

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 22, 2022  
Tootin' Hills School  
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 February 23, 2022 Meeting EXHIBIT I
  - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
  - C. Approval of CSZ Foundation Scholarship EXHIBIT III
  - D. Approval of SHS Equity Council Scholarship EXHIBIT IV
  - E. Approval of 2023-24 School Calendar EXHIBIT V
  - F. Cancellation of April 12, 2022 Meeting EXHIBIT VI
- V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
  - A. Tootin' Hills School Report EXHIBIT VII
  - B. School Counseling Report EXHIBIT VIII
- VI. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is anticipated the Board of Education will enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.
- VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS
  - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2022,  
BOE Conference Room

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

February 23, 2022

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Central School gymnasium.

Roll Call:

**Members present:** Mmes. Susan Salina and Tara Willerup. Messrs. Jeff Tindall, Todd Burrick and Brian Watson. Ms. Thomas arrived at 6:37 p.m. Ms. Willerup departed at 7:09 p.m.

**Members absent:** Mmes. Jen Batchelar and Lydia Tedone.

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

**Lori Boyko**, 15 Oakhurst Road, stated that in-depth studies of social and emotional issues are being included in classes, the curriculum, professional development and special events. She questioned whether these matters are better taught at home. Ms. Boyko asked if those presenting these topics are trained in teaching about social matters, and suggested that students are better served by teachers teaching content. She noted some of the Equity Week session topics at SHS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Picoult reported on activities at the elementary schools. He noted that Equity Week signup began today and each student can attend 4 sessions over the week. Mr. Picoult stated that the SHS spring play is Radium Girls.

Ms. Willerup reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting, noting their discussion about AP Human Geography which will be a new course offered in the fall. The committee also discussed DESSA (Devereux Student Strengths Assessment) which is a state program to measure levels of success with social/emotional learning.

Ms. Thomas reported that the town's Spirit Council would like to change their name to the Council of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The BOS will decide on the name change at their next meeting.

Ms. Lemke reported that the CSDE released the CT Standards for Remote Learning Grades 9-12 and she will participate in a webinar about the standards next week.

Mr. Curtis stated the transition to a mask optional model will begin February 28. This decision is supported by CSDE, DPH and FVHD. Mr. Curtis noted all school districts in the Farmington Valley, and 90% of districts across the state, are moving to the mask optional model. This decision is based on our high vaccination rates, number of hospitalizations and the reduction in case rates. Mr. Curtis pointed out that the DPH guidance provides trend information, not specific data points. The pandemic emergency response model is moving to a model of management and control of the

Public Audience

Communications

virus.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the communication that will be sent to families outlining the procedures at school in the new model. He stated that in March the FVHD will hold two vaccine clinics at HJMS.

Ms. Salina praised the administration and task forces that led the district through a very difficult storm the past two years. Mr. Tindall noted the mask optional policy is a very divisive issue and the decision was science and metrics driven not based on politics or emotions. Mr. Watson thanked the children and stated he hopes the kids who continue to wear masks do not feel threatened. Ms. Willerup stated that thoughtful decisions have been made throughout the pandemic and she noted the importance of students being respectful of others. Mr. Burrick noted that masking has been a difficult issue and he is appreciative of the guidance and transparency that has gone into the decision making. Ms. Thomas stated these will be interesting times to look back on and it will be good to see young kids without masks. Ms. Salina read Ms. Tedone's comments, stating her support for the plan to make masks optional.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

#### A. Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2022 Workshop

Ms. Thomas: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2022 workshop.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Salina and Mr. Burrick abstained.

#### B. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Tindall: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

#### C. Adoption of 2022-23 School Budget

Mr. Curtis stated the proposed budget identifies the needs in the district and utilizes grant funding to offset costs. He reviewed the budget process moving forward. Mr. Burrick stated the budget addresses the needs and wants of the district and moves us forward without creating a financial cliff down the road. Ms. Salina stated the BOE appreciates the work that went into the BOE budget, noting that Ms. Mackstutis and Ms. Heavner attended the BOE budget workshop.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2022-23 school budget in the amount of \$77,030,819 which represents an increase of \$2,584,239 or 3.47%.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

#### D. Approval of Policy Revisions

Ms. Thomas: MOVE to adopt the Board of Education policies, as noted, effective February 23, 2022.

Approval of  
Minutes of  
February 5,  
2022

Approval of  
Minutes of  
February 8,  
2022

Adoption of  
2022-23 Budget

Approval of  
Policy Revisions

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

E. Cancellation of March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to cancel the March 8, 2022 regular meeting.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Central School Report

Ms. Lemke stated that math is a district priority relative to our strategic plan. This work begins at the district level and works through the Office of Teaching & Learning, the principals and directors, into the classroom. Betsy Gunsalus, Director of Elementary Curriculum, stated that this year math is at the forefront of our work in the elementary schools. The areas of focus are closing the math gap, a flexible model of intervention with small group instruction, the induction of new coaches and interventionists, and the use of data to make decisions.

