

**Suffield Board of Education
Community Engagement & Public Relations Subcommittee
Central Office Conference Room
August 29, 2025
8:30 am**

Minutes

Present:

Debra Dudack, Brian Fry (via Zoom), Gianna Rossi, Sam Toskin (via Zoom at 8:41 am) and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar

Absent:

Maureen Sattan

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

- **Review of Subcommittee Purpose and Goals:** Members reviewed priorities for the upcoming year, which include offering input on various community engagement and public relations approaches and raising awareness about the work of the Board of Education.
- **Discussion of Upcoming Presentations**
 - **Local Special Education Program:** The superintendent is presenting information to the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen in September on potential options for educating outplaced students closer to home. Members offered initial thoughts and expressed support for such a program.
 - **Suffield Middle School Building Project:** District leaders expect to present information to the Board of Selectmen in the fall, and potentially other boards, about the educational benefits of building a new middle school. Members discussed potential approaches for the presentation and offered feedback.
- **New Signage for School Buildings:** Members continued discussing the potential replacement of signs outside A. Ward Spaulding School, McAlister Intermediate School and Suffield Middle School. They recommended that names on new signs match the names on each of the buildings. The district is getting quotes and may include the project in the FY27 ACCE budget request. Subcommittee members offered feedback on options.
- **Suffield Observer Communications:** The subcommittee discussed potential topics for future articles and plans to submit its next articles for publication in the October and November issues.

- **Proposed Subcommittee Schedule for FY26:** The subcommittee plans to meet every other month with the next meeting planned for Friday, September 26, 2025. Additional meeting dates will be finalized and shared with members in the near future.

Toskin left the meeting at 9:00 am.

Adjournment: Subcommittee Chair Dudack adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.