

SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2022
BOE Conference Room
6:30 p.m.
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. RECOGNITION
- III. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS
- V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
 - A. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2021 Meeting EXHIBIT I
 - B. Personnel EXHIBIT II
 - C. Approval of Karen McHose Memorial Scholarship EXHIBIT III
- VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS
 - A. Special Education Program Review EXHIBIT IV
 - Budget
- VII. PUBLIC AUDIENCE
- VIII. FUTURE BUSINESS
 - A. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 25, 2022,
Squadron Line School

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**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

December 14, 2021

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

Roll Call:

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

Members absent: Ms. Sharon Thomas

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, BOE Student Representative Olivia Antidormi and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Lori Boyko, 15 Oakhurst Road, urged the school district to draw on the body of evidence from the World Health Organization stating the virus is no more dangerous than the common flu. She implored the district to use common sense.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Antidormi reported on activities at the elementary schools, including PJ day and world language enrichment. She noted that HJMS will be performing Frozen Jr. in the spring. Ms. Antidormi reported on the Hour Code that occurred throughout the district. She noted that a new Math Honor Society has been formed at SHS and 2 of the high school sports teams played in state finals.

Ms. Tedone reported on NSBA, the Delegate Assembly at the CABA/CAPSS convention, the Nutmeg board meeting and the CABA new board members conference. She noted that the Simsbury BOE has received the CABA Board Recognition Award.

Ms. Willerup reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting. She stated that Greg Stillman, Director of School Counseling, provided information on the Early College Experience (ECE) program that is currently offered in 4 courses. English Department Supervisor, Emily Drago, provided an update on the English curriculum. Ms. Willerup noted the performance of the HJMS cabaret during Simsbury Celebrates. Ms. Salina noted the performance of the SHS acapella group during the swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Batchelor reported that the Policy Committee met last week. Ms. Lemke stated that the National Honor Society is provided world language enrichment programming at the elementary schools. She noted that Hour of Code has been occurring at the elementary schools and HJMS. Mr. Sullivan reported that the Policy Committee is continuing to work on the 1000 series including additional policies from CABA.

Mr. Curtis reported that the tri-board meeting was held earlier in the month. Priorities and fixed costs were discussed as the budget season kicks off. He noted that budget meetings with principals began today.

Public Audience

Communications

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2021 Special Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the minutes of the November 3, 2021 special meeting be approved.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2021

B. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting be approved.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2021

C. Personnel

Ms. Tedone: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Matthew Saccoman effective November 24, 2021.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Personnel

D. Approval of Gift from Ensign Bickford

Mr. Watson: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$5,000 to Simsbury High School from the Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company be accepted.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of Gift from Ensign Bickford

E. Approval of 2022 BOE Meeting Schedule

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board of Education set their 2022 meeting schedule as outlined in the December 14, 2021 board exhibit.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of 2022 BOE Meeting Schedule

F. Approval of Policy Revisions

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to adopt the revised Board of Education policies, as noted, effective December 14, 2021.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

Approval of Policy Revisions

G. Election of Officers

Ms. Salina opened the floor to nominations.

Ms. Willerup: Move that Jennifer Batchelar be nominated for Secretary of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved

Election of Officers

Ms. Tedone: Move that Jennifer Batchelar be elected as Secretary of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

Mr. Burrick: Move that Jeff Tindall be nominated for Vice-Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded.

Mr. Burrick: Move that Jeff Tindall be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Willerup: Move that Susan Salina be nominated for Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Ms. Batchelar: Move that Susan Salina be elected as Chairman of the Simsbury Board of Education.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Latimer Lane School Project Update

Jeff Wyszynski, Principal at Tecton Architects, provided an update on the Latimer Lane School project. He reviewed the work that is completed and in progress: (1) site due diligence, (2) site and floor plan development, (3) correspondence with the Office of School Construction & Grants Review (OSCG&R), and (4) building systems coordination. Mr. Wyszynski stated that all grant applications are into the state and the priority list will come out tomorrow.

Mr. Wyszynski stated that he met with the Clean Energy Task Force at the Public Building Committee meeting. His firm is looking at how to make the building as energy efficient as possible. The use of a chilled beam system is water based and provides a constant air exchange.

Mr. Wyszynski reviewed development of the site plan. He pointed out the changes to the current site plan. Mr. Wyszynski described the floor plan and addressed how accessibility will be provided in the areas where grading levels are uneven. He also presented renderings of the completed renovation.

Mr. Wyszynski discussed next steps for the project. A site development estimate will be completed in order to assure the project is within budget. Tecton has met with the construction management firm, O&G Industries, to discuss phasing and logistics. The finalized site design will be submitted to the town land use boards for approval. A presentation will be given to Latimer Lane School staff and to the Latimer Lane

Latimer Lane
School Project
Update

School community in early January. Preparation of a list of energy efficiency related items for the building is ongoing in conjunction with the building system's engineering.

