

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
November 9, 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 October 26, 2021 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
 - C. Cancellation of November 23, 2021 Regular Meeting EXHIBIT III
- V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Legislative Update EXHIBIT IV
 - B. Six Year Capital Improvement Plan EXHIBIT V
 - C. 2022-23 Budget Calendar EXHIBIT VI
 - D. Policy Second Reading EXHIBIT VII
- VI. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 14, 2021,
BOE Conference Room

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

October 26, 2021

Mr. Todd Burrick called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. in the Henry James Memorial School Library Media Center.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Mmes. Susan Salina, Lydia Tedone and Sharon Thomas.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, BOE Student Representative Olivia Antidormi and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Lori Boyko, 15 Oakhurst Road, stated there a lot of highly qualified individuals who do not agree that masks benefit students in schools. There are arbitrary mask mandates in buildings, but all children have to wear them in school. She noted the curriculum is being worked around social and emotional health. Ms. Boyko stated that the cure cannot be worse than the disease. She pointed out that COVID is no longer an emergency in Connecticut.

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Antidormi reported on activities at the elementary and middle schools. She noted that One Act shows were performed last weekend and 88 students will be inducted into the National Honor Society at SHS on Thursday.

Ms. Lemke reported that the Curriculum Committee will meet on Thursday. She briefly discussed the professional development planned for Election Day next Tuesday. Mr. Sullivan noted the retirement of Webmaster and Communications Coordinator Martha Hogan. He discussed her role in the district over the past 15 years and stated that the job has been posted.

Communications

Mr. Curtis noted the polling locations for next Tuesday's election. He stated that the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) reports status quo levels of COVID as we remain in the yellow area. The FVHD is planning for vaccinations for the 5-11 age group. They will hold clinics in Simsbury, Granby and Farmington.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of
Minutes of
October 12,
2021

B. Personnel

Personnel

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Alexa Morawski effective October 14, 2021.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. HJMS Report

HJMS Report

Scott Baker, HJMS Principal, provided highlights of the past year. Last year COVID protocols in school were successfully implemented with full day in-person learning in effect October 13, 2020. This was accomplished by reducing class size, adjusting schedules for in-person and distance learners, implementing revised arrival and dismissal procedures, allowing students to eat lunch outside, and effective contact tracing. Last year every HJMS staff member completed an online course offered by Yale: SEL Strategies in times of Stress and Uncertainty.

Mr. Baker noted celebrations at HJMS that include school nurse Patti Warner being named Educator of the Year and Simsbury Teacher of the year Kristina Nordell. He stated that last year the school was able to start offering the Wellness course every day. In addition, the construction project was completed. Mr. Baker outlined the benefits of each of the new spaces.

Mr. Baker addressed the academic indicators of success at HJMS. He noted that the state has encouraged the district not to compare district data this year. Mr. Baker stated SBAC results were mixed: 81% ELA, 57% Math and 74% Science. He noted that the score in Math is not typical. Mr. Baker provided an example of how each student's scores are analyzed and how the data is used to drive instruction and daily teaching.

Mr. Baker noted the BOE goals and the Vision of the Graduate attributes, and the HJMS priorities for 2021-22. The HJMS priorities include: health and safety, SEL/relationships, homework, instruction/inquiry and student growth. Mr. Baker and Jacqueline Petrella, HJMS Assistant Principal, reviewed how each of the BOE goals ties into the work at HJMS. Goal 1 (Student Growth & Success): (1) transition back to pre-Covid schedule, (2) intervention redesign, (3) continued work with inquiry/student centered learning/Vision of the Graduate, (4) restart homework study, (5) continue to prioritize content standards, and (6) create student learning goals that are responsive to the impact of COVID. Goal 2 (Compassionate and Connected School Culture): (1) re-energized SEL and climate committees, (2) redesigned Connections period, (3) integration of SEL into content areas, (4) HJMS Team Pride, and (5) extracurricular life at HJMS. Goal 3 (Premier Workforce): (1) being attentive to the mental health and wellbeing of staff, (2) Wellness teachers integrated into teams and team meetings, (3) Department Supervisors returning to full supervisory roles, (4) streamlined COVID protocols/roles/procedures, and (5) goal for teachers to share passions with students through clubs and Connections. Goal 4 (Strategic and Sustainable Investments): (1) redesigned intervention department, (2) completed the renovation – reimagining how the building is used with new spaces, (3) having a building substitute, and (4) continued participation with the Facilities & Enrollment Study – Grade 6.

Mr. Baker stated that HJMS energy is back. He noted that all students and staff have

attended back to school assemblies and “treat people with kindness” bracelets were distributed. Mr. Tindall stated that student growth is critical in middle school, and he commended the teachers and administration for everything they are doing for students.

B. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Ms. Meriwether noted specific areas of revenue in the quarterly report. She stated that the Open Choice Academic and Social Support grant funding award was increased by \$10,275 compared to the previous year. The IDEA Part B and Pre-School grant funding increased by \$33,035 compared to the prior fiscal year. The American Rescue Plan IDEA preliminary award is \$223,887 for the 2 year grant period. Ms. Meriwether noted that the district received Emergency Connectivity Funding in the amount of \$262,667 which will be used to fund 820 Chromebooks and 12 Hot Spot connections.

Ms. Meriwether noted some of the expenditure areas of the quarterly report. There is a decrease in the General Control account due to the implementation of shared services in the prior year with the retirement of the Business Manager. Decreased expenditures in Transportation are a result of regular transportation payments in the current year compared to the prior year when the contract with Salter’s was renegotiated due to COVID. Ms. Meriwether noted that decreased equipment purchases in the current year are related to less instructional technology needed compared to the prior year when classes were held remote/hybrid.

C. Policy First Reading

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the four policies forwarded from the Policy Committee. These changes are all the result of state legislation. Policy revisions include the addition of mental health days; a new definition for the term Bullying; change to the student immunization religious exemption; and setting of the Graduation date. Mr. Sullivan also reviewed the vaccination regulations, based on the Governor’s executive order that will be added to the policy book.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Chris Martinez expressed concern with the cartoon posted by the CT Democratic party and the letter sent to President Biden stating that members of the public attending school board meetings are domestic terrorists. He asked if anyone from Simsbury has reached out to the CT Board of Education to say we in Simsbury do not agree with these statements. Mr. Curtis stated that we have not reached out to the state on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Policy First
Reading

Public Audience

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
 FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
 DATE: November 9, 2021
 RE: Personnel Recommendations

I. Resignation

Erica Morawski

Assignment Grade 2, Squadron Line
 Simsbury Exp 1 year
 Effective November 5, 2021

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Erica Morawski effective November 5, 2021.”

II. Appointments

Stephanie Ciuffo

Education BA, Central Connecticut State University
 MA, University of Bridgeport
 Experience 15 years
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 9
 Assignment Grade 2, Squadron Line
 Effective November 4, 2021

Bayard Faithfull

Education BA and MA, Columbia University
 Experience 26 years
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 9
 Assignment Interim Social Studies Teacher
 Effective Retroactive to August 30, 2021

Megan Lundgren

Education BA, University of Connecticut
 MA, University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University
 Experience 16 years
 Salary Schedule 6th, Step 9
 Assignment Special Education Teacher, Squadron Line
 Effective November 15, 2021

MTC:cdf

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 9, 2021

RE: Cancellation of November 23, 2021 Meeting

Due to the following week's tri-board budget planning meeting, the Chairman of the Board of Education is recommending cancellation of the November 23, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

BOARD MOTION

"Move to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on November 23, 2021."

MTC:kdw

EXHIBIT IV

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
 FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
 DATE: November 9, 2021
 RE: Legislative Update on Teaching and Learning

There were numerous laws that were passed during the 2021 regular and special sessions that have significant impact on public education, and in particular the Office of Teaching and Learning. Tonight, Sue Homrok-Lemke will be highlighting those of particular note. Although there is no action for the Board to take at this time, it is important to be aware of the implications of this legislation on our district as we navigate this impact coupled with our prioritized strategic plan.

Public Act	Focus	Summary Points
21-35	Equalizing access to mental, behavioral and physical health in response to the pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creates a Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health ● Commission to look into racial disparities in: Kindergarten readiness, third grade reading proficiency, scores for mastery examinations, rates of school discipline, high school graduation rates and retention rates ● Working group to look at expanding school-based health care services ● Department of Mental Health and Addiction to increase access to mobile crisis services
21-46	Social equity, health and safety of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires State Department of Education (SDE) to develop standards for virtual learning ● Requires parents/guardians be offered conferences in telephonic or virtual format ● Requires BOE to integrate social-emotional learning into their professional development ● Requires BOE to allow for two mental health days for students ● Allows for students to receive more than six outpatient mental health treatments sessions without parent/guardian consent ● Establishes youth suicide training program; participants must include school employees

Public Act	Focus	Summary Points
PA 21-95	Revisions and additional to educational statutes with SEL focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Collaborative to study bullying statutes and make recommendations ● Requires annual assessment of students' SEL ● Establishes a task force to study special education services and funding ● Requires SDE to develop SEL standards for grades 4-12 inclusive of supports, culturally responsive and restorative practices ● School resource officers required to participate in SEL training
PA 21-168	Task force to analyze the implementation of laws governing dyslexia instruction and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishes an Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities with the SDE ● By July 2022, Office will develop well-defined measures to identify students, K-3, who are below reading proficiency ● By January 2022, SDE shall develop or approve a voluntary family history questionnaire as an identification tool for students who may be at risk of reading proficiency challenges ● By January 2023, Office will offer guidance on reading assessment appropriateness, use, and administration
PA 21-199	Revisions and additions to statutes relating to education development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires districts to develop policy by July 2022 to identify gifted and talented students using multiple identification measures ● Requires BOE to create/revise policy for student placement in academic courses that is not based exclusively on academic performance ● Requires BOE to review/adopt a new challenging curriculum policy and update their written weighted grading policy
PA 21-2 374-375 376-377 394-397	<p>Various provisions related to public education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishing a model curriculum ● Incorporation of various topics into model curriculum ● Reading curriculum models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By January 2023, requires SDE and State Education Resource Center (SERC) to develop a K-8 model curriculum that BOEs may use. Must be rigorous, age-appropriate, aligned with SBE guidelines and adopted content standards. Must also include content required by state law and integrate various topics of equity. ● Requires Native American studies to a school's required program of instruction in 2023-2024 ● Creates a Center for Literacy Research and reading success to recommend at least five curriculum models/programs that <u>must</u> be used by BOEs ● By January 2023, requires implementation of program/curriculum or approved waiver

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 4, 2021

RE: Capital Improvement Project Plan – Review

Attached you will find an updated draft of the Board of Education Projects for the 2022/23 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 4 areas:

Roof Replacements – Sections of the Roof at both Central and Tariffville Elementary schools have reached the end of their 20 year life expectancies.

Outdated Electrical Systems – Some components of the electrical distribution systems at Simsbury High School and Central Elementary school were originally installed in 1968 and 1950 respectively. These items were identified for upgrade in the Tecton Capital Improvement Plan.

Aging Plumbing Infrastructure – Some components of the internal water distribution and drainage systems at Tootin’ Hills and Squadron Line Elementary schools were originally installed in 1954 and 1969 respectively. These items were identified for upgrade in the Tecton Capital Improvement Plan.

District Network Infrastructure – This is a recurring biennial capital fund which provides for upgrades and improvements to the district’s network infrastructure. This year the wireless infrastructure, first installed in 2010, will be upgraded from 802.11n to 802.11Ax. It will provide faster, wider (filling in dead spots) and deeper (supporting more users per access point) coverage. Additionally, some redundant power improvements will be made to the network server room.

**Simsbury Board of Education
Six Year Capital Improvement Program
Fiscal Year 2022/23 - Fiscal Year 2027/28**

	<u>FY22/23</u>
TOOTIN HILLS	
Internal Water Distribution and Drainage Systems	403,147
Total Tootin Hills	403,147
SQUADRON LINE	
Internal Water Distribution & Drainage Systems	1,288,190
Total Squadron Line	1,288,190
CENTRAL SCHOOL	
Electrical Service/Distribution 1950	386,468
Replace EPDM Roof (V3)	319,477
Total Central School	705,945
TARIFFVILLE SCHOOL	
Replace Roof - EPDM (V1, V2)	859,811
Total Tariffville School	859,811
Simsbury High School	
Electrical Service/Distribution - Previous Vintages	320,995
Total for Simsbury High School	320,995
District Wide	
District Network Infrastructure	400,000
Total District Wide	400,000
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	<u>3,978,088</u>

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE
PREPARATION OF THE 2022-23 BUDGET
DRAFT**

November 9, 2021	Board of Education Budget Meeting/ 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-23 Budget Calendar
December 1, 2021	<u>BOF-BOE-BOS Meeting / 5:30 p.m. Location TBD</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-23 Budget
December 14, 2021	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
January 11, 2022	Board of Education Budget Meeting / 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Program Review
January 25, 2022	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 5, 2022 (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 8, 2022	Board of Education / 6:30 p.m. BOE Conference Room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Superintendent's 2022-23 Budget • Non-Public School Budget • Approval of the 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan for submission to the Board of Selectmen
February 23, 2022 (Wed.)	Board of Education Adoption of 2022-23

BUDGET DEADLINES / CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

Projected Dates – Subject to Change

February 15, 2022	Submission Deadline for 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan
March 8, 2022	Board of Education Budget Presentation to Board of Finance 6:00 p.m.
April 5, 2022	Board of Finance Public Hearing on Capital and Operating Budgets 6:00 p.m.
April 19, 2022	Board of Finance Final Public Hearing (continuation, if needed) 5:45 p.m.
May 3, 2022	Budget Referendum at Henry James Memorial School (tentative)

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 9, 2021

RE: Board of Education Policies – Second Reading

The Policy Committee recently reviewed revised policies based on state legislative requirements. The policy revisions are part of the 5000 Student and the 6000 Instruction series. The Policy Committee is recommending adoption of the following policies:

- 5113 – Student Attendance (*Mental Health Days*)
- 5131 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy/Safe School Climate Plan (*Bullying Definition*)
- 5146 – Student Welfare (*Student Immunization Religious Exemption*)
- 6140 – School Calendar (*Setting of Graduation Date*)

A copy of the recommended policies has been provided to you this evening for your review. Following any discussion, these policies will be brought forward for adoption at the December 14th Board of Education meeting.

MTC:kdw