

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed. 12/02/2024

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Suffield High School Library Media Center  
November 18, 2024

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, James Mol, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan and Gregory Sparzo; and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar and Business Manager Eric Remington

Absent: Josh Barrows and Sam Toskin

Board of Education Workshop – Artificial Intelligence

Mary McPheat, Founder and CEO of Grounded Logic, shared her presentation titled *Rapid Intro to AI*. The presentation included an overview of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), including a look at where the technology stands now and where it is expected to go in the future. Ms. McPheat also highlighted potential uses that are relevant to education for both teachers and students. She also covered some of the potential negative aspects of AI as well as legal implications for school districts.

The Board recessed at 6:48 pm and resumed the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Sparzo left the meeting at 7:09 pm and returned at 7:11 pm.

Board members asked questions related to how users can know if information is accurate, whether AI can be used to develop lesson plans, whether its use will create over-reliance on the technology, whether its use will reduce critical thinking in students, what tools are available to help teachers and administrators recognize when students use AI to complete assignments, whether teachers need professional development on AI in order to use it effectively, and what Boards should consider in developing policies and guidelines for the use of AI.

Superintendent Dunbar thanked Ms. McPheat for her presentation. He noted that AI is here to stay and that he appreciates the Board's interest in discussing its use. Superintendent Dunbar mentioned that it is currently a big topic of conversation among educational leaders and that the recent CABE/CAPSS convention included multiple workshops on the topic. He mentioned that the district now has a committee reviewing the potential use of AI in the district and invited Director of Technology Rebecca Osleger to share more information.

Ms. Osleger mentioned that the committee is composed of administrators and teachers from the district's four schools. So far, the committee has held one meeting and has additional meetings scheduled in the future. Members hope to inform district policy and guidelines related to AI use, as

well as study whether any specific AI resources or structured tools would be beneficial for educators to use.

Adjournment

Fry moved, Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. All members voted in favor.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of December 2, 2024.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Dudack  
Secretary