

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting

October 14, 2025

Suffield Middle School Room C120

Attendees: Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut, Maureen Sattan, Melissa Finnigan, Deb Dudack, Principal Anthony Hibbert and Principal Ken Smith

Call to Order at 8:30 a.m.

Suffield Middle School Schedule Discussion:

Principal Smith gave an update in regards to the review of the current middle school schedule and their findings. The administration of SMS conducted a survey to get insight from its teachers on how they are feeling the current schedule is working and what changes they would like to see in the future. Results of the survey showed that many of the teachers felt that the length of periods and the structure of the day was mostly favorable. When asked about FLEX they mentioned the importance of it for music lessons, interventions and team management but felt that there were some concerns with the timing and organization of that time as well as the possibility for more structure around the FLEX period.

Principal Smith also researched several different iterations of middle school schedules around the state to see if there was an opportunity to provide longer class periods without interfering with planning time and the Unified Arts. Based on this research, the Suffield Middle School schedule is comparable to many other middle school schedules across the state. He will continue to research the “best practices” for a middle school schedule and will continue to update the board on his findings.

Suffield High School Schedule Discussion:

Principal Hibbert gave an update in regards to the review of the current high school schedule and their findings. He put together a large committee with several departments represented to research scheduling options and to examine high school schedules across the state. Research indicates that no single high school schedule has been definitively proven to improve student outcomes. The committee is examining 8-period options for feasibility. The administration feels that the work on strengthening Tier 1 instruction is of great importance to the staff at this time. Concerns with the current 7-period schedule include limited opportunities for some students to take electives of interest due to required coursework, as well as the length of class periods and insufficient time for some labs and projects. He will continue to review the schedule with guidance and his administration to see if there are better options to present to the board in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.