

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 23, 2021
Central School
Gymnasium

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, 2021 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
 - C. Approval of Revised 2021-22 Public School Budget EXHIBIT III
 - D. Approval of Revised 2021-22 School Calendar EXHIBIT IV
 - E. Approval of Policy Revisions EXHIBIT V
 - F. Appointment to The Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting Committee EXHIBIT VI
 - G. Acceptance of Donation to SHS Fencing Club EXHIBIT VII
 - H. Cancellation of April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting EXHIBIT VIII
- V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Central School Program EXHIBIT IX
 - B. Latimer Lane Renovation Project EXHIBIT X
- VI. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, Tootin' Hills School

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

February 23, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Squadron Line School cafeteria.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Tara Willerup, Jen Batchelar and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson. Mrs. Tedone joined the meeting via phone at 8:41 p.m.

Also present: Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Director of Finance Amy Meriwether, Student Representative Shannon Zeilman and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zeilman provided an update on activities in the schools. Ms. Thomas reported on Black History month activities in the schools and noted the variety of activities within the schools. She noted that there are many Black Americans in the state of CT who have done phenomenal things in our own cities and towns.

Ms. Batchelar reported on the town Sustainability Committee meeting. Ms. Willerup reported on the Equity Council meeting. She noted that there is a lot of momentum and discussion to make change. Mr. Tindall thanked BOF and BOS members for attending tours at Latimer Lane School last week.

Ms. Lemke shared positive news that educators will be eligible to receive vaccinations on March 1. Local clinics are being developed for educators in the Farmington Valley. Currently the COVID rate has been favorable in Simsbury and the Farmington Valley. Ms. Lemke reported that the March 19 full day of professional development will be centered on Simsbury's four principles in the reopening plan. She noted that next week juniors and seniors can return to in-person learning 4 days per week at SHS. Ms. Zeilman stated that most people are very excited to return to more in-person learning.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2021 Workshop

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2021 workshop.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

B. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Thomas: MOVE to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

C. Adoption of 2021-22 Non-Public School Budget

Communications

Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2021 Workshop

Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2021 Meeting

Adoption of

Ms. Meriwether stated there are no changes to the non-public school as was presented by the superintendent at the last meeting.

2021-22 Non-Public School Budget

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Non-Public School budget in the amount of \$564,650 which represents an increase of \$13,267 or 2.4%.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

D. Adoption of 2021-22 Public School Budget

Adoption of 2021-22 Public School Budget

Ms. Meriwether stated there is positive news related to the 2021-22 budget. The insurance estimates came back favorable which reduces the budget by \$300,000. Additionally there is an additional retirement which provides \$25,000 in savings. COVID grant funds will be utilized to offset some technology replacement equipment expenses in the amount of \$166,000. These changes bring the budget increase down to 2.12% over last year.

Ms. Salina noted that the board had good conversation about the budget at the last board meeting and during the workshop. Ms. Willerup pointed out that no public comment has been received relative to the budget. She stated that it is a responsible, thoughtful budget that connects money with students. Mr. Burrick noted the amount of work that went into development of the budget.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Public School budget in the amount of \$73,845,930 which represents an increase of \$1,534,869 or 2.12%.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

E. Cancellation of March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

Cancellation of March 9, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Salina noted that the presentation of the BOE budget to the BOF is scheduled at this time.

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on March 9, 2021.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Squadron Line Program

Squadron Line Equity in Action

Meg Evans, Squadron Line School Principal, stated that it has been a challenging year and she is proud of how all have risen to the occasion to meet student needs. She noted that the work to ensure students are global citizens started two years ago and incorporates the access and equity guiding principle for the district. Ms. Evans discussed how staff and students have access to equity resources through various mediums, noting that this is aligned with showcasing specific books in the school library.

Ms. Evans stated that a professional development session was led by in-house experts and Deacon Art Miller

Jacqueline Petrella, Squadron Line School Assistant Principal, presented video feedback from faculty about their experiences, how they have influenced their instruction, and their own beliefs. Additionally she provided video of students' insights. Ms. Petrella explained the Black History Museum and showed examples of how different teachers are utilizing this format with their class to focus on specific African American individuals who have made significant contributions in society.

Ms. Thomas thanked Ms. Evans and Ms. Petrella for sharing the equity work at Squadron Line School and stated that it is important to hear what is happening in the schools. Ms. Salina and Ms. Willerup also gave thanks for the work being done in the school. Mr. Burrick asked about continuing this work throughout the year. Ms. Evans responded that during the remainder of the school year classes will look at the work of other classes in the Black History Museum, and the administration will seek reflections with teachers.

B. District Intervention

Ms. Lemke provided an overview of current instructional trends and challenges resulting from the COVID pandemic. She stated that some parts of the curriculum have been held back in order to prioritize some areas. There has been a focus on classroom based interventions, although mitigation strategies limit proximity and small group facilitation. Ms. Lemke stated the schools are keeping an eye on the stamina, engagement and school attendance of their students. She noted that some students may be taking shortcuts that could translate into skill deficiency. She stated that more students are presenting as academically at risk this year.

Ms. Lemke reviewed the STAR data at the elementary level. STAR assessments are around math and literacy. Although scores demonstrated growth from the fall to the winter, it is not as much growth as in the past. At HJMS the percent of students at or above the benchmark in the 8th grade cohort compared to last year has declined slightly.

Ms. Lemke noted that the STAR assessment is not an assessment given across grade levels at the high school. She presented performance data relative to the number of students academically at risk. These students are defined by having more than one D or F. Across grades this is an average of 18%. Mr. Tindall questioned what percentage of students historically fall into this category. Mr. Sullivan responded that typically 12-13% of students. Ms. Thomas asked how parents are informed if their student is struggling. Ms. Lemke responded that teachers reach out to parents if intervention is needed.

Ms. Lemke reviewed some of the ways the district has responded to student needs. The district has prioritized curriculum with learning targets and adjusted assessment timelines. There are robust data team conversations taking place. Social emotional learning is paramount. The district has transitioned the more at risk students to more in-person instruction.

Ms. Lemke reviewed how SHS is responding to at risk students. The ESTEEM Program provides parent training and behavioral support to increase participation

District
Intervention

and is available only to those in the Open Choice program. Sidewalk Chat is another program for Open Choice families which provides socially distanced in person conversations. The Remote Learning Center provides structured support for students to participate in classes virtually while in the building. Senior Sarong provides a structured study hall to complete assignments and assist with prioritizing needs to bring grades into passing range for seniors at risk. The Distance Learning Academy provides a change in schedule and programs for students who are struggling by offering distance only instruction for general education course in core subjects.

Ms. Lemke addressed steps going forward at the elementary level for struggling students. The Summer Academies small group instruction will continue to be offered and will be supplemented with grant funding. Instructional coaches will instruct more groups in the fall of 2021 as we rebuild that program. The addition of math tutors in the budget to account for more sections at each grade level in the fall of 2021.

Ms. Lemke addressed next steps at the secondary level for struggling students. These include the modification of summer intervention structures for HJMS and SHS based upon current intervention effectiveness, development of further classroom-based interventions for 2021-22, and embedding markers into the secondary curriculum that address social and emotional learning.

Ms. Lemke reviewed the cost estimates for these intervention programs which total approximately \$150,000. She noted these programs will be funded through the ESSER grant and possibly some Title 1 funds.

Ms. Willerup stated she is impressed with the amount of information and planning that has already been done in February. Ms. Salina suggested a keep/stop/change process be utilized relative to which interventions have been implemented during the pandemic.

C. Policy Second Reading

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the four policies with revisions that will be brought forward for a vote at the next board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Policy Second Reading

Executive Session

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: Personnel Recommendations

I. Retirement

Kathleen Larkum

Assignment Elementary Teacher, Squadron Line
Simsbury Exp 24 years
Effective June 30, 2021

Sandra Lefebvre

Assignment Elementary Teacher, Latimer Lane
Simsbury Exp 24 years
Effective June 30, 2021

Ann Rusinko

Assignment Elementary Teacher, Squadron Line
Simsbury Exp 21 years
Effective June 30, 2021

BOARD MOTION:

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirements of Kathleen Larkum, Sandra Lefebvre, and Ann Rusinko effective June 30, 2021."

II. Resignation

Brianna Loyot

Assignment Art Teacher, Henry James/Simsbury High School
Simsbury Exp 1 year
Effective April 8, 2021

BOARD MOTION:

"MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Brianna Loyot effective April 8, 2021."

MTC:cdf

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: Adoption of Revised 2021-22 Public School Budget

Based on new positive information relative to insurance, the increase in the Board or Education 2021-22 operating budget is reduced from 2.12% to 1.85%. As a result of this information, the administration recommends the following motion for adoption:

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the revised 2021-22 Public School budget in the amount of \$73,643,930 which represents an increase of \$1,335,455 or 1.85%.”

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: 2021-22 School Calendar

Modifications to the 2021-2022 school calendar are being presented this evening for your consideration. This proposal moves the start of school to September 1, as Labor Day is later this year than is customary. This later start date will allow more time in May and June for AP and SAT testing schedules, and further provides flexibility with other year-end student activity dates. This new calendar also changes the first three days of school to early release days. As we acknowledge some students have not participated with in-person learning since March 2020, these early dismissals will accommodate for a more gradual transition to the new school year. Further, the afternoons of these early release days will be utilized for staff professional development (PD).

The administration is recommending that the Board review and adopt the revised 2021-2022 calendar as presented.

