

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.

Board of Education Special Meeting
Conducted Remotely
June 22, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. via Zoom teleconference call.

Present: Board members Susan Mercik Davis, Jamie Drzyzga, Brian Fry, Melissa Finnigan, Glenn Gazdik, Maureen Sattan, Scott Lingenfelter, and Debra Dudack; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel.

Board of Education/Superintendent Workshop

Board Chair Davis opened the meeting with an explanation of the value of the Board self-evaluation and goal setting. Board discussions covered the areas outlined in the CAFE Board Self-Evaluation tool: Vision, Community Leadership, Board Operations, Board Ethics, and Board-Superintendent team.

Board members discussed leading up the chain to the State rather than following. Superintendent Van Tassel spoke of opportunities to increase our communication with the State legislature, inviting them to future meetings and participating in legislative breakfasts. The Board discussed the possibility of setting time limits on agenda items, either for district presentations or Board member discussion in both full Board and subcommittee meetings. Board members stressed the importance of analyzing data to make decisions and highlighting the good work of the district. Superintendent Van Tassel is working to establish procedures to procure useful data from district sources.

Regarding goal setting, the Board discussed possibilities of modifying language to embed a goal of improving instruction, adding a goal related to enhancing diversity/inclusion awareness initiatives and adding a goal to get students in the classroom this fall, in light of the COVID epidemic. Goal setting conversations will continue at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Dudack moved, Sattan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of July 20, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan
Secretary