TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings | Regular Meeting | May 23, 2023

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the cafeteria at Latimer Lane School.

Roll Call:
Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone and Jen Batchelar. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson. Ms. Sharon Thomas arrived at 7:13 p.m.

Members absent: Mr. Todd Burrick.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Grace Myers and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

RECOGNITIONS — Recognitions

Steve Patrina, SHS Principal, spoke about Emilie Carroll's outstanding leadership at the high school. Ms. Salina presented her with the CABE Leadership Award. Scott Baker, HJMS Principal, spoke about Isla Watters and Nicholas Babigian and the process for choosing these students for this award. Ms. Salina presented Isla and Nicholas with the CABE Leadership Award.

Mr. Patrina stated that the CAS Scholar Athlete award recipients are unable to attend tonight's meeting as they both are participating in competitions this evening. He noted that Reece Willison and Gabriel Park were honored at a CAS reception earlier this spring. Mr. Patrina also noted that Reid Bulger, also a CABE Leadership Award recipient, is competing this evening as well.

Mr. Curtis spoke about Mr. Patrina's retirement and his 38 years of service to the district. Mr. Patrina has been named the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. Nancy Scheetz, Chamber of Commerce President, spoke about Mr. Patrina and presented him with his award.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE — Public Audience

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS — Communications

Ms. Myers reported that Capstone Day is Thursday, SHS is holding a disconnect to reconnect day on Wednesday, and the SHS Art Show will be held Wednesday through Friday.

Ms. Batchelar reported on the SHS World Language Awards ceremony and the accomplishments of so many students. Ms. Tedone provided an update on the work of the state legislature as the session nears its end. She noted the possibility of changing the Kindergarten birthdate requirement from December 31 to September 1 in 2024. Ms. Tedone reported on the CREC 2023 Annual Awards celebration. Mr. Tindall noted the successful SNAPZ concert and the work of Lisa Abel.

Ms. Lemke reported that the Kathleen Magowan Enhancement Group has met twice to choose teacher grants to fund next year. Additionally five students will receive Kathleen Magowan scholarships at the SHS awards ceremony. Ms. Lemke reported that 263 students will be presenting Capstone projects on Thursday. She noted that the Chorale Review at SHS is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Sullivan reported that the SHS principal search process is in full gear, noting that more than 20 SHS parents participated in the focus group. He noted an announcement is anticipated to be made on June 1. Mr. Sullivan stated we continue to look at filling district level positions and have begun hiring teachers for next year.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2023 Meeting — Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2023

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

B. Personnel — Personnel

Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of William Wesley effective June 30, 2023.

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.

C. Approval of Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments — Approval of Unaffiliated Salary Adjustments

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the membership of the unaffiliated group and changes to their benefits for the coming year.

Mr. Tindall: MOVE that the salary range for the unaffiliated Board of Education employees and salaries for the Central Office Administrators be increased by 3% for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

D. Approval of 2023-24 Textbooks — Approval of 2023-24 Textbooks

Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the Board approve the textbook adoption for the 2023-24 school year as submitted by the administration.

Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Latimer Lane Project — Latimer Lane Project

Mike Luzietti, Latimer Lane School Principal, provided an update on the building project. He stated that biweekly meetings are held with the owner, architect and construction firms (OAC). He reviewed the areas they discuss. Public Building

Committee meetings are held monthly regarding the project. Mr. Luzietti stated that he continues to provide students and staff tours throughout the course of the project.

Mr. Luzietti reviewed the work that has been done to date, which includes: 22,000 square feet of concrete slab, installation of steel structure, installation of roof deck and roofing, construction of interior and exterior walls, installation of exterior seating areas and courtyards, and replacement of the parking lot. Mr. Luzietti discussed the day to day affect of the project on the school day. He stated that the contractors have been very responsive and have positive interactions with the school community.

Mr. Luzietti provided a rendering of a completed Kindergarten classroom and the interior color scheme for the school. He reviewed the floor plan development over the three phases of the project. Mr. Luzietti noted that teaching and learning moves forward, weekly PLCs and data driven decisions are occurring, teachers are participating on district committees and community events are taking place. Mr. Curtis thanked Mr. Luzietti and Mr. Sullivan for the amount of time, effort and attention to detail they have put into the project.

B. Policy Second Reading

Policy Second Reading

Mr. Sullivan noted that the policy revisions were presented at the last meeting for a first reading. He stated that a board member suggested clarification of the title of policy 5145.523. He noted that the old title was brought forward, but should be updated to Transgender and Gender Minority Youth.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Public Audience

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

Mr. Tindall: MOVE to enter executive session to interview an administrative candidate, discuss the evaluation of the superintendent and discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Ms. Thomas: Seconded. So moved.

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Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary