

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2021
Squadron Line School
Cafeteria

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 6, 2021 Workshop EXHIBIT I
 - B. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2021 Meeting EXHIBIT II
 - C. Adoption of 2021-22 Non-Public School Budget EXHIBIT III
 - D. Adoption of 2021-22 Public School Budget EXHIBIT IV
 - E. Cancellation of March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting EXHIBIT V
- V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Squadron Line Program EXHIBIT VI
 - B. District Intervention EXHIBIT VII
 - C. Policy Second Reading EXHIBIT VIII
- VI. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It is anticipated that the Board of Education will enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.
- VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 23, 2021,
Central School

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Budget Workshop

February 6, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the budget workshop to order at 9:09 a.m. in the HJMS Library Media Center.

Roll Call:

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

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, Finance Director Amy Meriwether, and Director of Infrastructure & Systems Technology Jason Casey.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Mr. Curtis introduced the topics for the workshop and noted the provided materials align with the agenda.

A. Capital Improvement plan

The administration and board members discussed the placement of the Facilities Master Plan recommended projects and their placement on the six year capital plan. The decision was made to decouple the Latimer Lane School renovation project and the HJMS addition due to the debt service policy of the Board of Finance.

B. 2021-22 Budget

The administration and board members discussed budgets specific to curriculum, textbooks, professional development, equipment, supplies, technology software, insurance, pension, capital non-recurring, revenues and grants, as well as the line item budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Jen Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

6 Year CIP

2021-22 Budget

Adjournment

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

February 9, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the virtual meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Ms. Batchelar read a letter in support of SHS returning to in-person learning. The letter was signed by 56 families. Mr. Burrick read letters from Jenna and Patrick Caulfield and from Cristina Bussolini in support of the Latimer Lane School renovation project. Mr. Tindall read letters from Becky Mahoney and from Teresa Berry in support of the Latimer Lane renovation project. Ms. Salina read a letter from Lizzy Givan in support of the Latimer Lane renovation project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Willerup reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting highlighting the ways in which our schools are celebrating Black History month. Ms. Thomas stated that she is a member of the Diversity Committee at CABE. She noted that the committee will be putting together affinity groups and will be looking for board members to join. Ms. Thomas stated that they will also be collecting race and ethnicity information across boards.

Ms. Tedone reported that the NSBA Equity Symposium is tomorrow and the HASA/CREC/CABE forum is Thursday. She summarized some of the legislation being considered at the state level in this legislative session. Ms. Zeilman reported on activities at the elementary schools. Ms. Lemke reported on the professional development schedule for Friday afternoon. Sessions will focus on social/emotional learning, equity access and engaging instructional strategies.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the SHS survey closes on Friday. A few more distance learning families are expressing interest in returning to in-person learning. The administration is working to identify potential dates for return when all safety protocols can be met.

Mr. Curtis stated that he continues to be encouraged with the COVID trends over the past two weeks. At the end of January Simsbury peaked with 30 cases per 100,000. Mr. Curtis noted that there is significant interest in students returning to SHS, so far there are 600 responses to the survey. He stated that next week he will meet with the team and discuss with the Farmington Valley Health District.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Public Audience

Communications

safety issue at SHS.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the Board of Education Six Year Capital Improvement Plan for the period 2022-2027 be adopted.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded.

Ms. Thomas requested a statement relative to the cost of the SHS bleacher and security improvements. Mr. Curtis stated the request for security improvements is \$250,000 and for the bleachers and press box is \$850,000. The total request for these projects and the renovation of Latimer Lane is \$37,892,046.

The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. 2021-22 Budget

2021-22 Budget

Mr. Curtis noted the productive budget discussions with the board during the budget workshop. He acknowledged that there was a different planning process due to the pandemic and he reviewed the district's guiding principles for reopening the schools last fall. Mr. Curtis stated his proposed budget of \$74,900,804, which is an increase of \$2,040,360 with a 2.8% increase.

Mr. Curtis discussed the budget context relative to COVID related expenditures and balancing the current year's budget. He briefly reviewed a budget history of how the BOE budget has compared to the BOF guideline. Mr. Curtis addressed the current year's enrollment of 3,960 and the projected enrollment for next year of 4,020. He then reviewed a staffing and enrollment history, noting that as enrollment has decreased, certified staffing has decreased, but non-certified staffing has increased. Non-certified staffing will be addressed in the 2021-22 budget.

Mr. Curtis addressed the current fiscal climate and budget supports. He stated the goal in 2021-22 is to rebuild intervention and support systems. Mr. Curtis reviewed the staffing positions that were repurposed during the summer of 2020 for the current school year. He noted the drivers of the 2021-2022 budget: contractual obligations, program improvements, insurance and pension. Mr. Curtis stated that staffing contracts total a budget increase of 2.07%.

Mr. Curtis presented the health insurance claims history and projections for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Insurance is the second largest driver of the budget and is projected to increase by 7%. The state of reserves is in a good place and could possibly be used to lower the projected increase.

Mr. Curtis reviewed the operational efficiencies that will be utilized in the proposed budget. These include a reduction of 5 non-certified staff, a reduction due to 6 known staff retirements, the central office restructure, as well as reductions in instructional supplies and equipment. Mr. Curtis addressed the district staffing budget that includes the addition of a Director of Equity and Access. He also discussed shared services with the town that are in place.

Mr. Curtis reviewed necessary program enhancements in the proposed budget that

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

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

The administration recommends the following motion for adoption:

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“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%.”

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

Based on new positive information relative to insurance, an additional retirement, and savings in the equipment line item due to grant revenues, the proposed budget includes an increase of 2.12%. As a result of this new information, the administration recommends the following motion for adoption:

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“MOVE that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Public School budget in the amount of \$73,843,930 which represents an increase of \$1,534,869 or 2.12%.”

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: February 23, 2021

RE: Cancellation of March 9, 2021 Meeting

Due to the Board of Education's 2021-22 budget presentation to the Board of Finance on the same evening, the Chairman of the Board of Education is recommending cancellation of the March 9, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

BOARD MOTION

"Move to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on March 9, 2021."

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 23, 2021
RE: Squadron Line School - Equity in Action

Equity has been at the core of Squadron Line's work over the past several years - from implementing the Vision of the Graduate, the BOE goals, to the guiding principles that have provided a focus for instruction during COVID. Time has been devoted to learning about equity, implicit bias, and becoming more comfortable talking about race. The staff at Squadron has begun to look at practices and ask questions that challenge their perspectives to ensure that all students are provided with equal access to quality instruction, technology, and supports.

This evening, Principal Meg Evans and Assistant Principal Jacqueline Petrella will provide you with an overview for how Squadron Line has engaged in this important work and valuable lessons learned thus far. They will share both staff and student viewpoints that explore individual learning regarding equity. You will also get a chance to see some student work relative to the district-wide Black History Book Museum.

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: February 23, 2021

RE: District Intervention and Response

Throughout the pandemic, we have been consistently evaluating our students' performance and determining how best to offer responsive, necessary support. In my budget presentation last week, I emphasized that as a result of COVID, a major goal of next school year is to rebuild our intervention and support systems district-wide.

Tonight, Mrs. Homrok-Lemke will provide the Board with an overview of current instructional trends and challenges, K-12 student performance data, actions taken to respond to this information, as well as recommended next steps in the intervention reconstruction process. More specifically, Mrs. Homrok-Lemke will share development plans for summer programming, increased math and executive functioning support, elementary coach implications, and creative intervention responses already in effect at the high school. Additionally, she will overview the potential costs associated with this systemic rebuild. Finally, I will comment on the potential use of CARES funding to financially support these measures.

There will be opportunity throughout this report to ask questions and share your thoughts on our plan.

MTC:kdw

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 23, 2021
RE: Policy Second Reading

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. 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*

Copies of the recommended policies have been provided to you this evening for your review. Following any discussion, these policies will be brought forward for adoption at the March 23rd Board of Education meeting.

MTC:kdw