

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed. 05/05/2025

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Library Media Center
April 21, 2025

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan, Greg Sparzo, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar and Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi

Absent: Brian Fry, James Mol and Michael Sepko

Discussion/Action Items

- A. District Advancement Plan Review: Superintendent Dunbar shared progress in working towards the goals and areas of focus identified in the District Advancement Plan. Discussion focused on drop-ins that administrators are doing in classrooms, improvements to multi-tiered systems of support, defining the role of coaches, student attendance, implementation of the new math and reading curriculum at the elementary schools, intervention services for students, evaluation plans for leaders and teachers, community engagement and recognition, social-emotional learning programs, and place-based outdoor learning opportunities.

Board members asked questions related to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on students, whether teachers are feeling comfortable with the new math and reading curriculum, whether teachers have adequate professional development time, focus areas that will continue into next year's improvement plan, the middle school climate, and future opportunities to expand World Language. Superintendent Dunbar noted that additional areas of focus for next year's plan may include opportunities to take kindness to the next level in the district to ensure appropriate behaviors by students and determining how best to utilize Artificial Intelligence throughout all of our schools. Superintendent Dunbar also mentioned that this year's climate surveys include open ended questions and will be helpful in getting a sense from students, staff and parents about successes and challenges in the district.

- B. Board of Education Goal Setting: Superintendent Dunbar and Board members discussed the Board's current goals and opportunities to refine them for next year. Board members discussed enhancing academic outcomes, professional development, ensuring a safe and supportive environment, exploring the responsible use of technology, improving math test scores, and reducing absenteeism as areas of interest. They also discussed whether the goals should be aspirational or more specific. Board Chair Sattan provided examples of goals from other districts that may help in narrowing down the focus for Suffield's Board goals. Board members also discussed whether the goals should cover one year or a longer time period, such as three years. Chair Sattan plans to appoint a smaller working group made up of Board

members and the Superintendent to further explore this issue and develop draft goals for the full Board to consider.

Adjournment

Sattan moved, Toskin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of May 5, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack
Secretary