

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
and via Zoom
February 23, 2022

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum (via Zoom), Tracy Cloyd, Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik (via Zoom), Scott Lingenfelter, James Mol and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel; Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: None

Prior to the start of the meeting, Board Chair Sattan made a formal statement that face coverings must be worn in the presence of students until February 28, 2022 in accordance with state guidance.

Recognition

Mr. Carl Casinghino, Suffield High School teacher, and Advanced Film and Video student, Vincent Casinghino, attended the meeting to share the class's SHS Advanced Video Production. This video production showcased the many ways in which the district integrates technology into the classroom and the crossover into core curriculum. Vincent Casinghino explained the process of creating such a production. Click [HERE](#) to view the video. BOE Members shared how impressed they were with the work done by all students and thanked them for creating a great video to represent our schools.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Action on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Superintendent Van Tasel gave a presentation on the BOE Budget Proposal for the FY 2023. The presentation covered key takeaways such as proposed personnel changes, personnel costs, student enrollment, key programs and services, grant/BOE budget reallocation, and potential additional savings and/or liabilities. Superintendent Van Tasel also covered budget trends, enrollment trends, FTE trends and special programs. He reviewed benefits and health insurance. Business Manager Bill Hoff discussed the intricacies of switching health plans and finalizing decisions across all unions. Superintendent Van Tasel reviewed Budget Object Codes 1000 and 2000. He provided details on how and when COVID relief funds and Open Choice funds may be spent. Staffing levels that address declining enrollment and class size were discussed.

Board members discussed the grant/BOE reallocation, potential additional savings and/or liabilities, State ranking, enrollment decline and outplacement of students. They also discussed the elementary World Language program, the PE position at McAlister, staffing models at the middle school, the Social Studies position at Suffield High School and social emotional learning, with Principal Pryce providing context on the McAlister-related positions.

Gazdik left at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Drzyzga left at 8:22 p.m.

MOTION #22-42: Brian Fry moved, James Mol seconded to approve the 2022-2023 Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$36,710,660.00 which is an increase of \$809,638.00 or 2.26%. Board members asked if the RN position had been included and asked for potential savings associated with possible cuts in staff. Board Chair Sattan called for a vote. The motion passed **7-0-0**. Board Chair Sattan thanked Superintendent Van Tasel, Business Manager Bill Hoff and all school administrators for bringing forth the budget.

- Discussion on Suffield High School Principal Search Process
Superintendent Van Tasel said the search process has begun. Multiple meetings have been held with the high school team leaders. The high school administration has run three focus groups; one for parents, one for faculty and staff, and one for students. The focus groups have provided information and team leaders are synthesizing the information to help develop key characteristics. Team leaders are working with administration to identify interview committee members. The first round of interviews will be held April 5 and 6. The second round of interviews would be April 19 and 20. Cabinet interviews would then be held. Superintendent Van Tasel hopes to recommend candidates to the Board for the May 2 BOE meeting. He said Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Assistant Principal Shannon Insero and Principal Ken Smith have currently been identified as members of the interview committee.
Superintendent Van Tasel said two BOE members, four certified high school teachers and two non-certified high school staff members will need to be on the interview committee. He said our SRO will be included as well as four parents, two high school parents, one middle school parent and one elementary school parent. There will be four student greeters that will be identified. He said the process is well underway and if timelines are met a candidate could start July 1.

Lingenfelter left at 8:43 p.m.

Executive Session

At 8:46 p.m. Board Chair Sattan called for a recess to clear the room in advance of the executive session. At 8:58, Fry moved that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Midyear Review. Cloyd seconded and all members voted in favor. Antrum joined via speaker phone.

Gazdik joined the executive session at 9:08 p.m. via speaker phone.

At 9:10, Superintendent Van Tasel was invited to join the executive session. At 10:09, the Board came out of executive session.

Adjournment

Finnigan moved, Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Click here to view the meeting:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y69UVBPu27sEFXl8mBy6jveIohC-Hz1H/view?usp=sharing>

Suffield Board of Education

02/23/2022

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary