

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

October 11, 2022

Ms. Susan Salina called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

Roll Call:

Members present: Mmes. Susan Salina, Jen Batchelar, Tara Willerup and Lydia Tedone. Messrs. Jeff Tindall, Todd Burrick and Brian Watson.

Members absent: Ms. Sharon Thomas.

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

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

Public Audience

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOE COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Carroll reported that homecoming at SHS was well attended. There are a lot of college visits in guidance, 6-8 per day. PSAT's are tomorrow and the fall choral concert is Thursday. Ms. Carroll spoke about the writing center where peer tutors are available to assist students with their writing.

Communications

Mr. Watson stated the homecoming football game was well attended with a full student section. Ms. Willerup reported that social studies teacher Rich Curtiss and the MLK committee received an award from CT Explorer as 1 of 20 game changers in CT.

Mr. Burrick reported that the Personnel & Negotiations Committee are still in discussions with teacher representatives with a couple more meetings on the schedule. Ms. Tedone stated she will attend the CABA Legal Issues Workshop tomorrow and will be involved in a conversation providing feedback on the development of the CT BOE 5-year strategic plan.

Ms. Lemke stated that at the last board meeting there was an inquiry about demographics related to AP courses. She reported that the Director of Counseling ran a ten year report and those taking AP courses in this year's graduating class is the most diverse we have had.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Latimer Lane project bid deadline has been extended to October 18, with a working meeting scheduled on October 19. Ms. Willerup reported on the first Equity Council meeting of the year as they begin work on projects and research. She noted that the council is in need of more student representatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2022 Meeting Ms. Willerup: MOVE to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 meeting. Ms. Tedone: Seconded. So moved. Mr. Burrick abstained.	Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2022
B. Approval of SHS Graduation Date Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Simsbury High School graduation date be established on June 12, 2023. Mr. Burrick: Seconded. So moved.	Approval of Graduation Date
C. Acceptance of Gift from Ensign Bickford Mr. Burrick: MOVE to table acceptance of gift from Ensign Bickford. Ms. Willerup: Seconded. So moved.	Acceptance of Gift
D. Acceptance of Gift from Central School PTO Ms. Batchelar: MOVE that the proposed gift of \$3,100 to Central School by the Central School Parent-Teacher Organization be approved. Ms. Watson: Seconded. So moved.	Acceptance of Gift from Central School PTO
E. Acceptance of David Gewanter Physics Scholarship Ms. Willerup: MOVE that the Board of Education approve the David Gewanter Physics Scholarship, to be disbursed starting in 2023. Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.	Acceptance of David Gewanter Physics Scholarship
<u>INFORMATION AND REPORTS</u> A. October 1 Enrollment Report/Magnet Schools Mr. Sullivan stated that enrollment has been stable, without any massive trends. He stated the October 1, 2022 enrollment is 4,064 which includes an increase of 92 students at the elementary level and a decrease of 57 students at the secondary level. Mr. Sullivan reviewed enrollment at each of the elementary schools, noting the addition of Kindergarten teachers at Tootin' Hills and Squadron Line. The actual elementary enrollment is 8 less than projected. Mr. Sullivan also reviewed the enrollment by grade level. Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of historic actual enrollment versus projected enrollment over the past 11 years. He noted that over the past 5 years enrollment has increased by 46 students as it trends upward again. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that elementary enrollment has increased by 200 students over the past 5 years after a 5-year period with a decrease of 200 students. Current elementary enrollment is 2,176. He stated that NESDEC projects elementary enrollment will reach 2,400 in 5 years and 2,600 in 10 years.	

Oct. 1 Enrollment/Magnet School Report

Mr. Sullivan stated that this year we have 88 students in pre-kindergarten which brings the district total to 4,152. The largest cohorts are in grades 3rd and 8th, and the smallest cohorts are in kindergarten and 2nd grade. There are 164 Open Choice students in the district. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Open Choice historical enrollment data.

Mr. Sullivan discussed enrollment in magnet schools and out of district programs. Simsbury has 123 students attending full-time out of district programs. 77 of these students are enrolled in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs. There are currently 7 students who attend part-time magnet and out of district programs such as the Greater Hartford Arts Academy and the Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the homeschooled data which reflects 33 students are being homeschooled this year.

Mr. Sullivan discussed enrollment data for the most recent property developments in Simsbury. He noted that last year the district saw an additional 172 students due to new developments and this year we have an additional 157 students. In response to Mr. Tindall, Mr. Sullivan reviewed the increase in the number of classrooms occupied at the elementary school level. In response to Ms. Tedone, Mr. Sullivan stated that there will be more property developments going forward. He stated that monitoring capacity and program needs at Squadron Line will continue moving forward.

B. Class Size Report

Class Size Report

Mr. Sullivan reviewed class size at the elementary level. He pointed out that there are no classes exceeding the class size range and a total of 4 classes below the class size range. The largest classes are 6th grade at Squadron Line

Jacqueline Petrella, HJMS Assistant Principal, addressed class size at the middle school. She noted that at the end of the summer 20 new students enrolled with only 3 students withdrawing. Ms. Petrella stated the team structure was adjusted in the early summer to 2.6 teams in 7th grade and 3 teams in 8th grade based on projected enrollment. She noted that they will look at teams again next year based on the incoming 7th grade class.

Ken Pera, SHS Assistant Principal, noted that the addition of capstone has affected the number of classes below the class size range. He stated singleton and doubleton classes are primarily where classes are under the range and some classes were offered as part of the capstone requirement. Mr. Pera noted that the capstone requirement affects students' ability to take other courses.

Ms. Willerup questioned the average size of the core classes. Mr. Pera responded 16-18 students, noting that world language AP classes are small. Mr. Tindall asked about the effect on teachers for the 14 core classes exceeding the range. Mr. Pera responded that those are primarily math classes and half of those students have dropped down to a lower level. He stated that there is some stress in PE relative to class size, but given that multiple classes meet at one time the teachers are able to support each other.

Ms. Carroll stated that the capstone requirement, and the increased PE requirement, inhibits students from taking a wider range of classes. Ms. Lemke noted that the change to a 25 credit requirement has limited the ability to take more electives. She stated that there will be revisions to the credit attainment policy that will come before the Policy Committee and the board.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Willerup: MOVE to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Batchelar: Seconded. So moved.

Jennifer Batchelar
Secretary

Katie Wilde
Recording Secretary

Public Audience

Adjournment