Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed. 09/02/2025

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
August 11, 2025

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

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, James Mol, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan and Greg Sparzo; and Superintendent Matt Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Laura Norbut, Ed.D., and Business Manager Eric Remington

Absent: Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, Michael Sepko and Sam Toskin

Discussion/Action Items
A. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Number of Foreign Exchange Students for the 2025-2026 School Year

Superintendent Dunbar shared that the district would like to welcome three international students for the upcoming school year from Spain, South Africa and Germany. Each student has a host family in Suffield.

MOTION #26-07: Mol moved, Rossi seconded to approve the three foreign exchange students for the 2025-2026 school year. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **5-0-0**.

B. Facilities Update
Larry Plano, Director of Facilities, updated Board members on a number of ongoing projects including the installation of high school rooftop HVAC units which is expected to wrap up this fall, the replacement of flooring at the high school, the planned repair of sidewalks outside of A. Ward Spaulding Elementary School, improvements to portable units at Spaulding, bathroom renovations and exterior improvements at McAlister Intermediate School, and the replacement of baseball and softball scoreboards. Superintendent Dunbar thanked the Permanent Building Commission and the town for their support of these projects.

C. Draft of District Advancement Plan
Superintendent Dunbar and Dr. Norbut presented the draft District Advancement Plan for the 2025-2026 school year. Goals in the plan cover the following topics: elementary curriculum, expanding secondary Tier 1 learning strategies, leveraging artificial intelligence, expanding place-based learning, district-wide MTSS structures, fostering a district-wide culture of empathy and respect, and exploring secondary scheduling options. Board members expressed support for the plan.

D. Budget Process Review
Superintendent Dunbar, Mr. Remington, and Board members reflected on the FY26 budget process and offered suggestions for the next budget cycle. Suggestions included enhancing communication

with the full Board during the process, leveraging email for updates, utilizing outcome data to drive decisions, learning more about the FTE needs of the district, and enhancing collaboration with the Board of Finance liaison.

E. Board of Education Self-Evaluation

Board Chair Sattan led the Board in an annual self-evaluation. Board members discussed what is working well and shared thoughts on opportunities to explore in the future. Suggestions included enhancing communication, improving the onboarding process for new members, increasing efficiencies with Board work, and updating select Board bylaws.

Adjournment

Sattan moved, Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of September 2, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack
Secretary