Suffield, Connecticut
Approved by Bd. of Ed. 05/06/2024

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Library Media Center
April 22, 2024

Call to Order
Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Board members Tracy Cloyd, Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Maureen Sattan, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi and Business Manager Eric Remington.

Absent: Josh Barrows, Glenn Gazdik, James Mol

Executive Session
Brian Fry moved to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidate(s) for the Suffield High School Principal position, inviting Superintendent Van Tasel to join the meeting. Maureen Sattan seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried **6-0-0**.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:39 p.m.

Discussion and Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of Suffield High School Principal: The candidate withdrew from the process so the Board took no action on this item and plans to repost the position in search of a new candidate pool.

- Discussion and Possible Action on the Board of Education FY25 Budget Proposal: Board members considered options to reduce the current budget proposal by $175,000, as mandated by the Suffield Board of Finance. The Board discussed eliminating a .6 FTE Art position from Suffield High School while acknowledging the importance of access to a wide variety of arts and electives. The Board discussed areas of increased turnover savings due to filling vacant positions at reduced salaries, deferring the hiring of a Human Resources and Payroll position until September, eliminating items budgeted for maintenance and repairs that were moved into the ACCE Capital Expenditures budget, reducing the amount of dues and fees paid, and savings from utilizing the district's activity van for transportation of smaller sports teams. Board members discussed the availability of town contingency funds to cover special education funding gaps. Board members discussed the reimbursements owed from the state related to the Large Animal Facility project and Business Manager Remington noted that the district will submit for final reimbursement to the state once grant funds are exhausted and the project is complete. Dr. Van Tasel noted that the budget will be presented to town residents during a public hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

MOTION #24-47: Melissa Finnigan moved, Tracy Cloyd seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Board of Education Budget in the amount of $39,497,389, which is an increase of 2.5% over last year. Board Chair Sattan called for a vote. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

Adjournment

Brian Fry moved, Sam Toskin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of May 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack
Secretary