

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

November 12, 2019

Ms. Tara 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, Susan Salina, Lydia Tedone, Jen Batchelar and Sharon Thomas. Messrs. Todd Burrick, Jeff Tindall and Brian Watson.

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Chris Noble, 15 Fairchild Road, stated that she has been an SCTV volunteer for more than 25 years. She stated that SCTV relies on donations from Simsbury residents, organizations and cable subscribers. She noted that due to the decline in cable subscribers, SCTV will likely have a deficit this year. Ms. Noble encouraged residents to donate.

Public Audience

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Huie reported on activities at the elementary, middle and high schools. Ms. Thomas spoke positively about the professional development sessions she attended at SHS last week. Ms. Tedone reported on the advocacy work of the National School Board. She noted that A Promise to Jordan event will be held at SHS on Monday, November 18th. Mr. Tindall stated that the Squadron Line Veterans Day assemblies were amazing and he encouraged everyone to participate in the Jack Bannon Turkey Trot.

Communications

Ms. Lemke stated that the next Equity Council meeting will be held on Thursday. Mr. Sullivan reported that HJMS had a highly successful release of the Say Something program last week. The program is being launched at SHS this week and next. Ms. Murray noted the Veterans Day celebrations at the schools. She presented the November 5th professional development brochure and noted that 51 presentations were held, given by more than 75 teachers. Mr. Curtis briefly reviewed the 2020-21 budget calendar that was provided to board members.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2019 Meeting

Ms. Salina: MOVE to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019 meeting

Mr. Tindall: Seconded. So moved. Ms. Tedone and Mr. Burrick abstained.

Minutes of
October 22,
2019

B. Approval of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association (SSASA)

SSASA Contract
Approval

Mr. Burrick reviewed some of the specific changes to the contract, in particular the general wage increase and changes to the pharmaceutical structure. The four year contract includes a 2.25% general wage increase in each of the first three years and a 2.35% increase in the fourth year.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the collective bargaining unit agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association (SSASA).

Mr. Watson: Seconded. So moved

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

SEA Contract Approval

Mr. Burrick reviewed specifics of the 3 year agreement. The general wage increase is 1.75% if you are on the maximum step and 0.5% if you are on a lower step and receiving a step increase.

Mr. Burrick: MOVE to approve the collective bargaining unit agreement between the Simsbury Board of Education and The Simsbury Education Association (SEA).

Ms. Salina: Seconded. So moved.

D. Cancellation of November 26, 2019 Meeting

Cancellation of November 26, 2019 Meeting

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to cancel the November 26, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Facilities Master Plan & Reconfiguration Study

Facilities Master Plan & Reconfiguration Study

Mr. Curtis stated that this is the second presentation the board is seeing from Tecton Architects. He reviewed the process that Tecton has completed thus far and the history of the presentations to the Facilities & Enrollment Task Force.

Mr. Jeff Wyszynski, Principal, Tecton Architects, reviewed the goals of the facilities project: (1) analyze existing conditions and assess educational needs, (2) provide a 10-15 year prioritized plan for capital and maintenance, (3) employ a sustainable approach to address facility and education needs of the community, (4) explore the impact of demographics and population projections, (5) develop alternative configurations and options, (6) engage community and explore responsive solutions, and (7) produce a long range master plan for the community. He reviewed the timeline for the project.

Mr. Wyszynski discussed enrollment projections. An increase of approximately 300 students in grades K-6 is expected over the next 5 years, with the fastest growth at Latimer Lane (21.3%), Squadron Line (17.4%) and Central (15.3%). Modest growth is projected at Tootin' Hills and Tariffville is projected to stay generally stable over the next decade, growing 2.8%.

Mr. Wyszynski noted that over time the school facilities have been added to and/or partially renovated, leaving a complex composition of new and old inefficient layouts and various vintages, with the exception of Squadron Line. Renovations to core facilities need to be addressed. This includes bathrooms, cafeterias, kitchens, gymnasiums and media centers. No facility has received a comprehensive renovation since its original construction. Programmatically all spaces are being utilized. The average age of the original elementary schools is 74.4 years.

Mr. Eddie Widofsky, Tecton Architects, provided an overview of the size and accommodations at each school. He provided a capacity analysis per state standard space specifications. Based on these numbers, Latimer Lane needs to expand by 40.7% in order to properly accommodate the projected enrollment. Enrollment projections show that in 3 years we will have an additional 166 students that will require an additional 8 to 9 classrooms. In 4 years, the total will be 203 students, requiring 10 to 11 classrooms.

Mr. Wyszynski pointed out the importance of “future proofing” the plan in order to build in flexibility over time. The key aspects to accomplish this include freeing up space in the existing elementary schools early in the plan, creating space for improved curriculum, some redistricting, and strategically addressing the immediate needs to allow for phased implementation of capital improvements.

Mr. Widofsky stated that after exploring many options, they have been refined to two options. The Option 1 includes constructing a grade 5-6 school on the HJMS site, reconfiguring the elementary schools grade K-4, and repurposing Tariffville as Pre-K and Board of Education space. This option includes the possibility to add/renovate/rebuild the remaining 4 elementary schools or add/renovate/rebuild 3 elementary schools and repurpose Tootin’ Hills.

Option 2 would add space at HJMS to accommodate grade 6, with a plan to build a new K-5 school at Latimer Lane, reconfigure the elementary schools to K-5, and repurpose Tariffville as Pre-K and Board of Education offices. This option would also allow the possibility of repurposing Tootin’ Hills. Mr. Wyszynski provided an overview of the approximate cost to construct Option 1, a new grade 5-6 school, at \$45,156,391 and the cost to construct Option 2, adding grade 6 at HJMS and building new at Latimer Lane at \$49,630,780.

Mr. Wyszynski pointed out that Option 1 would create swing space for 640 students allowing renovations at the elementary schools. Option 2 creates swing space for 315 students. Mr. Wyszynski noted that space for 240 more students is needed by 2023-24.

Mr. Watson asked what size Squadron Line was at its largest. Mr. Sullivan responded that there were over 900 students, but at that time Kindergarten was half-day and now the Pre-K and Ready Set Go programs are housed at Squadron Line. In addition, the modular classrooms were removed. Mr. Watson asked if in 10 years the district will be the largest it has been. Mr. Tindall responded that it will be halfway there. He noted that we removed 40,000 square feet in modular classrooms from the district. Mr. Tindall noted the need to renovate our schools. Ms. Salina pointed out that Latimer Lane has been on the six year capital improvement plan for years.

Mr. Curtis stated that feedback from the next public forum will advise the board on next steps. Mr. Tindall pointed out that the town built 5 new schools between 1954 and 1969.

B. Quarterly Budget Analysis

Mr. Curtis reviewed expenditures as compared to last year at this time. He noted that in the instruction category the enrollment of 24 more students than projected resulted in the hiring of 1 classroom teacher and additional tutors to support large kindergarten classes. In the insurance and pension category, it was estimated that \$300,000 from the non-lapsing account would need to be utilized to relieve the projected budget deficit in this category. Currently it is projected that only \$150,000 will need to be used and the balance can be used to help manage the HJMS construction project in the Business Manager's absence. The equipment category is fully expended because more than half of our \$400,000 budget is funded through the Choice Attendance Grant revenues and the operating budget funds are expended first.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tedone: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar:Seconded. So moved.

Todd Burrick
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Quarterly
Budget Analysis

Public Audience

Adjournment