

TOWN OF SIMSBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

November 27, 2018

Mrs. Willerup called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Tara Willerup, Lydia Tedone, Susan Salina and Jennifer Batchelar. Messrs. Mike Goman, Todd Burrick, Tom Frank and Jeff Tindall.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent Erin Murray, Assistant Superintendent Sue Homrok-Lemke, Business Manager Burke LaClair, Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, BOE Student Representative Katie Galt and Recording Secretary Katie Wilde.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Patti Gonzalez, 971 Hopmeadow Street, suggested that a science and/or astronomy club be started at the elementary level.

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Galt reported on activities at the elementary and middle school. She noted that the Gridiron football game took place last Tuesday and Simsbury defeated Avon.

Communications

Ms. Tedone reported on the Delegate Assembly held prior to the CABA/CAPSS Convention and noted the topics of the sessions held during the convention.

Mr. Goman noted that this is his last meeting as a board member and stated that it has been a pleasure to serve alongside board members. He thanked faculty, staff and support personnel for their willingness to work with him. Mr. Goman wished everyone well. Ms. Willerup noted Mr. Goman's dedication, time commitment and compassion while on the board. She noted a list of Mr. Goman's accomplishments as a board member. Mr. Curtis thanked Mr. Goman for his mentorship during his transition to Superintendent.

Ms. Lemke reported on the success of the professional development provided by Lynn Lyons. She stated the SHS Unified Flag Football team received the silver medal in the New England Championship. Ms. Lemke thanked Matt Spector for his work with the team. Ms. Murray reported that during the first two weeks of December students will participate in the Hour of Code.

Mr. LaClair reported that Tecton Architects is the vendor selected for the Facilities Master Plan and Reconfiguration Study. A kick-off meeting will be held during the next couple of weeks and the entire project is scheduled for completion in a one year timeframe.

Mr. Curtis noted that Monday the BOF/BOE/BOS meeting will be held. During the BOF meeting last week the BOF looked at a few budget percentage scenarios. Next week central office administrators will hold budget meetings with building and project leaders.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2018 Ms. Salina: MOVE that the minutes of October 23, 2018 be approved. Mr. Goman: Seconded. So moved.	Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2018
B. Personnel Ms. Salina: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the retirement of Cindy Carey effective June 30, 2019. Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved. Mr. Burrick: MOVE that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Kristin Pabich effective November 21, 2018 and Lina Taweh effective November 30, 2018. Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved.	Personnel
C. Acceptance of BOE Member Resignation Ms. Tedone: MOVE to accept the resignation of Mike Goman from the Board of Education with a heavy heart. Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.	BOE Member Resignation
<u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u> A. Elementary Academic Report Beth Hennessy, Central School Principal and Maggie Seidel, Tootin' Hills School Principal, presented the elementary academic report. Ms. Hennessy provided data on the elementary academic indicators of success. She reviewed internal reading data, DRA2 and DRP, for grades 3 and 6. MS. Hennessy also reviewed elementary writing data for grades 4-6. Ms. Seidel discussed the ELA/Literacy performance on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC). She pointed out that for grades 4, 5 and 6 the performance has increased over the same cohort's performance last year. Ms. Seidel noted that the language arts consultants continue to work with grades 2 and 3. Ms. Hennessy addressed the performance on the Math SBAC. She pointed out that last year was the first year Math in Focus was implemented. Math performance declined in grades 4 and 5, but increased in grade 6. Ms. Hennessy stated that over the summer elementary principals analyzed the SBAC results and action steps have been put in place for Math. Betsy Gunsalus, Director of Elementary Curriculum, has worked with the Math Coaches to make changes in pacing, scope and sequence at each grade level. Ms. Hennessy stated that having a Math Coach in every elementary building is a key factor in implementing these changes. She reviewed professional development taking place in the area of Math. Ms. Hennessy provided DRG B rankings for the ELA and Math SBAC. Ms. Seidel addressed the achievement gap in both ELA and Math, compared to other DRG B	

districts and the state. She provided a sample of a teacher goal in elementary Math. Ms. Hennessy reviewed the school climate programs at each of the schools. Areas of focus for the elementary schools in 2018-19 include: (1) Year 2 of Math in Focus, (2) building based Math Coaches, (3) implementation of new NGSS Science units, (4) data review cycles in PLC meetings, (5) social/emotional growth, and (6) building safety.

Ms. Seidel provided a budget preview for the elementary schools. This includes the addition of a World Language teacher, a focus on building maintenance and building safety upgrades.

Mr. Frank asked if the elementary teacher goals were achieved last year. Mr. Curtis responded that last year was more about implementing the Math program. Mr. Frank suggested that it would be good to circle back to the goals over the years. He expressed concern with the DRG Math rankings. He stated that in the next couple of years we will need to know if the Math Coaches made a difference. Mr. Frank asked why the top DRG B schools have Math scores that are so much higher than others. Mr. Curtis explained that when we tried to meet the new standards we shifted our units and pacing a lot. These other district shad programs in place similar to our ELA program.

Mr. Burrick pointed out that we have had Math Coaches in the district awhile and the scores are going down. Mr. Curtis stated that the Grade 6 scores increased, the grade 5 scores basically remained flat, and the grade 4 scores are most likely due to the dip you experience when you implement a new program.

B. SHS Schedule Update

SHS Schedule

Ms. Murray introduced Dan Diana, SHS English teacher, who was the Chairman of the Scheduling Committee at SHS. Andy O'Brien, SHS Principal, stated that this faculty committee conducted a year-long exploration of alternate daily schedules for SHS. They reached consensus that after 10 years with the current schedule, they would like to move to a new 8 period schedule. This schedule would provide 8 periods per day, 58 minutes in length. With this change would be the elimination of the extra science lab period, except in classes where it is required. The schedule would also necessitate the reworking of the Connect period. Mr. O'Brien stated that the change in schedule will provide 3 things: (1) maximize instructional time, (2) reduce stress for students and staff, and (3) provide more access to the courses offered in the Program of Studies.

Ms. Willerup asked if students are aware of the potential change in schedule. Mr. O'Brien responded that Student Council is aware and those student on the Leadership Committee. Ms. Willerup stated that it is important that all stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss this before a change is implemented.

Mr. Burrick asked why, if the schedule at SHS is not working, it was implemented this year at HJMS? Mr. O'Brien suggested that HJMS will need to work through their schedule to determine if it is best for them. He noted that the work stresses are not the same at HJMS as at SHS. In response to comments relative to science labs, Ms. Salina stated that the Science Department Supervisor said that they can complete labs during a 58 minute science class. Mr. Diana noted that the faculty at SHS supports the change to a new schedule.

C. 2019-2020 Budget Calendar Mr. LaClair reviewed the first draft of the budget calendar. He noted that the calendar will be tweaked throughout the budget process. <u>PUBLIC AUDIENCE</u> Chris Kelly, 10 East Tomstead Road, spoke about his experience with Mike Goman, noting that Mr. Goman is a role model for public service and is always focused on the quality of a good decision. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Mr. Goman: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved. Todd Burrick Secretary Katie Wilde Recording Secretary	2019-20 Budget Calendar Public Audience Adjournment
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