“MOVE to adopt the revised 2021-22 school calendar as presented.”

MTC:kdw



Simsbury Public Schools Calendar 2021-22

AUGUST					SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
							1*	2	3					1	1	2	3	4	5
					6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
					13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
					20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
30	31				27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

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

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

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

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

JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10**
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

*First Day of School

**School will close for the year upon completion of the 180th student school day.

School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

Early Dismissal

School Holiday/Vacation/Full Day Professional Development

September 1*	Students' First Day	January 17	MLK Day
September 6	Labor Day	February 21-22	Winter Recess
September 7	Rosh Hashanah	March 18	Professional Development
September 16	Yom Kippur	April 11-15	Spring Recess
October 11	Columbus Day	April 15	Good Friday
November 2	Election Day/Prof. Development	May 30	Memorial Day
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Recess	June 10**	Students' Last Day
Dec. 24 – Jan. 1	Holiday Recess		

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

**SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021-22 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 6	Labor Day	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1	Holiday Recess
September 7	Rosh Hashanah	January 17	MLK Day
September 16	Yom Kippur	February 21-22	Winter Recess
October 11	Columbus Day	March 18	Professional Dev.
November 2	Election Day/Prof. Dev.	April 11-15	Spring Recess
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Recess	May 30	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

MEMO TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 23, 2021

RE: Approval of Board of Education Policies

The Policy Committee recently reviewed revised policies as part of the 1000 Community Relations, 4000 Personnel and 5000 Student series. The major revisions are related to Title IX changes at the federal level. A copy of the recommended policy changes have been provided to you this evening for further review. The Policy Committee is recommending adoption of the following policy revisions:

- 1100.6 – Visitors to School Buildings - *Revision*
- 4100 – Personnel Organization – *Revision*
- 4209 – Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Title IX) – *Revision*
- 5145.51 – Sexual Discrimination and Harassment – Students - *Revision*

“MOVE to adopt the revised Board of Education policies, as noted, effective March 23, 2021.”

MTC:kdw

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 23, 2021

RE: Appointment to the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center
Consulting Committee

The Director of the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center has requested that Mr. Joseph Slattery be appointed to serve on the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting Committee for a three year term. Mr. Slattery currently has a daughter attending the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center and has been actively involved and supportive of agricultural education. He also has a son attending HJMS.

This year three Simsbury students attend the Suffield Regional Agriscience program. These students attend Suffield High School on a full time basis, and take three classes of agriculture education this year. Agriscience students are also required to complete 150 hours of Supervised Agricultural Experiences to enhance their knowledge and skills.

“MOVE that the Simsbury Board of Education appoint Simsbury resident Mr. Joseph Slattery as a member of the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting Committee.”

MTC:kdw

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: Gift to the Simsbury Public Schools / Fencing Team

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 SHS Fencing Team from David and Sherry Cordani of \$2,500 to be used to purchase equipment and for training of personnel.

“MOVE that the proposed gift of \$2,500 from the Cordani family be approved.”

/cm

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: Cancellation of April 13, 2021 Meeting

Due to the closure of school for spring recess April 12-16, the Chairman of the Board of Education is recommending cancellation of the April 13, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

BOARD MOTION

"Move to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on April 13, 2021."

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: Central School -Understanding Equity

The Central School staff is deeply committed to their ongoing development of understanding equity. Over the last two summers, they have engaged in collaborative and dynamic book studies, led by Language Arts Consultant, Diana Smith. Their study of *Being the Change* by Sara Ahmed led to important identity work. Additionally, inspired by the work of Rudine Sims Bishop that books should serve as both mirrors and windows, classroom resources were enhanced to be reflective of and responsive to all students, as well as in the greater community and world. Further, February's Black History Museum was powerful equity-based learning for the entire community, aligned with our Vision of a Graduate. Students tapped into outside resources to expand their knowledge, resulting in learning reflective of innovation, responsibility, and careful consideration of their audience. All of these experiences have invited questions, conversations, and important reflections in all layers of the Central School learning community.

This evening, Principal Beth Hennessy and Central School students and teachers, will highlight exciting extension projects that came about from their equity focus. Spanish teacher, Diane Tobio will share the work students completed for the book, *The ABCs of Black History*. Heather Donlon, grade 6 teacher, and some of her students will describe the inspiration and outcomes with a guest speaker. Finally, Moira Honyotski, grade 5 teacher, will share a special video created by Central School teachers.

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 23, 2021

RE: Latimer Lane Renovation Project

On February 9, 2021 the Board of Education approved their Six Year Capital Improvement Plan. As a result of the Facilities Master Plan Phase 1, the Latimer Lane School renovation project is included in year 1 of the plan. This evening I will share materials we will use to inform the public of the proposed project. These materials have been reviewed by the Communications Committee.

MTC:kdw