Mr. Burrick asked if the chilled beam system condensation is a concern. Mr. Wyszynski responded that as long as the air is controlled it will not be a problem. He noted that the building will be setup to connect to any carbon neutral system. He stated that currently grants with EverSource are being pursued.

B. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the October 1 enrollment history 2017-18 through 2021-22. He reviewed the 5 year projected enrollments, noting that elementary enrollment is projected to increase, SHS decrease and HJMS to remain stable. The total projection is an increase of 500 students over the next 5 years. Mr. Sullivan noted that the projections could be affected by the larger number of Kindergarten students this year due to COVID.

Mr. Sullivan addressed elementary projections by school. The increase projected at Squadron Line School will create the need to open up space in the school. He noted that there are no capacity concerns at HJMS and SHS, and staffing should remain level. Mr. Sullivan stated that NESDEC projections suggest that K-12 student enrollment will increase by an average of approximately 94 students per year for the next five years. Enrollment, especially incoming Kindergarten classes, will be important to monitor over the next few years. The Latimer Lane School project, scheduled to be completed during 2023-24, will address enrollment concerns in that area of town, and some Latimer Lane classrooms could be available to relocate programming from other schools.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Mark Scully, 29 Notch Road, spoke on behalf of the Clean Energy Task Force and the Sustainability Committee stating that they appreciate being able to provide input to the Public Building Committee. He stated that they are excited by what they're seeing, the potential for an all-electric building. He noted that with solar Latimer Lane School could be a net zero building. Mr. Scully asked that going forward his committees be brought to the table earlier in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

NESDEC
Enrollment
Projections

Public Audience

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
DATE: January 11, 2022
RE: Personnel Recommendations

I. Resignations

Nicol Decker

Assignment Speech & Language Pathologist PK, Squadron Line
Simsbury Exp 2.5 years
Effective January 14, 2022

Elizabeth Wojewoda

Assignment Special Education Teacher, Central School
Simsbury Exp 1.5 years
Effective January 28, 2022

BOARD MOTION:

“MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignations of Nicole Decker effective January 14, 2022 and Elizabeth Wojewoda effective January 28, 2022.”

MTC:cdf

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: January 11, 2022
RE: The Karen McHose Memorial Scholarship

The Board of Education approves all proposed scholarships available to Simsbury Public School students. Below are the guidelines for the Karen McHose Memorial 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 is being presented by classmates of Ms. McHose from Simsbury High School Class of 1990. Karen was a nurse who recently passed away.

AMOUNT: One scholarship in the amount of \$350 awarded to a graduating senior of the Class of 2022.

CRITERIA: This scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a college degree in the health sciences.

SELECTION: SHS Scholarship Committee

DISBURSEMENT: A check will be presented directly to the recipient on Awards Night by a SHS administrator.

CONTACT: Allison Berger
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Bethel, CT 06801
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MOVE that the Board of Education approve the Karen McHose Memorial Scholarship, to be disbursed in 2022.

MTC:da

EXHIBIT IV

MEMORANDUM TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matthew T. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: January 11, 2022

RE: Special Education Program and Budget Review

Tonight, Katie Krasula, Director of Pupil Services, will present a comprehensive three-part review of special education programming to the Board. This will include the required annual special education program performance, a comprehensive update on the mental health impact on students, and a review of the proposed 2022-2023 special education budget.

Although required by statute to report Simsbury's special education progress relative to Connecticut's Bureau of Special Education's Annual Performance Report (APR), it has become customary to provide a more developed synopsis of Simsbury's special education services as well. Therefore, Mrs. Krasula will review the areas of focus for the department, including achievement gap/instruction, reading/dyslexia, referrals and disproportionality, and social emotional learning (SEL). Mrs. Krasula will share updated data around standardized testing in relation to historical data and comparable to our demographic reference group (DRG). She will provide information on our defined achievement gap in Simsbury and how special education uses state standards to develop Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals that support student growth and share information about upcoming state-level changes to the IEP development system. She will also update the board on the district work around social emotional learning (SEL), inclusive of important state legislative updates.

Second, she will provide an important update on the continued mental health impact the pandemic is having on our students. This will include a comprehensive review of mental health data, the impact on special education and general education students, as well as the ways the district has responded thus far. Further, staff and students of our Simsbury High School Pathways Program will highlight how Pathways addresses students' social, emotional and behavioral needs in a collaborative and successful way through building relationships and utilizing student strengths.

Finally, Mrs. Krasula will discuss budget implications for the 2022-2023 year. This includes additional staffing requests to address an increased prevalence rate and student need; more specifically, a revamped department structure at the elementary

level, social worker requests, and other programmatic support to increase student growth and success. Rising special education enrollment figures will be shared as compared to general education enrollment. Historical staffing numbers and budget support will also be communicated. The budget overview will also detail the major drivers to the special education budget: transportation, out of district placement, staffing, and contracted services, as well as anticipated costs for the coming year.