

Suffield Board of Education
Community Engagement & Public Relations Subcommittee
Central Office Conference Room
May 24, 2024
8:30 am

Present:

Debra Dudack, Brian Fry, Sam Toskin, Maureen Sattan (via Zoom), Superintendent Timothy Van Tasel, Ed.D., and Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi

Absent:

Glenn Gazdik

Subcommittee chair Debra Dudack called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. Subcommittee members discussed the following topics:

- **Suffield Middle School Building Project:** Discussion centered on whether the district should circulate information related to the project when sharing the Superintendent candidate profile with families, as facilities are mentioned as an area of focus in the profile. Subcommittee members expressed support for doing so.
- **Discussion of Empathy Training:** Funds are included in the 24-25 budget for empathy training for students, to focus on middle and high school students, and for a workshop/discussion session among Board members, students and teachers to advance inclusivity at the high school. The district is going to research potential options for presenters or facilitators and will share more information with the Subcommittee at its next meeting.
- **Community Engagement through Social Media:** Discussion centered on whether the subcommittee wants to adopt guidelines for Board-branded social media posts on the district's social media platforms. As a pilot, three such posts were shared during the previous month highlighting student award winners and received strong engagement. Subcommittee members suggested that the purpose of such posts will be to highlight the work and accomplishments of the Board and they envision sharing 1-2 Board-branded posts per month. All suggested posts will be approved by the Board Chair or designee prior to posting.

The subcommittee adjourned at 9:08 am.