Beth Hennessy, Central School Principal, stated that works begins in the summer to look at trends across the math data. She noted that math coaches are back in the building after being pulled into classroom teacher positions last year due to COVID. Ms. Hennessy stated that she shares her vision with her faculty and breaks out with teachers to determine what support they need. The math coach works as a thought partner to move the work forward.

Lisa Smith, Math Coach, stated that the year starts with the sharing of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). Students who are not meeting their expected growth receive classroom interventions through small group instruction and tutor support. Ms. Smith noted that the intervention cycle is more fluid now, providing an immediate response to student needs. PLCs are used to plan instruction around learning goals and targets. Data teams review data, evaluate instruction, and adjust learning goals and supports. Math tutors collaborate across grade levels.

Morgan Pierce, Kindergarten teacher, stated that the math coach assists teachers with planning and co-teaches lessons. She stated that Ms. Smith assists with assessments, individualized instruction and small groups at the Kindergarten level. Ms. Pierce noted the unique level of support offered in Simsbury. Megan Leonard, Grade 6 teacher, stated that she is the math teacher for all sixth graders. She stated that she is able to speak with Ms. Smith and make adjustments in the moment. Students who receive math tutoring are able to preview the upcoming work such that they are provided assistance both before and during lessons.

Mr. Burrick asked how we get kids to be passionate about math. Ms. Hennessy noted that students work together in small groups and are given anchor tasks that involve using an inquiry model. Ms. Smith pointed out that confidence in math will result in the enjoyment of math. Ms. Leonard stated that her classes discuss math related to real world situations. In response to Ms. Salina, Ms. Smith stated that students move in and out of receiving math intervention.

Cancellation of  
March 8, 2022  
Meeting

Central School  
Report

Ms. Lemke stated that this same program is run in all of the elementary schools and each school has a math coach. Ms. Hennessy reviewed the STAR data assessment results. In grades 3-6 there was improvement between September and December. The next assessment will be given in March. Ms. Hennessy noted that this year the elementary schools added 15 minutes of time into the math curriculum. She pointed out that last year there were no math tutors due to COVID.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

**Stacey Walczak**, 35 Banks Road, thanked the school district for making masks optional. She stated that she has a child who is too young to receive the vaccine and most local daycares are continuing mask wearing. Ms. Walczak stated her concern that with this age group continuing to wear masks, it could affect their readiness when they get to kindergarten.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Batchelar  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Wilde  
Recording Secretary

Public Audience

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education  
 FROM: Matthew T. Curtis  
 DATE: March 22, 2022  
 RE: Personnel Recommendations

### **I. Resignation**

#### **Jessica Anastasio**

Assignment Special Education, Tootin' Hills  
 Simsbury Exp 5 years  
 Effective June 30, 2022

#### **Jenna Nalband**

Assignment Science Teacher, Simsbury High School  
 Simsbury Exp 5 years  
 Effective June 30, 2022

#### **BOARD MOTION:**

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignations of Jsesica Anastasio and Jenna Nalband effective June 30, 2022."

### **II. Retirement**

#### **Sharon Schloss**

Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist, Squadron Line  
 Simsbury Exp 27 years  
 Effective June 30, 2022

#### **BOARD MOTION:**

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Sharon Schloss effective June 30, 2022."

### **III. Notice of Intent to Retire**

#### **Jill VanVoorhis**

Assignment Elementary Teacher, Central School  
 Simsbury Exp 34.5 years  
 Effective June 30, 2025

#### **BOARD MOTION:**

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the notice of intent to retire of Jill VanVoorhis effective June 30, 2025."

### **IV. Appointments**

#### **Amy Joyce**

Education BA and MA, University of Connecticut  
 Experience 10 years  
 Salary Schedule MA, Step 8  
 Assignment Special Education Teacher, Central School  
 Effective March 9, 2022

**Rachel Schleker**

Education	BA, University of New Hampshire MS, Southern Connecticut State University
Experience	7 years
Salary Schedule	6 <sup>th</sup> year, Step 7
Assignment	Speech & Language Pathologist, Squadron Line PK
Effective	March 14, 2022

MTC:cdf

**TO:** Members of the Board of Education  
**FROM:** Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
**DATE:** March 22, 2022  
**RE:** CSZ Foundation Scholarship

The Board of Education approves all proposed scholarships available to Simsbury Public School students. Below are the guidelines for the CSZ Foundation Scholarship. This has been reviewed by Steve Patrina, Simsbury High School Principal, Greg Stillman, Director of Guidance, and central office administrators, and we recommend the approval of this scholarship.

