

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed. 02/06/2023

Board of Education Special Meeting
Held via Zoom
January 23, 2023

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum, Josh Barrows, Tracy Cloyd, Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry (arrived 6:07), James Mol, Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi and Business Manager Bill Hoff, Carrie Apanovitch, Ken Smith, Kris Pryce, Gina Olearczyk, Todd Zenzack, Larry Plano, Becky Osleger, Board of Finance liaison Brian Kost, Board of Selectman liaison Mel Chafetz.

Absent: Glenn Gazdik

Budget Workshop – Proposed 2023-2024 Budget Presentations

Budget presentations were provided by administrators in each of the following areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Spaulding Elementary School, McAlister Intermediate, Suffield Middle School, Suffield High School, Athletics and Activities, Facilities, and Technology. The administrator for each area shared the highlights of their department and explained the major increases and decreases within their budget, including the rationale behind the decision for the that line item. Some budget line items are increasing due to a decrease in available open choice funds. Our 6-8 ELA instructional coach position was proposed to be folded into a 6-12 ELA instructional coach position. The high school's instructional supplies are increasing due to new social studies and world language textbooks. At the middle school, the proposal includes a reduction of one team of teachers, consisting of four FTE positions covering mathematics, English Language Arts, science and social studies. To accommodate this, one team would become a hybrid 7th/8th grade team. The middle school is also requesting an additional guidance counselor. Spaulding and McAlister are requesting a shared reading interventionist and McAlister has a slight increase in supplies as they removed items off the parent supply list. Athletic increases are primarily due to the addition of boys' and girls' soccer at the middle school. Facilities increases cover projects and needed equipment. Technology budget increases include digital texts and online resources. Board members asked content questions of each speaker, with Board deliberations intended to take place next month.

Adjournment

Tracy Cloyd moved, James Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of February 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary