

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Suffield High School Media Center  
June 16, 2025

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Brian Fry (via Zoom), Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan, Greg Sparzo, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Matt Dunbar and Business Manager Eric Remington

Absent: Melissa Finnigan, James Mol, Michael Sepko

**MOTION #25-63:** Sattan moved, Toskin seconded to move the Agriscience Field Trip Request to the first Discussion/Action Item. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

Discussion/Action Items

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Suffield High School Agriscience Field Trip Request – Iceland – April 10-16, 2027

Agriscience teacher Katy Davis explained the educational opportunities that the trip will provide to students. The department hopes to make an international travel experience available every other year. They are planning ahead for the April 2027 trip to provide students with enough time to budget and plan for the trip.

**MOTION #25-64:** Rossi moved, Toskin seconded to approve the Suffield High School Agriscience Field Trip Request – Iceland – April 10-16, 2027. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

B. FY26 Budget Update

Superintendent Dunbar and Mr. Remington shared an update on the state budget. It is finalized and the Connecticut Department of Education is still working to interpret the legislation and provide guidance to districts. A new special education grant earmarks \$71,346 in special education funding for Suffield but we are still interpreting how it is to be used and how it will be dispersed. The district is also monitoring another \$9.9 million in special education funds available statewide to determine if dollars will be available to Suffield. In addition, the town will receive \$55,000 more from the Education Cost Sharing grant than was budgeted due to lawmakers delaying implementation of reductions to ‘overfunded’ districts. Also, funding for the special education Excess Cost Grant is expected to come in near the 75% reimbursement level used in the 2025-2026 budget.

Board members asked whether the grants are one-time grants or multi-year grants. They also asked when the district expects to receive further information from the Connecticut Department of Education.

Superintendent Dunbar is exploring the possibility of opening a local program to service high need students and reduce the costs associated with outplacements. He has met with First Selectman Colin Moll about a potential town-owned location that would need some renovations. He is also talking to other neighboring districts that may want to partner in the program.

Mr. Remington said that the district expects to close FY25 on budget or with a small surplus. There have also been some unbudgeted items that have come up. One includes the need to replace the scoreboards at the baseball and softball fields. Cost estimates range from \$24,000 to \$41,000. A second issue involves the replacement of signs outside Spaulding, McAlister and Suffield Middle School which are old, unsightly and no longer functioning. The cost estimate is \$14,000 for the three signs. At the suggestion of Board members, the district will reach out to the CTE department to see if it is feasible for students to assist in designing the signs.

### C. Suffield Middle School Building Update

Superintendent Dunbar met with First Selectman Colin Moll recently to discuss the RFP that will be issued for a consultant to develop new cost estimates for the middle school and first station projects. The town expects the contract to be awarded in August or September and is planning for a spring referendum. The district has been asked to provide additional information to support the need for the project.

Board members asked about the process for scheduling a referendum, which is done by the Board of Selectmen, and asked for clarification on the deadline to get on the state bond calendar for the following year, which is June 30.

***Eric Remington left the meeting at 7:30 pm.***

### Executive Session

At 7:31 p.m., Sparzo moved and Sattan seconded to go into executive session to discuss twelve-month non-affiliated personnel terms of employment and to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation, inviting Superintendent Dunbar into the executive session. All members voted in favor.

**6-0-0**

The executive session ended at 9:05 p.m.

### Discussion/Action Items

#### A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Twelve-Month Non-Affiliated Personnel Terms of Employment

**MOTION #25-65:** Toskin moved, Rossi seconded to approve the twelve-month non-affiliated personnel terms of employment as presented and authorize the Superintendent to execute any changes to the terms of employment. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

#### B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Superintendent's Contract

**MOTION #25-66:** Sparzo moved, Rossi seconded to approve the Superintendent's contract as recommended and authorize the Board Chair to finalize the terms on behalf of the Board. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **6-0-0**.

Board members shared how pleased they are that Superintendent Dunbar joined Suffield Public Schools this year. They mentioned how appreciative they are of his leadership and good judgement in support of our students and staff.

Adjournment

Toskin moved, Rossi seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. All members voted in favor.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of July 14, 2025.*

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack  
Secretary