This scholarship will be awarded in memory of Connor Scott Zieky. The mission for his foundation is to empower young adults struggling with substance abuse and mental health to live a healthy lifestyle, make positive decision and build a higher level of self-concept.

**AMOUNT:** One scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 awarded to a graduating senior beginning with the Class of 2022.

**CRITERIA:** -for a student willing to go into the mental health field  
-for a student who has/is dealing with mental health or addiction issues  
-To be eligible, nominees must have submitted the Local Scholarship application.

**SELECTION:** Personally with help from SHS Scholarship Committee

**DISBURSEMENT:** A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by Jon and Liz Zieky.

**CONTACT:** Tracey Tribuzio  
5 Whispering Rod Rd.  
Unionville, CT  
860-836-7100  
tracey@trconsultinllc.com

**MOVE** that the Board of Education approve the CSZ Foundation Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2022.

MTC:da



TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 22, 2022

RE: Simsbury High School Equity Council Scholarship

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

This scholarship will be awarded to a student who actively works toward promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion indicatives at Simsbury High School. This is aligned with the following statements/ expectations for Simsbury students:

- Equity Statement – “We will provide opportunities that guarantee access for all students to meet and exceed academic, social, and civic expectations.”
- Vision of the Graduate – “Global Citizen: Exemplify empathy, compassion, and respect in interactions with others.
  - Consider diverse perspectives and cultures
  - Act responsibly and ethically
  - Recognize impact of actions and civic decisions ”

AMOUNT: One scholarship in the amount of \$250 awarded to a graduating senior beginning with the Class of 2022.

CRITERIA: -Student must demonstrate leadership in a club or activity that supports equity initiatives in the SHS Community (e.g. Equity Week Presenter, exhibits leadership in a club such as Students of Color Alliance, GSA, etc.).  
 -Student organizations that contribute to equity work being done at SHS will be invited to nominate a candidate for consideration.  
 -To be eligible, nominees must have submitted the Local Scholarship application.

SELECTION: SHS Scholarship Committee

DISBURSEMENT: A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by Dr. Tayarisha Batchelor, Director of Equity and Access.

CONTACT: Pam Sickinger and Amanda Tornaquindici  
 34 Farms Village Rd  
 Simsbury, CT  
 860-658-04561  
[psickinger@simsburyschools.net](mailto:psickinger@simsburyschools.net) / [atornaquindici@simsburyschools.net](mailto:atornaquindici@simsburyschools.net)

MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Simsbury High School Equity Council Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2022.

MTC:da

TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: March 22, 2022  
RE: 2023-24 School Calendar

This calendar was prepared in accordance with state law guidelines, BOE school calendar established policies, SEA contractual working days, and the ad-hoc 2009 Calendar Advisory Committee's recommendations. The state legislature has removed their requirement of school districts to follow a regional school calendar. Nevertheless we have kept the April recess during the second full week in April as have many of our neighboring districts. The calendar presented this evening includes the required 180 days of instruction and an additional day for professional development in the spring at a date yet to be determined.

The administration is recommending that the Board review and adopt the 2023-2024 calendar as presented.

"MOVE to adopt the 2023-24 school calendar as presented."

MTC:kdw



# Simsbury Public Schools Calendar 2023-24 *Draft*

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
28	29	30*	31	

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
<del>4</del>	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
<del>25</del>	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
<del>9</del>	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	<del>7</del>	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	<del>22</del>	<del>23</del>	<del>24</del>
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	<del>22</del>
<del>25</del>	<del>26</del>	<del>27</del>	<del>28</del>	<del>29</del>

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
<del>1</del>	2	3	4	5
8	9	11	11	12
<del>15</del>	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
<del>19</del>	<del>20</del>	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	<del>15</del>
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

\*First Day of School

\*\*School will close for the year upon completion of the 180<sup>th</sup> student school day.

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
<del>27</del>	28	29	30	31

JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	<del>7**</del>
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

Early Dismissal

### School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

August 30*	Students' First Day	January 15	MLK Day
September 4	Labor Day	February 19-20	Winter Recess
September 25	Yom Kippur	March 15	Professional Development
October 9	Columbus Day	April 8-12	Spring Recess
November 7	Election Day/Prof. Development	March 29	Good Friday
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess	May 27	Memorial Day
Dec. 25 – Jan. 1	Holiday Recess	June 7 **	Students' Last Day

\*\* Subject to change if needed to make-up for inclement weather days.

**SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023-24 INFORMATION K-12**

**REGULAR DAY SCHOOL HOURS**

Simsbury High School                    7:32 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.  
Henry James Memorial School        7:32 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Central School                            8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Latimer Lane School                    8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Tariffville School                        8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.  
Tootin' Hills School                    8:15 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Squadron Line School                    8:45 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**EARLY DISMISSAL SCHOOL HOURS (Professional Development, Elementary Report Card Conferences, day before Thanksgiving and last day of school)**

**Secondary 7-12 early dismissal time**

Simsbury High/Henry James        11:15 a.m.

**Elementary early dismissal times**

Central School                            12:00 p.m.  
Latimer Lane School                    12:00 p.m.  
Tariffville School                        12:00 p.m.  
Tootin' Hills School                    12:00 p.m.  
Squadron Line School                    12:30 p.m.

**In the event of an early closing due to inclement weather or other emergency reasons the above early release schedule will be followed in all grades. Lunch will be served at all elementary schools on early release days (PD, Report Card Conferences and weather-related early release).**

**Announcements will be listed on the following stations:**

**Television Stations: Channel 3 WFSB; Channel 8 WTNH; Channel 30 WVIT  
Emergency closing information is also posted on the [SPS website](#)**

**DATES SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION**

September 4	Labor Day	January 1	New Year's Day
September 25	Yom Kippur	January 15	MLK Day
October 9	Columbus Day	February 19-20	Winter Recess
November 7	Election Day/Prof. Dev.	TBD	Professional Dev.
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess	April 8-12	Spring Recess
December 25-29	Holiday Recess	May 27	Memorial Day

**REFERENCE TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Central School	860-658-4732	Henry James Memorial School	860-651-3341
Latimer Lane School	860-658-4774	Simsbury High School	860-658-0451
Squadron Line School	860-658-2251	Board of Education Office	860-651-3361
Tariffville School	860-658-5825	Special Services Department	860-658-3873
Tootin' Hills School	860-658-7629	Salter's Express Company	860-651-3311

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis  
Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: March 22, 2022  
RE: Cancellation of April 12, 2022 Meeting

Due to the closure of school for spring recess April 11-15, the Chairman of the Board of Education is recommending cancellation of the April 12, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

BOARD MOTION

“Move to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on April 12, 2022.”

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: March 22, 2022  
RE: Tootin' Hills School Report - Intervention Update

Math, closing the achievement gap, ensuring tiered systems of support, and professional growth have all been highlighted as district priorities by our Office of Teaching and Learning. Tonight, Tootin' Hills' Principal, Anjanette Belmonte, along with members of the Tootin' Hills School faculty, will share how this district prioritization lives for students through the lens of tiered intervention and support.

After a brief introduction by Mrs. Homrok-Lemke, Mrs. Belmonte will share the mindset and guiding beliefs of the Student Intervention Team (SIT), the interdisciplinary group that works collaboratively to develop strong systems of response when a student is not meeting expected benchmarks in academic, social, and/or behavioral areas.

Different members of the Tootin' Hills Students intervention Team will be discussing the following:

- an overview of our tiered intervention structure, noting the difference in time and intensity based upon students' demonstrated needs
- the roles members play in that capacity
- the process the team engages in when they receive a referral for potential intervention
- examples of data-based goals that might be created to address a student's needs
- Tootin's referral data for the current year: the number of referrals, areas of concern as well as outcomes from the implemented interventions
- feedback from a parent, student, as well as a teacher about their experience with intervention at Tootin' Hills School

This team is excited to demonstrate how the district priorities are aligned with Tootin's intervention work, comment on the systems and structures that support all students, and share some of the outcomes of these efforts as we enter the remaining months of the 2021-2022 school year.

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education  
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: March 22, 2022  
RE: School Counseling Report

Our school counseling department plays a significant role in supporting our students in Simsbury. Comprised of eleven (11) counselors at both Henry James Memorial School and Simsbury High School, the department performs a variety of important roles for our adolescents - from college recommendations and connecting students with post-secondary options to providing academic, social, and emotional support for our students as they matriculate through the Simsbury Public Schools.

Tonight, Director of School Counseling, Greg Stillman will be providing the board with an overview of the function and services provided by our school counselors, inclusive of their most significant responsibilities. Mr. Stillman will share the department's priorities for this school year, with particular emphasis on the social-emotional needs of our students as they returned to full, in-person learning. This overview will include data regarding the support students with identified disabilities require and school counselors provide. Mr. Stillman will also share an outline of the revised school counseling standards and framework from the State of Connecticut. Finally, Mr. Stillman will highlight the department's future focus areas, inclusive of increasing freshmen programming, developing proactive support systems and strategies for all students, particularly those "in the middle", and revitalizing career and other post-secondary options to best meet the needs of all of our graduates.

MTC:kdw