

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Library Media Center
and via Zoom
May 16, 2022

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum (via Zoom), Tracy Cloyd, Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry (arrived at 6:35), Glenn Gazdik, James Mol and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Scott Lingenfelter

Board member Drzyzga moved to add agenda item III. B. Resignation of Board of Education Member to the agenda. Cloyd seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0-0.

Board of Education Workshop: Student Achievement

Suffield's Administrative Team including Michelle Zawawi, Jeanine Rose, Ken Smith, Kris Pryce, Gina Olearczyk, Matt Dobi, and Shannon Inero shared an overview of student achievement results across the district. They presented MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) current systems, data sources and an overview of practices at each school. STAR Literacy, STAR Math and DESSA data was shared for grade levels K-8. The DESSA is the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment used to identify the social and emotional strengths and needs of students. STAR Math for Algebra and Geometry, PSAT and DESSA data was shared at the high school level. Lastly, grade distributions for both middle and high school students were presented.

Board members discussed the progression of assessments throughout the year, key takeaways from data analysis, and changes made in curriculum based on assessment scores. Several board members expressed concern, particularly with the elementary and middle school math scores. Administration clarified that the DESSA tests were administered by faculty for K-8 but completed by students whose families opted into the assessment for the high schoolers. Board members expressed concern about the drop off in DESSA scores between K-8 and 9-12, as it may indicate a disconnect between faculty and student perceptions. Board members discussed the distribution of grades at the middle and high school, with particular concern that the grade distribution reflected more positively than the objective standardized testing results. Board members thanked the administration for their analysis, their implementation of data collection methods and their commitment to ongoing improvement.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Action on the BOE Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
Superintendent Van Tassel and Business Manager Bill Hoff presented a revised budget with proposed reductions to meet the approved budget voted on by the town for the 2022-2023 school year. After consideration of known adjustments made since the BOE budget was passed, further

reductions of \$164,789 were required. To achieve those reductions, cuts would be made to the financial assistant, the food service subsidy, the McAlister Spanish teacher, a classroom teacher at Spaulding, and a reduction in SPED consulting. Grant appropriations along with the possible funding to the State Education Resource Center of Connecticut (SERC) as a consultant will be discussed at a later meeting.

MOTION #22-54: Mol moved to approve 2022-23 Board of Education budget in the amount of \$36,460,660, which reflects a 1.56% increase over the 2021-2022 Board of Education budget. Fry seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried **7-0-0**.

- Resignation of Board of Education Member

Board Chair Sattan announced the resignation of Scott Lingenfelter from the Board of Education. Board bylaws state that the appointment of a new member shall occur in no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days after formal resignation. Community notification of the open position will be made as soon as possible. The vacancy shall be filled by a member of the same political party as Mr. Lingenfelter, a Republican. The term will run through November of 2023.

Adjournment

Finnigan moved, Drzyzga seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. All members voted in favor.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary