

**Simsbury Board of Finance  
TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:45 P.M.  
Simsbury Town Hall - Main Meeting Room  
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Pomeroy, Lisa Heavner, Derek Peterson, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield

**ABSENT:** Moira Wertheimer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Manager Maria Capriola; Simsbury Schools Superintendent Matthew Curtis; Finance Director Sean Kimball; Simsbury Schools Business Manager Burke LaClair; First Selectman Eric Wellman; HJMS Principal Brian White; and other interested parties

**1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum**

Chairman Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:47 P.M.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes - February 20, 2018 Regular Meeting**

The February 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes were adopted as presented.

**4. Appointment of Interim Finance Director/Treasurer**

Ms. Capriola made her recommendation to appoint Christine (Chris) Hutton as Interim Finance Director/Treasurer effective April 14, 2018 until the date upon the permanent Finance Director/Treasurer officially begins work in Simsbury. Ms. Capriola noted Ms. Hutton's experience and her availability to begin work April 4th providing some overlap with Mr. Kimball. She recommended Ms. Hutton be compensated \$75 per hour. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to endorse and recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of Christine (Chris) Hutton to the position of Interim Finance Director/Treasurer effective April 14, 2018 until the date upon the permanent Finance Director/Treasurer officially begins work in Simsbury. Further move to support and recommend that Ms. Hutton be compensated at \$75 per hour. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Board of Education 2018/2019 Budget Presentation (pursuant to Section 806 of the Town Charter)**

Superintendent Curtis presented the Simsbury Public Schools Board of Education Budget for 2018-2019 to the Board using a slide presentation. The budget presented was \$69,314,552, an increase of \$1,189,382 or 1.75%. Mr. Curtis discussed balancing fiscal reality and educational excellence, providing specifics regarding the fiscal climate and budget supports. He made note of state economic challenges, uncertainty in state aid, the local mill rate, the expenditure cap of 1.75% and declining enrollment. Budget supports he noted were excellent academic program

options, class size guidelines, social/emotional wellbeing, focus on math supports, technology enhancements, professional development and retaining talented staff. He provided enrollment information, noting a projected decline of forty-three students from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019. He noted a two-year reduction of 114 students and a two-year FTE reduction of 18.5. Further, he discussed the budget process, noting personnel and non-personnel considerations.

Accomplishments were noted, including, achievement data, CT State Department of Education recognition and other accolades. He discussed fixed costs and contractual obligations, noting total additions of \$2,095,673 or 3.08%. Program improvements included two FTEs: an elementary math coach and a social worker at a total cost of \$175,002, 0.26%. Operational efficiencies utilized in the proposed budget totaling \$1,151,183, 1.69%, were noted. Mr. Curtis' budget summary included total additions of \$2,360,565, 3.47%, and total reductions of \$1,171,183, 1.72%, with a total increase of \$1,189,382, 1.75%. Discussion followed.

HJMS Principal Brian White spoke to the Board providing a slide presentation on the HJMS Renovation - Phase III. He spoke about a new library media center addition, new science classrooms and a STEM focus. He also noted the renovation of the technology engineering/family and consumer science wing, classroom renovations and completion of the fire suppression system. The architect's conceptual cost estimate is \$23,965,620. Mr. White also provided architectural renderings. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball presented requested figures to the Board on the impact of revaluation, noting sample median impact in various "bands" of home values based on the 2016 Grand List. There was discussion on appeals and the revaluation.

## **6. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Mr. Prell, Ms. Schofield second, to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.; unanimously approved**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin  
Commission Clerk