

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Suffield High School Media Center  
September 19, 2022

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum, Josh Barrows, Jamie Drzyzga (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), James Mol and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel; Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Board members Tracy Cloyd and Melissa Finnigan

Discussion and Possible Appointment of School Medical Advisor

**MOTION #22-77:** Board member James Mol moved that the Board appoint Dr. Karen Camera as the School Medical Advisor. Brian Fry seconded the motion. Superintendent Van Tassel reviewed Dr. Camera's qualifications and asked the Board to support his recommendation. Board members thanked Dr. Segool, the previous Medical Advisor, and expressed unanimous support of Dr. Camera's appointment. The motion passed **5-0**. Dr. Camera said she is happy to work with the Suffield Public Schools and finds it is an exciting way to stay a part of the school system.

***Board member Gazdik arrived at 6:50.***

***Board member Drzyzga arrived at 7:03.***

Board of Education Workshop: Youth Needs Assessment Survey Results

Bonnie Smith from B. Weyland Smith Consulting, along with Kate Powers, Director of Youth Services, presented the results of the Youth Voices Count Survey given to Suffield Middle and High School students in March 2022. The survey was completely anonymous, no identifying information was collected, and covered topics such as youth lifestyles, substance use, mental health, related risk and protective factors, as well as impacts of COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.

Board members asked questions related to the presentation: the effect of COVID on the survey results, which data points were outliers compared to other districts, and how to use the survey results to help our district students. The impact of fentanyl and the impacts of extracurricular activities at the high school were discussed. Patrice Sulik from the North Central District Health Department said that the best way to prevent fentanyl impacts is to delay the introduction or slow the use of other substances. Kate Powers, the Suffield Youth Services director, spoke about their recent efforts on Suffield on the Green, and their other initiatives to support Suffield youth. Danielle Annibalini, the Executive Director of Suffield Community Aid, introduced herself and spoke of their commitment to support the schools and the community. Dr. Van Tassel said the data will be used to help establish goals for district. Periodically surveying helps understand our district students better, and Ms. Smith said it could reasonably be done every two to three years.

Adjournment

James Mol moved, Josh Barrows seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. All members voted in favor.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of October 3, 2022.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan  
Board Chair, Suffield BOE