TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings | Special Meeting | November 15, 2022

Mr. Jeff Tindall called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

Roll Call:
Members present: Mmes. Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Jeff Tindall and Todd Burrick.

Members absent: Mmes. Susan Salina and Sharon Thomas. Mr. Brian Watson

Also present: Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Assistant Superintendent Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Emilie Carroll and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE — Public Audience
None

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS — Communications
Ms. Carroll reported that 80-90 SHS students took the optional national math exam. She stated that she has not heard negative comments about the security pass system in place since the start of the school year. Ms. Carroll reported on the fall sports teams and choral concerts at SHS. She stated that she wanted to form a group for Unified Theater but was unable to get enough regular ed students to participate.

Ms. Willerup reported that the Curriculum Committee met to review changes to the graduation requirements at SHS. She stated that the intent is to give more flexibility to the categories for credits. Ms. Batchelar noted all of the great school programs held for Veteran's Day.

Ms. Tedone stated that the CABE/CAPSS conference starts on Thursday. She noted that CREC Council, comprised of 35 districts, have been discussing energy efficiency in districts.

Mr. Sullivan noted the board's action on the Latimer Lane project at the tri-board meeting. He reported that the BOS affirmed that decision and recommended the 3 alternates to the BOF. The next step is for the BOF to move the matter to a public hearing. Mr. Tindall thanked the BOS and BOF for attending the tri-board meeting, and the BOS for their support of the three alternates.

Ms. Lemke addressed the full day of professional development held on November 8. The theme was around engagement, how to engage in work around the district. Ms. Lemke pointed out that 60 staff members were presenters that day. She noted that STEM night for elementary students will be held on Thursday, with 200 students already signed up.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2022 Meeting

Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2022

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.

B. Approval of Squadron Line HVAC Education Specs

Approval of Squadron HVAC Ed Specs

Mr. Sullivan stated the district will take the opportunity to apply for grants that CT is offering to improve air quality in schools. Approval of the education specifications is part of the grant process. Mr. Sullivan noted that the air handling system at Squadron Line School is original to the building and there have been some air quality issues due to humidity in the building. Currently there is a patchwork of air conditioning units in the building. This project is estimated to cost $225,000 with one-third being grant eligible. The remainder would likely be paid through CNR.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the educational specifications for the Squadron Line Elementary School Air Quality Improvement Project.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

C. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between The Simsbury Board of Education and The Simsbury Education Association (SEA)

Approval of SEA Contract

Mr. Burrick, Personnel & Negotiations Committee Chair, noted the largest asset in the district is our employees and the largest bargaining group is comprised of teachers. He thanked Mr. Sullivan and members of the committee for their work to reach a settlement. Mr. Burrick also thanked the teachers negotiating team comprised of Kara Maslar, Jamie Sepa,Tim Walczak and Keira Brown.

Mr. Sullivan stated that negotiations took place during a time of high inflation and settlements across the state are coming in higher. The total salary increases, over 3 years, is 11.98%. Mr. Sullivan noted that we have many experienced teachers at the top of the scale. During negotiations work was done to close the salary gap we have with other districts. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the changes to health insurance and contractual language changes.

Mr. Tindall thanked Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Burrick and Mr. Curtis for their leadership during negotiations. He noted the conversations with the teachers were good and respectful. Mr. Tindall stated he believes this is a fair settlement.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education ratify the proposed changes in the collective bargaining agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury Education Association for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved

D. Cancellation of November 15, 2022 Meeting

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled on November 22, 2022. Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved.	Cancellation of November 15, 2022 Meeting
INFORMATION AND REPORTS A. Henry James Memorial School Report	
Scott Baker, HJMS Principal, reviewed some highlights from the 2021-22 school year as well as the current year, noting the work of the SEL Committee, extra-curricular participation, community service activities, spirit days and team assemblies. Mr. Baker addressed the school's indicators of success, noting that the assessment data is not consistent. SBAC data reflects a decrease of 9% from last year, to 72% of students at or above goal in ELA. Mr. Baker noted that the ELA score is 4% from the top in DRG B, with no DRG B schools reaching 80%. SBAC Math remains unchanged from the prior year at 57%. The NGSS Science score is up 1% over last year at 75% which is top in DRG B. Mr. Baker pointed out that there were mixed results in comparable districts. He stated the STAR data reflects that growth targets were met. Mr. Baker stated that areas where there is a preponderance of students having difficulty are being addressed. He noted that comparative data is kept on each student starting in grade 5 and interventions vary student to student. Mr. Baker explained how a spiral review approach is utilized such that concepts continue to be revisited during the teaching process. Jacqueline Petrella, HJMS Assistant Principal, reviewed the results of the student Panorama survey. She noted that 60% of students responded favorably as to whether they feel safe in school. 49% of students responded favorably to school climate. Ms. Petrella noted the strengths and concerns expressed in the comment section of the survey and how the school is addressing each of these concerns. Ms. Petrella addressed the results of the staff Panorama survey. 66% of staff have a positive feeling of belonging. 57% responded favorably to their feeling of wellbeing. Ms. Petrella noted the areas of strength and concern. She outlined how the areas of concern are being addressed. Ms. Petrella addressed the survey trends from the family survey and the actions the school is taking. Ms. Petrella noted the new HJMS logo, ROAR and how it is being incorporated into the school community. Mr. Baker reviewed the school's priorities for 2022-23. Areas of focus include engagement, student growth and instruction. These priorities create the road map for staff in the building.	HJMS Report
B. Quarterly Budget Report	
Ms. Lemke noted the summaries of state and federal grant awards where there is a delta between this year and last year. She noted the description of expenditures in major accounts. Enrollment and staffing comparisons are also included in the report.	Quarterly Budget Report
PUBLIC AUDIENCE	

None ADJOURNMENT Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved. _____ _____ Jennifer Batchelar Katie Wilde Secretary Recording Secretary	Public Audience Adjournment