

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Suffield High School Media Center  
and Remotely via Zoom  
May 17, 2021

Call to Order

Board Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Board members Jamie Drzyzga, Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik (arrived 6:38pm), Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Michael Sepko; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Scott Lingenfelter

Board of Education Workshop

- EASTCONN Update

Dr. Ravit Stein, Dr. Rose Jaffery and Dr. Chris Barclay gave an update of EASTCONN's consultative work for the district special education programs in K-5, with plans for similar work in the middle and high school. Areas covered include systems/processes, transitions between schools, program-wide behavior plans and supports, and teaming supports and training for district personnel. 2021-2022 plans include maintaining the SMILE (Suffield Makes Individualized Learning Effective) program at the PK-5 level, implementation of protocols for transitions between schools, and improving the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) at all levels.

Board members asked questions about the sources of data presented by EASTCONN; the number of students qualifying for these programs as compared to the former ACHIEVE program; the process for recording relevant student behavior data; whether the distribution of district students follows the 80/15/5% expected split described in the tiered instruction model; whether the relevant document examples (e.g., on-boarding, transition forms) could be shared with the Board to aid in understanding; and the expected timeline of EASTCONN's consulting services in district. Board members expressed the desire to focus on transitions between schools; requested to receive data specifically addressing student outcomes; recognized that the compilation of detailed data may compromise instructional time with students; and reiterated the importance of parental input as these systems are implemented.

Adjournment

Dudack moved, Finnigan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Click here to view the meeting:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qNgg4gsdHNMFYz7q\\_qXEJfcqp0DVJUHQ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qNgg4gsdHNMFYz7q_qXEJfcqp0DVJUHQ/view?usp=sharing)

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 21, 2021.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan  
Secretary