

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
and via Zoom
January 18, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum, Tracy Cloyd, Jamie Drzyzga (arrived 6:51 p.m. via Zoom), Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik (arrived 6:30 p.m.), James Mol and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel; Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi

Absent: Scott Lingenfelter

Executive Session

Board member Finnigan moved to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Assistant Principal position at Suffield High School. Fry seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 6-0.

The executive session concluded at 6:29 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed. Board member Gazdik, Director of Pupil Services Diana Kelley and Business Manager Bill Hoff joined the meeting.

Board Chair Sattan called for a recess at 6:32 p.m. Meeting resumed at 6:37 p.m.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of Suffield High School Assistant Principal

MOTION #22-35: Finnigan moved to appoint Shannon Insero to the position of Assistant Principal of Suffield High School and authorize the Superintendent to complete the terms of employment. Mol seconded the motion. Board members were enthusiastic about Mrs. Insero's leadership abilities and expressed confidence in her ability to do a great job. Antrum, Cloyd, Finnigan, Fry, Mol and Sattan voted in favor. Gazdik abstained. The motion carried **6-0-1**.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Action on the 2022-2023 District School Calendar
Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi began by thanking the District Calendar Committee. The Committee included Board of Education members, teachers, Teamsters, administrators and parents. The Committee met twice. Three dates were scheduled but the task was completed in two. Meetings were held on December 8th and January 4th. Mrs. Zawawi reviewed holidays, professional development days, early dismissal dates and midterms and finals with the Board. Mrs. Zawawi and the District Calendar Committee would like to propose the calendar as is.

MOTION #22-36: Finnigan moved to approve the 2022-2023 District School Calendar as recommended by the District Calendar Committee. Mol seconded the motion.

Board members had questions relative to parent-teacher conferences being on separate dates for secondary and elementary. Mrs. Zawawi explained that the elementary schools are on trimester marking periods and the secondary schools have quarterly marking periods. Board members questioned the set graduation date and whether it should be noted as tentative. Board members discussed naming the October holiday Indigenous Peoples Day, Columbus Day or Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day. Mrs. Zawawi stated that area school districts were surveyed on whether they were using Indigenous Peoples Day or Columbus Day. The Committee opted to recommend the dates of the proposed calendar and where parent-teacher conferences, professional development and vacation days fell. The Committee would leave it to the Board to open into dialogue the conversation of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. Mrs. Zawawi said the calendar was put forth for the purpose of selecting dates. The Board members considered the merits of a holiday name change, and discussed Columbus' complicated role in United States early history and the fact that the CT State holiday is listed as Columbus Day.

Board member Drzyzga arrived at 6:53 p.m.

MOTION #22-37: Fry moved to amend the motion to accept the 2022-2023 District School Calendar as recommended by the District Calendar Committee, but with a name change to call the October holiday Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day. Mol seconded the amended motion. Board Chair Sattan called for a vote to amend the motion. Drzyzga, Fry, Gazdik and Mol voted in favor; Antrum, Cloyd, Finnigan and Sattan voted against. The motion failed 4-4.

Board member Sattan then moved back to the primary motion to approve the 2022-2023 District School Calendar as recommended by the District Calendar Committee, amended without objection to list the graduation date as tentative. Antrum, Cloyd, Drzyzga, Finnigan, Gazdik, Mol and Sattan voted in favor; Fry voted against. The motion passed 7-1.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Board Chair Sattan led a discussion regarding Board priorities for the future business. Future agenda items were discussed, and several items were moved to Board Subcommittees. A revised list of agenda items will be sent to Board members.

Board Chair Sattan introduced Brian Kost (via Zoom). Brian is the Board of Finance Representative to the Board of Education.

Board of Education Budget Workshop #3

Proposed 2022-2023 Budget Presentations: Special Education/Pupil Services and General Services/Insurance

SPECIAL EDUCATION/PUPIL SERVICES

Dr. Van Tassel introduced Dr. Diana Kelley and the Supervisors of Special Education Dr. Sharon Goulet and Jana Volpe.

Director of Special Services Dr. Diana Kelley began the Special Education and Pupil Services budget presentation with pictures of students PreK-12. She then provided an overview of staffing changes, programming initiatives, NAEYC accreditation for our Pre-k program and Excess Cost Reimbursements. The floor was then opened to Board of Education members for questions and

discussion related to our Special Education and Pupil Services budget proposal. Questions and discussions revolved around NAEYC accreditation and staffing.

GENERAL SERVICES/INSURANCE

Business Manager Bill Hoff shared the General Services/Insurance budget presentation. Mr. Hoff gave an overview of turnovers and vacancies, health insurance, pension and 401(a) contributions. The floor was then opened to Board of Education members for questions and discussion related to our General Services/Insurance budget proposal. Questions and discussions revolved around health insurance and streamlining positions. A request for a budget overview irrespective of funding source (e.g. grants or BOE budget) was made.

Discussion and possible action on the proposed 2023 budget is scheduled for February 7th, the BOE business meeting. Dr. Van Tassel suggested reviewing both the status of the district's grants and the budget expenditures irrespective of grant funding at the onset of the February 7th meeting. Superintendent Van Tassel and Board Chair Sattan will work together to confirm the agenda.

Dr. Van Tassel said the Facilities and Finance Subcommittee meeting will be February 3rd. The BOE Capital Budget Presentation to ACCE will be held that same evening. It will be held in person and remotely.

Adjournment

Fry moved, Cloyd seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of February 7, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary