

January 22, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Simsbury Public Schools Staff:

Budget Update:

It is that time of the year when our focus turns toward the development of both our operating and capital budgets. The process formally kicked off the first week of December at the annual three board meeting. The Board of Finance has provided both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman with guidance of a 1.5% increase over last year's operating budget expenditures. With fixed costs in the range of 3% for both boards this will undoubtedly be a challenge. After working our way through the budget meetings, with our principals and program directors, we are set to start reporting out to the Board of Education on our progress. At our upcoming board meeting next Tuesday, we will present the personnel and enrollment portion of the budget. I will keep you posted as our process evolves.

On the capital development front we are hoping to seek the approval of the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance in moving to referendum a major capital improvement project that resulted from our Facilities Study. The Board of Education has prioritized Latimer Lane School as the top area of focus in the long term plan to address the revitalization of our facilities. Much more to come on that later.

Vaccine Update:

The vaccine is currently being distributed to people 75 and older. Governor Lamont stated that people 65 and older will be vaccinated "in a couple of weeks", followed by front-line workers and people with high-risk conditions in February and early March.

COVID Case Update:

We have updated our [COVID Dashboard](#) for the period of January 15 through January 21. The current dashboard includes 2 staff members and 7 student cases as reported. These cases include 1 staff member at Latimer Lane School and 1 staff member at the BOE Central Office, 2 students at Simsbury High School, 1 student at Henry James Memorial School, 1 student at Squadron Line School and 3 students at Central School. The total of 9 cases this week is a decrease from last week when 10 positive cases were reported.

We have updated the CT Learning Model Indicator chart on our website for the two week period ending January 16, 2021. The FVHD data for this reporting period is 37 cases per 100,000. With 28 cases per 100,000 in population in Simsbury, similar to last week's data of 29 cases per 100,000. As a result we will continue with our current instructional models. Please take a moment to scroll down to the second tab [FVHD School Learning Model Indicators](#) on our Coronavirus Update webpage.

If anyone in your home is awaiting COVID-19 test results please do not send your child to in-person learning. Please keep your child home until test results are received. Additionally, please contact your school nurse as soon as possible if your child receives a positive COVID test result. Thank you for your continued support of our protocols.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools