Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed.

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
September 15, 2025

Call to Order
Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, James Mol, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan, Michael Sepko, Greg Sparzo, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar and Assistant Superintendent Laura Norbut, Ed.D.

Absent: None

Discussion/Action Items

A. Student Achievement Results: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Grades 3-8: Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut, McAlister Intermediate School Principal Kris Pryce, Suffield Middle School Principal Ken Smith, and Suffield High School Principal Anthony Hibbert presented the results of the 2025 SBAC tests that were taken in Spring 2025. Testing results showed substantial improvement in Math scores compared to previous years with some grades achieving double-digit increases. Results also showed improvement in English Language Arts scores. Scores in both subjects remain well above the state average. Board members asked questions about trends in scores between grade levels and cohorts and how our district compares to similar districts.

B. Student Achievement Results: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Grades 5, 8, and 11: Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut, McAlister Intermediate School Principal Kris Pryce, Suffield Middle School Principal Ken Smith, and Suffield High School Principal Anthony Hibbert presented the results of the 2025 NGSS tests that were taken in Spring 2025. Testing results showed significant increases over previous years with some grade levels and cohorts achieving double-digit increases compared to prior exams. Scores in this subject area remain well above the state average. Board members asked questions about the sequence of science classes at the high school.

Board member Sepko left the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

C. Student Achievement Results: SAT School Day Grade 11: Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut and Suffield High School Principal Anthony Hibbert presented the results of the 2025 SAT exams. Results showed slight improvement over the previous year and remained well above the state average. Board members discussed the new Algebra I math lab and asked about exam attendance.

D. Student Achievement Results: Advanced Placement (AP): Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut and Suffield High School Principal Anthony Hibbert presented the results of the 2025 AP exams. The results showed an increase in the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on the exams, which is the standard for college credit consideration. As

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part of that, 100% of students in US Government & Politics and US History scored a 3 or higher on those exams. Board members asked whether the district plans to move towards offering more ECE courses instead of AP courses, whether there are any gaps in what is offered in these areas, and whether consideration might be given to separating the economics courses into semester offerings as had been done in the past.

E. A. Ward Spaulding School Update and School Advancement Plan: Principal Gina Olearczyk presented the advancement plan for this school, which aligns with the District Advancement Plan that Superintendent Dunbar previously shared with the Board. Board members thanked Ms. Olearczyk for the presentation. They also asked about how the switch to half day classes in the preschool is going and whether the new Bridges math curriculum allows for enhanced differentiation in classrooms.

F. McAlister Intermediate School Update and School Advancement Plan: Principal Kris Pryce presented the advancement plan for this school, which aligns with the District Advancement Plan that Superintendent Dunbar previously shared with the Board. Board members thanked Ms. Pryce for the presentation. They also asked about the new math and ELA curriculum and about the Ecology Explorer program.

Adjournment

Mol moved, Rossi seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of October 6, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack
Secretary

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