

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Budget Workshop

February 6, 2019

Ms. Willerup called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Susan Salina and Jen Batchelar. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Tom Frank and Brian Watson.

Members absent: Mrs. Lydia Tedone and Mr. Jeff Tindall.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Business Manager Burke LaClair and Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. 2019-20 Budget

2019-20 Budget

Mr. Curtis reviewed the 2019-20 main budget drivers: personnel contractual obligations, program improvements, special education, insurance and pension. Mr. LaClair reviewed textbook requests, noting the reduction of \$16,163 in that line item. He reviewed professional development at the elementary, middle and high school levels. This includes training in the areas of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Math in Focus (MIF) and school culture, as well as a few other topics. This budget will also see a reduction of \$11,226. Mr. Curtis noted that the instruction budget is a small percentage of the overall operating budget.

Mr. LaClair reviewed curriculum design and development, contracted services and district testing. Curriculum design and development and contracted services are funds used for salaries and spending will remain level. District testing will increase by \$7,847 due to a new Literacy Assessment, Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) that will be implemented in grade 3 in place of the DRA2. Spending on instructional supplies will remain level.

Mr. LaClair addressed the technology and software budgets. At HJMS the 1:1 Chromebook program will begin in the fall of 2019. This will require the addition of 1 technician at the school. 1:1 classroom Chromebooks for grades 3-6 were implemented ahead of schedule in 2018-19. The goal at the primary level is 2:1 classroom device per student in 2019-20. Mr. LaClair provided a lookback at all of the technology related hardware in the district.

Mr. LaClair discussed new and replacement technology. He reviewed specific items at the elementary and secondary levels. The 2019-20 budget for this line item includes an increase of \$9,460. Mr. LaClair reviewed the computer software budget. He noted that upgrades to current programs and the addition of a few new programs result in an increase of \$10,713. He provided a big picture overview of instructional/non-instructional equipment and technology equipment.

The budget reflects an overall increase of 2.42%. The Board of Finance has given the Board of Education a 2.0% budget guideline. The board discussed the potential use of the non-lapsing account to reach 2.0%

B. Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. LaClair stated that the town will put forward two projects in the near future for a new financial software system and an upgrade to the town emergency communications system. He addressed the projects on the BOE plan for fiscal year 2020. These include improvements to the district network infrastructure, underground tank replacements at Tariffville School and Simsbury High School, and district security improvements. The board will vote on the 6 year capital improvement plan at next week's meeting.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Frank: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

6 Year CIP

Public Audience

Adjournment