

March 22, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

March Madness is off and running. As the UConn men and women hope to get to the Final Four, the Simsbury High School Girls Basketball Team has already brought home their victory with the Class L State title for the first time in school history! The atmosphere at Mohegan Sun was amazing, and our own player, Charlotte Reitz, sang a powerful version of the national anthem. The team had two outstanding 1,000 point scorers in Amanda Gallagher and Olivia Jarvis. The Board of Education (BOE) will recognize the team at their meeting on March 26th.

As our budget season comes to a close, the BOE budget was presented to the Board of Finance (BOF) on March 5th. At that meeting the BOF requested that the BOE reduce their budget from a 4.97% increase to a 4.3% increase. During the March 18th BOE special meeting the board voted to approve reductions to bring the budget increase to 4.41%. The majority of these reductions are in the areas of equipment, textbooks and library media books, and instructional supplies. Contractual increases are the most substantial driver in our budget, accounting for an increase of 3.3% over last year's operating cost. This budget also includes several new positions to support increased special education enrollment across our district, as well as funding associated with program-related needs such as specialized transportation and out-of-district placements. For further information on the budget process, please visit the [BOE budget website](#), where you can find detailed presentations that were provided throughout this year's budget process.

At their meeting on March 19th the BOF moved forward both the BOE and the BOS budgets to a public hearing. The BOF will hold the public hearing on the school and town capital and operating budgets on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Tariffville Room of the Simsbury Public Library. A continuation of the public hearing is likely to be held on April 16th. After the public hearing, the BOF will forward the school and town budgets to referendum.

I thank you for your continued support of our school system and the advocacy you provide on an annual basis when you participate in our budget referendum. The referendum is tentatively scheduled for May 14, 2024 at Henry James Memorial School.

Although the spring weather is slow to appear, I hope that all of you have the opportunity to pause and enjoy family and friends during the upcoming spring recess.

Sincerely,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools