Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
and via Zoom
May 1, 2023

Call to Order
Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Terry Antrum (via Zoom), Josh Barrows, Tracy Cloyd, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik, James Mol (via Zoom), and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan

Recognition
This year's CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients were Suffield High School students Willow Burt and Timothy Tkacz and Suffield Middle School students Gianna Brown and Anna-Maria Nastase. Carrie Apanovitch, SHS Principal, and Ken Smith, SMS Principal, spoke about the qualities and leadership skills of these students.

Carrie Apanovitch introduced and congratulated this year's Salutatorian, Vincent Nguyen, and this year's Valedictorian, Brynna Tinnirella. She spoke of the students' academic excellence, exceptional character and the many extracurricular activities they are involved in.

Suffield High School Student Representatives
None

Public Comment
Michaela Mullarkey, 43 Graham Road Broad Brook, said she was reading a statement on behalf of the Suffield Regional Agriscience Consulting Committee to share the committee's perspective on a proposal to reduce or eliminate block scheduling at the high school. The statement said 45-minute classes are insufficient for the agriscience program.

Superintendent Van Tasel said the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 15 will provide an update on secondary scheduling. He offered to meet with the Agriscience Consulting Committee to walk through the big picture which includes implementing Tier I system of MTSS next year at the middle and high school.

Board Member Comment
- Board member Gazdik was pleased to hear from the public comment speaker and congratulated the students recognized. He would like to invite Joseph Colangelo, SHS Class of 2024, to a BOE meeting to discuss his work on coding with SMS students.
- Board members Barrows and Mol said they were glad to hear from the public comment speaker and congratulated the students on their achievements.
- Board member Cloyd congratulated the students who were recognized and reminded everyone that the prom is Friday.

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- Board member Fry said today is U.S. Principals' Day, the month of May is Asian Pacific American month and preschool should be offered tuition free. He said he has been hearing from community members, including staff and faculty, regarding the proposed schedule change at the high school and that it has been met with a certain amount of interest and concern. He said he is not in an informed enough position, at this time, to advocate for a schedule one way or the other. Board member Fry said he would like to find a schedule that is agreeable to all.
- Board member Antrum congratulated all the recognized students.

Reports to the Board

- Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Van Tasel said next Wednesday, May 10, the Town Hall will host its annual Town Meeting for the FY24 budget. The BOE presentation at the Public Budget Hearing was April 26 and the BOE presented its support of the BOF adjustment. The budget is currently at 5.69%. Superintendent Van Tasel said interviews for the Assistant Principal position at AWS will begin this week. The interview committee hopes to bring forth a candidate to the BOE by mid-May. He thanked Board Chair Sattan and Board member Barrows for representing the Board on this interview committee. Superintendent Van Tasel said he sent a family communication out today in regard to ALICE training on May 5 and May 8. He thanked Board member Fry for recognizing U.S. Principals' Day. He congratulated the Valedictorian, Brynna Tinnirella, and the Salutatorian, Vincent Nguyen, on their academic achievements. He congratulated Gianna Brown, Anna-Maria Nastase, Willow Burt and Timothy Tkacz on being selected as our 2023 CABE Student Leader Award recipients.

- Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Sattan said the Public Budget Hearing went well and the Town vote is on May 10. She said there will be no increase to the mill rate. Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and the Board recognizes and appreciates all teachers. She is working on scheduling a Board meeting with State Representative Tami Zawistowski and State Senator John Kissel. Board Chair Sattan would like feedback from the Board on creating an ad-hoc committee to help define data requests. Please reach out to Board Chair Sattan if interested.

- Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Bill Hoff said he will be sending out a district-wide communication to families requesting they complete a bus form indicating whether or not they will require bus transportation.

- Board of Selectmen's Report

None

- Board of Finance Liaison's Report

None

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Approval of Minutes

MOTION #22-119: Glenn Gazdik moved, Brian Fry seconded to approve the Board of Education meeting minutes of April 3, 2023 and April 17, 2023. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion/Action Items

- March Financial Report

Business Manager Bill Hoff reported on the projected surplus for the year, state and federal grants, and food service. An additional $75,041 was received from Open Choice as there was an increase in the amount received per student and a bonus for the number of students enrolled. Mr. Hoff also provided an update on the BOE Capital Project Requests for 2023-24 pending approval from the Town on May 10.

- Discussion and Possible Action on 2023-24 District School Calendar

Superintendent Van Tasel said a change to the start and end times was being proposed for next year that put SHS and SMS on the same schedule and would be beneficial for many reasons, including bus transportation. He said the school start and end times are changing but the length of the school day is not. Superintendent Van Tasel said the bus company can accommodate the new times. Business Manger Hoff would like to see a reduction in parent transportation and said it is critical that families complete the bus form. Mr. Hoff said the time change would also help with athletic transportation. Board members discussed the merits of shifting the start time of Spaulding and McAlister without consensus. Superintendent Van Tasel said the elementary start and end times could be looked at next year. Mr. Hoff said, based on communications he has received, parents would prefer an early start time for work reasons. Board members discussed the absence of anyone directing traffic during arrival and dismissal times and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation on school start times.

MOTION #22-120: Sattan moved, Fry seconded to approve the start and end times for Suffield High School and Suffield Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year as proposed. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

- Discussion and Possible Approval and Funding for Suffield High School Social Studies Textbook

Superintendent Van Tasel said the Social Studies Department at Suffield High School is looking to purchase 60 hardcopy textbooks with a three-year online license for $27,000. Board Chair Sattan attended the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee meeting where Steve Wheeler, SHS Social Studies Teacher, presented an overview of the proposed textbook. Mr. Wheeler said the current textbooks are two decades old and need to be updated. The proposed textbook is coming out of C&I with full support.

