittee. The council has engaged DataHaven and Health Equity Solutions to assist with gathering and analyzing multi-faceted context specific data from the community. Mr. Huie noted that if the state passes a public health resolution the state will be required to collect data. The council will measure progress based on the data collected. Spirit Council student member, Umikka Chopra, stated she would like to get more students involved in the Spirit Council and increase the council's presence on social media. She noted the formation of the Students of Color Alliance, a new club at SHS. The club discusses the inequities at SHS and things they want to change.</p>	
<p>Ms. Cook stated that looking at how we can work together as a community is important. Mr. Curtis noted that both the Equity Council and the Spirit Council have data as a focus and that will help with messaging. He pointed out that it is important that both groups have measures for their data. Ms. Lemke noted what statistical information relative to education can be shared with the town. Ms. Kodak stated the importance of qualitative data in order to understand people's stories.</p> <p>Ms. Salina asked how the town is collecting their data. Ms. Kodak responded that the data companies were hired to help define how the data will be collected. She stated that they would welcome the contribution of questions from the Board of Education. Ms. Lemke pointed out there are overlapping members in the Equity Council and Spirit Council. Ms. Salina noted that shared members allow us all to be informed.</p>	
<p><u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u> None</p>	Public Audience
<p><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. and include Superintendent Curtis.</p> <p>Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.</p>	Executive Session
<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.</p>	Adjournment

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
DATE: June 8, 2021
RE: Personnel Recommendations

I. Retirement**Catherine Marco**

Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist – PK, Squadron Line
Simsbury Exp 26 years
Effective June 30, 2021

Sandra Vollaro

Assignment School Counselor, Simsbury High School
Simsbury Exp 33 years
Effective June 30, 2021

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Catherine Marco and Sandra Vollaro effective June 30, 2021.”

II. Notice of Intent to Retire**Kim West**

Assignment Social Studies Teacher, Henry James Memorial School
Simsbury Exp Currently 33 years
Effective June 30, 2024

Lori Worthen

Assignment Social Studies Teacher, Henry James Memorial School
Simsbury Exp Currently 15 years
Effective June 30, 2024

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Kim West and Lori Worthen effective June 30, 2024.”

MTC:cdf

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Renewal of Superintendent's Contract

It is anticipated that the Chairman of the Board of Education Personnel & Negotiations Committee will recommend the renewal of the Superintendent's contract for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

"MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's contract for 2021-22 with a salary increase of 3.0% for 2022."

MTC:kdw

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Northeast Community Bank Scholarship

The Board of Education approves all proposed scholarships available to Simsbury Public School students. Below are the guidelines for the Northeast Community Bank Scholarship. This has been reviewed by Steve Patrino, Simsbury High School Principal, Jane Ellen Peregrin, Director of Guidance, and central office administrators, and we recommend the approval of this scholarship.

This scholarship is being presented by the Northeast Community Bank. The bank was established in 1860 and is dedicated to assisting and improving the quality of life for individuals and families in the communities that it serves.

AMOUNT: One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to a graduating senior of the Class of 2022 and each year after.

CRITERIA: This scholarship will be awarded based on merit or merit and need, to a graduating senior.

SELECTION: SHS Scholarship Committee

DISBURSEMENT: A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by an Northeast Community Bank employee.

CONTACT: Lisa Patrick, Community Relations Officer
PO Box 997
Litchfield, CT 06759
860-393-9172
patrick@litchfieldbancorp.com

MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Northeast Community Bank Scholarship, to be disbursed in 2022.

MTC:da

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Professor Gilbert Maffeo Jr. Memorial Scholarship

The Board of Education approves all proposed scholarships available to Simsbury Public School students. Below are the guidelines for the Professor Gilbert Maffeo Jr. Memorial Scholarship. This has been reviewed by Steve Patrina, Simsbury High School Principal, Jane Ellen Peregrin, Director of Guidance, and central office administrators, and we recommend the approval of this scholarship.

This scholarship is being presented by the Gilbert Maffeo and Sharon Maffeo Russas. Their father, Gilbert Maffeo Jr., was a college professor for almost 50 years. Growing up in Pittsburg, PA, he was the first in his family to go to college and at 24 years old earned his PhD. He always tried to motivate people and believed the benefits of college and bettering yourself. He felt college as a way for people to find what they love in life.

AMOUNT: One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 awarded to a graduating senior of the Class of 2022, 2023, 2024 (at least, based on amount currently being donated to memorial fund).

CRITERIA: This scholarship will be awarded based on:

- A student who is first in their family to go to college
- Families with multiple children in college at a time
- Families with hardships
- "An all-around good kid" (Mr. Maffeo's favorite saying)
- A student from a single parent household
- A student who volunteers in the community

SELECTION: SHS Scholarship Committee

DISBURSEMENT: A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by Gil Maffeo.

CONTACT: Gil Maffeo
 10 Hunters Run
 Oakdale, CT 06370
 860-848-6950 / 860-867-7824
 glmaffeo@att.net

MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Northeast Community Bank Scholarship, to be disbursed in 2022.

MTC:da

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / Squadron Line 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 Squadron Line School for \$3,495.00 from the Squadron Line PTO for the purchase of a portable SmartBoard for the Squadron Line Library Media Center (LMC). This technology will enhance the use of the renovated LMC by allowing for multiple configurations when students, faculty, staff, families, and community members use the space for learning/meetings.

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$3,495.00 to Squadron Line School be approved.”

/cm

EXHIBIT VIII

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Board of Education Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board is scheduled to meet during the summer on June 22, July 13, 27 and August 10, 24. It has been the past practice of the Board of Education to cancel the regularly scheduled summer meetings. If a meeting is necessary prior to September, a special meeting will be scheduled.

Therefore, I am recommending that the following motion be approved at tonight's Board of Education meeting:

"MOVE that the Board of Education cancel regular board meetings scheduled on June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10 and August 24, 2021."

MTC:kdw

EXHIBIT IX

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: ESSER Grant Overview

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds have been established by the federal government to provide states and local education agencies (LEAs) monetary means to respond to the various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in K-12 public education. To date, there have been three phases of these grant funds available to Connecticut school districts, including Simsbury, all with different purposes, intended outcomes, and allocations:

Fund	Act to Support the Fund	General Purpose	Simsbury Allocation/Use	Grant application status
ESSER I	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)	Survive	\$83,217 1:1 technology devices	Completed and accepted
ESSER II	Coronavirus Response and Relief - Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act	Thrive	\$430,323/ 1:1 technology devices and unanticipated teacher hires due to the distance learning mandate	Completed and accepted
ESSER III	American Rescue Plan (ARP)	Transform	\$ 981,440 20% required to address learning loss	In process

Tonight, along with Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance, I will provide the board an update specific to the process and grant application for the third phase, ARP ESSER. Equated with the greatest dollar amounts to date, as well as a more robust application and guidelines, Simsbury has developed a timeline and process to meet the grant requirements and significant deadlines as noted:

Date Due	ARP ESSER Grant Task
May 24, 2021	Grant assurances due; application starts
June 7, 2021	CT State Department of Education ARP ESSER Plan due to federal government
June 23, 2021	Simsbury's updated safe return to in-person instruction plan made available to the public for transparency and feedback
August 23, 2021	Simsbury's complete ARP ESSER application due
September 30, 2024	Simsbury must obligate all ARP ESSER funds

The first significant part of this process is for every district to articulate its plans for reopening. As you are well aware, our comprehensive reopening plan was developed a year ago, as we anticipated a staggered K-12 return to in-person learning for the 2020-2021 school year. The ARP ESSER requirements serve as a reminder of the multitude of districts across the nation who have yet to reopen their doors for in-person learning. Therefore, some of the grant application steps seem disjointed, ill-timed or regressive for Simsbury, as we have been fully in-person, district-wide for quite some time.

Our updated plan, due June 23, 2021, will consequently summarize Simsbury's successful reopening steps from this past year, and based upon current mandates and requirements that continue to evolve from this pandemic, will articulate our anticipated opening protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. To some degree, this required update will be a snapshot in time. We expect that as we receive feedback from our stakeholders, and as pandemic metrics and guidance evolves from major agencies including the State Department of Education, Department of Public Health and/or the Farmington Valley Health District, we will update this plan accordingly and share any changes with our Simsbury families and community members in a timely manner.

Our presentation this evening will conclude with providing some initial ideas regarding the ways which the Simsbury Public Schools plans to utilize the ARP ESSER funds to align with the transformational intention in which these funds were disbursed to our district.

MTC:kdw

EXHIBIT X

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: June 8 2021

RE: Equity Council Recommendations

Last June, our Equity Council submitted the Simsbury Public Schools' Equity Statement for your adoption. Since that time, the Equity Council has continued to meet monthly to examine Simsbury specific data, define significant data points to address achievement and climate concerns, and develop recommendations for your consideration based upon that data. Tonight, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Sue Homrok-Lemke will be joined by various members of the Equity Council to present the data the group determined to be most impactful. Specifically, they will discuss the over-representation of black and brown males in the areas of special education, as well as formal school discipline.

Stemming from work this school year, the presenters will share their process of examining that data, defining potential root causes and developing subsequent recommendations for incorporation into district and school-based improvement plans. Recommendations include specific professional development, the articulation of systemic processes and data review for academic and behavioral interventions, and the explicitly teaching behaviors of greatest referral for discipline.

The presentation will conclude with discussing next steps for our district staff and sharing information publicly with our school community members.

MTC:kdw