



"The mission of the Suffield Public Schools is to prepare all students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes required for success in a rapidly changing world."

SUFFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

October 2021

BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. –Nelson Mandela

As we transition from the carefree days of summer to the crisp, cool days of fall, it is with great excitement that the Board of Education welcomes all of the students back into our school buildings for the 2021-2022 school year. The start of a new school year is filled with many emotions and dreams. Many of you, nervously, are putting your Kindergartners on the bus for the first time. Others are transitioning your child to a new school or anxiously helping your child navigate their senior year of high school. Whatever adventure your family is on this school year, know that Suffield Public Schools is excited to be part of the journey with you.

The Board of Education acknowledges that the last few years have been anything but normal for your children and your family; however, with your family's partnership and your children's resilience, we have been able to welcome all students into our schools for full in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Our District administration, faculty and staff have worked tirelessly this summer to ensure a safe and conducive environment for all students to thrive both academically and in their social emotional well-being. Students are excited to get to know their new teachers and be with their friends, and our teachers and staff are enthusiastic to connect and educate, in person, all of the students of Suffield Public Schools. The entire Suffield Public School community is looking forward to a productive, fun-filled and safe 2021-2022 school year.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our families of Suffield Public Schools. Thank you for your patience during these unsettling times, for your willingness to partner with the District to ensure that our buildings stay open so our children could return to in person instruction, and for your ability to respect all of the changes that have had to occur to ensure that your children are safe and educated in the best environment possible. It is my wish that each and every one of your children have a safe and successful school year. If you have any questions, concerns or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Board of Education members.

Respectfully,

Susan Mercik Davis
Chair, Board of Education



The SHS Girls Varsity Volleyball team and their coaches stood outside McAlister Intermediate School during dismissal on September 30th to show their appreciation for our bus drivers.

[See Channel 3 Eyewitness News Report Here](#)



Long-range Facilities Study Update

On September 20th, the Suffield Board of Education was given a presentation on the Town of Suffield Long-Range Facilities Study. The presentation was prepared and delivered by Tecton Architects, and covered topics related to the condition of our school facilities and the feedback they have received from community residents in the town survey that was conducted during the summer months. The purpose of sharing this information with the Board of Education was to solicit their feedback on the long-range study and provide suggestions that can be incorporated into any final recommendations that may come from the study. Some important sentiments shared by several Board members were on the topics of communication, community engagement, and shared services between the Town of Suffield and the Suffield Public Schools. The Board of Education recognized that these were special areas of interest that would help educate the community on proposed facility upgrades, as well as garner support for future projects. The Board of Education looks forward to its continued involvement in the long-range facilities study, and informing the facility recommendations that will come from this important endeavor.

[Additional Information](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

[Welcome to our New Elementary Special Education Supervisor and Director of Athletics and Student Activities](#)



Jana Volpe
Elementary Special Education Supervisor

I am a dedicated educational professional with a 20 year history of special education teaching and leadership experience in the Granby Public School system, and I have had the unique opportunity of working in all grades from primary school through high school. This experience has given me a unique vertical lens of curriculum and student development across all grades.

My academic history includes earning my Sixth Year in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University. Additionally, I hold a Master of Education in Special Education from the University of Hartford and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Connecticut. I am currently the Elementary Special Education Supervisor in the Suffield Public Schools.



Todd Zenczak
Director of Athletics & Student Activities

I am thrilled to be the new Director of Athletics and Student Activities for the Suffield Public Schools. My varied background and myriad of experiences enable me to bring exciting and innovative events to our school system. I enjoy working with all students and supporting them in their endeavors to become the best version of themselves.

I live in Suffield with my wife Rebecca, who is an educator in Windsor, and my two children, Joshua, age 15, who is a student at Suffield High School and Joseph, age 12, who attends Suffield Middle School.

We are proud supporters of the Suffield Public Schools and now pleased to be a part of this vibrant school system. I look forward to many exciting and rewarding years as the Director of Athletics and Student Activities

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS



- October 18 - Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - 5:00pm
- October 18 - Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:30pm
- October 28 - Finance & Facilities Subcommittee - 5:30pm
- November 1 - Policy Subcommittee - 5:30pm
- November 1 - Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:30pm
- November 15 - Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:30pm
- December 2 - Finance & Facilities Subcommittee - 5:30pm
- December 6 - Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - 5:00pm
- December 6 - Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:30pm
- December 16 - Policy Subcommittee - 5:30pm
- December 20 - Board of Education Regular Meeting - 6:30pm

Board of Education Calendar

SUFFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS



BOE Members from left to right: Glenn Gazdik, Scott Lingenfelter, Michael Sepko, Melissa Finnigan, Maureen Sattan, Brian Fry, Debra Dudack, Jamie Drzyzga, SHS Student Rep. Connor Shaw, and Susan Mercik Davis

[Susan Mercik Davis](#) - Chair

[Michael Sepko](#) - Vice Chair

[Maureen Sattan](#)- Secretary

[Jamie Drzyzga](#) - Member

[Debra Dudack](#)- Member

[Melissa Finnigan](#) - Member

[Brian Fry](#) - Member

[Glenn Gazdik](#)- Member

[Scott Lingenfelter](#) - Member

SHS Student Representatives to the BOE: Senior Connor Shaw & Junior Sophia Mormino



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