MOTION #22-121: Gazdik moved, Fry seconded to approve the purchase of the Social Studies textbook for Suffield High School. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

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- Discussion and Possible Action on Preschool Program Tuition

Dr. Diana Kelley, Director of Special Services, provided surrounding districts' preschool tuition rates. Dr. Kelley is recommending increasing the SPS half-day program from $1,700 to $1,800 and the full-day from $3,400 to $3,600. She gave a breakdown of age groups and provided an overview of those schedules. Mr. Hoff said the Town receives the funds generated from the preschool program and that this has been an ongoing increase. Superintendent Van Tasel said the preschool tuition is relatively inexpensive compared to childcare or other preschool programs. He said an in depth cost analysis of the program has not yet been done. Dr. Kelley said the program is appealing to families because it is in the school system and is a strong program. Board members discussed the reason for the increase, the possibility of self-funding the program, available subsidies, universal preschool for all and the need for a strategic plan relative to preschool.

MOTION #22-122: Sattan moved, Gazdik seconded to approve the $100 increase in Preschool tuition for the 2023-2024 school year making the cost $1,800 annually for the half day program and $3,600 for the full day program. A vote by roll call was conducted. Antrum, Barrows, Cloyd, Gazdik, Mol and Sattan voted to accept. Fry voted against. The motion passed **6-1-0.**

Subcommittee Reports

- April 17 – Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting – Board Chair Sattan the secondary school counseling department presented an overview of their student success manual and current programming.
- April 20 – Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – Board Chair Sattan said the March financial report was discussed. Larry Plano provided a facilities and Large Animal Facility update. Bill Hoff provided an update on transportation.
- April 21 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting – Board member Fry said Policy #5123.3 and Policy # 6174 were reviewed and have been placed on 30-day read. Fry reviewed the proposed changes for Policy #5123.3, which outlines acceptable adornments on the graduation robes. Adornments for specific honors are listed explicitly, and an opportunity for students to wear pins signifying their involvement in teams, club and organizations could be made available. Board Chair Sattan reminded Board members that a 30-day read provides time to gather community feedback, and encouraged Board members to do so regarding this policy.

Board Liaison Reports

- CREC – Board Chair Sattan said CREC Council met and funding for HB 5003 was discussed. RESC Alliance Connecticut Teacher Residency Program was also discussed. This is a program that works on minority teacher placement throughout Connecticut.
- Agriscience – Board member Fry said the Agriscience Consulting Committee met on April 24. Molly Katzman, SHS Class of 2023, had success at the state level in renaming Tradescantia zebrine, otherwise known as the "Wandering Jew", to the "silver inch" plant.
- CABE – none

Future Business

A. Gifted and Talented Population (TBS)

Key: RTS (Referred to Subcommittee), SNT (Scheduled Near-Term),
TBS (To Be Scheduled), HLD (On Hold)

Public Comment
None

Board Member Comment

- Board member Fry said he voted against the preschool tuition increase because he would like to see Suffield Public Schools offer tuition free universal preschool.

Adjournment
Tracy Cloyd moved, James Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Click here to view the meeting: 01MAY2023 BOE Meeting

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan
Chair, Board of Education

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Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed.

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
May 15, 2023

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Present: Board members Josh Barrows, Tracy Cloyd, Jamie Drzyzga, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Glenn Gazdik (via Zoom), James Mol and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel

Absent: Terry Antrum

Executive Session
Board member Tracy Cloyd moved to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Assistant Principal position at A. Ward Spaulding School, inviting in Superintendent Van Tasel and the Spaulding Principal, Gina Olearczyk. Board member Melissa Finnigan seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried **8-0-0**.

Mrs. Olearczyk left the executive meeting at 8:15 p.m. The executive session concluded at 8:45 p.m. The Board went into recess at 8:47 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Discussion/Action Items
- Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of A. Ward Spaulding School Assistant Principal

MOTION #22-123: James Mol moved to appoint Christina Kupec to the position of Assistant Principal of A. Ward Spaulding School and authorized the Superintendent to complete the terms of employment. Melissa Finnigan seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried **8-0-0**. Board Chair Sattan shared the Board's excitement in Mrs. Kupec's appointment and appreciation for all that applied to the position. We look forward to Assistant Principal Kupec's leadership in the upcoming school year.

Discussion/Action Items
- Discussion and Possible Approval of the SHS Music Department Field Trip Request

Suffield High School Music Department submitted a field trip request form to travel to Orlando, Florida. The field trip is planned for April 11 – 15, 2024.
MOTION #22-124: Melissa Finnigan moved to approve the SHS Music Department Field Trip Request as presented. James Mol seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **8-0-0**.

Adjournment
Tracy Cloyd moved, Jamie Drzyzga seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary

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Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed.

Board of Education Special Meeting
Central Office Conference Room
May 24, 2023

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Present: Board members, Tracy Cloyd (via Zoom), Jamie Drzyzga (via Zoom), Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry (via Zoom), Glenn Gazdik, James Mol (via Zoom) and Maureen Sattan; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel

Absent: Terry Antrum, Josh Barrows

Executive Session
Board member Gadzik moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussions related to Attorney Client Privilege Communication on Student Related Matters, inviting Superintendent Van Tasel to join the meeting. Board member Mol seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Board member Mol moved, Cloyd seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Drzyzga
Secretary

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