

Board of Education Special Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
and via Zoom
May 31, 2022

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum (arrived at 7:16 pm), Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik, James Mol (via Zoom) and Maureen Sattan; Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel

Absent: Tracy Cloyd

Executive Session

At 5:36, Gazdik moved, Drzyzga seconded to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion concerning an attorney-client privilege communication regarding school curriculum and policy legal requirements; and for the purpose of discussion regarding twelve-month non-affiliated personnel employment terms; and for the purpose of holding Board of Education candidate interviews, inviting in Superintendent Van Tassel and Candidates A and B.

Superintendent Van Tassel joined the executive session at 6:25 p.m. Candidate A joined the executive session at 7:00 and left at 7:30. Candidate B joined the executive session at 7:35 and left at 8:05.

Gazdik left meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The executive session ended at 8:54 p.m.

Discussion/Action Items

- Possible Appointment of Board of Education Member

MOTION #22-55: Finnigan moved to appoint Joshua Barrow to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy from Scott Lingenfelter's resignation for the remainder of his term ending 11/2023.

Drzyzga seconded the motion. Antrum, Drzyzga, Finnigan, Mol and Sattan voted in favor. Fry voted against. The motion passed **5-1-0**. Board members stated they were impressed with both candidates, thanked them for their interest in the position and look forward to working with each of them in the future.

- Possible Action on the Twelve-Month Non-Affiliated Personnel Employment Terms

MOTION #22-56: Drzyzga moved to approve the twelve-month non-affiliated personnel employment terms as presented and authorized the Superintendent and Board Chair to negotiate the current and future terms of agreement for the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Fry seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

Gazdik returned at 9:02 pm via Zoom.

- Possible Action on the 2021-2022 District School Calendar

Dr. Van Tassel asked the BOE to amend the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year to provide professional development related to safety and security and school climate. He shared three

possible scheduling options that would work best for all four school schedules, keeping in mind end of school year activities and events. He understands that this ask is coming late in the year. The content of the professional development has been planned for months; unfortunately, conflicts prohibited it from occurring sooner. Some discussion revolved around the timing of the PD and the inconvenience to parents as it relates to childcare. It was noted by many, though, that this professional development needs to be prioritized for both teachers and students. Collectively, the Board felt strongly that this calendar change was necessary and would provide teachers and administrators an opportunity to have open dialogue regarding protocols and procedures.

MOTION #22-57: Sattan moved to amend the 2021-2022 District School Calendar to make June 16, 2022, the last student day of school and that this day will follow our traditional early release schedule. Further that June 17, 2022, be designated as a No School Students/PD Day for all faculty and staff. Gazdik seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**. Board members thanked the district for the continued efforts as it relates to safety and security in our school, and noted that it was important for all students to feel safe in school as it relates to security and social/emotional wellness. Board members stressed the importance of continuing to practice our safety protocols throughout the year, every year. Superintendent Van Tassel confirmed the district has a plan to revisit protocols and practice throughout the year in all four schools.

Adjournment

Mol moved, Antrum seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary