

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Budget Workshop

February 3, 2024

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup, Sharon Thomas and Jessica Parise (by phone). Messrs. Jeff Tindall, Brian Watson and Josh Falco.

Members absent: Ms. Lydia Tedone

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

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. 2024-25 Budget

Mr. Curtis reviewed the main budget drivers. Ms. Meriwether addressed insurance and pension. She reviewed our self-funded insurance system for fiscal year 2023 and the projections for fiscal year 2024 and 2025, as well as reserves. She reviewed the financial projections for special ed outplacement and transportation. Mr. Tindall requested that administration take a look at reallocating current resources to fund the requested special ed staffing.

Ms. Lemke reviewed documents associated with curriculum, textbooks and professional development. Mr. Casey reviewed the technology drivers and corresponding documents. He also addressed the facilities/maintenance budget. Mr. Casey discussed the Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) fund and proposed two potential capital non-recurring plans. One maintains the \$550,000 that has been allocated annually over the past 3 decades. The other proposes \$1.25 million to more adequately address the needs throughout the district.

Ms. Appleby addressed revenues and grants and provided an overview of grant funding. Ms. Meriwether highlighted certain items in the line item budget. Mr. Curtis provided context for the 6 year Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Casey highlighted the first year of the plan and provided a general overview of the totality of the plan. Discussion ensued regarding Squadron Line School and a new build versus renovation. The board also discussed a possible move of all of grade 6 to the middle school in order to free capacity at the elementary schools.

Board members asked the administration to look at actions to decrease the main driver percentage to lower than 6.93%.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

2024-25 Budget

Adjournment

Sharon Thomas
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary