



TOWN CLERK  
SUFFIELD, CT

2026 APR -2 AM 11:16

REC'D BY: me

**Town of Suffield**  
**Board of Finance (BOF)**  
**Town Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT**

**Monday, March 30, 2026 – 7:00 pm Budget Review Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Eric Harrington, Brian Kost, Chris Childs, Tom Frenaye, and Michael Haines

**Members Absent:** Mark Sinopoli **Alternates Present:** Brad Belcher, Candace Forman, and Glen Garrity

**Alternates Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Finance Director Amanda Moore and First Selectman Colin Moll

1. Chair Harrington called the budget review meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Chair Harrington conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Citizen comment/Correspondence – None
4. Budget Review
  - a. Board of Education – Business Manager Eric Remington, Superintendent Matthew Dunbar, and Board of Education Chair Maureen Sattan presented the proposed FY 27 budget. The proposed budget is \$43,692,148, an increase of \$1,666,220 or 3.96%, over the current year. Ms. Sattan stated that the budget increase of 3.96% is comprised of increases in health insurance (0.60%), salaries (2.68%), general transportation (0.48%), FICA/Medicare (0.16%), utilities (0.12%), and other expenses (0.39%), partially offset by a decrease in special education tuition/transportation (-0.47%). State grants are projected to be flat in year two of the biennial budget. The ECS grant from the State is \$6,109,575 right in line with the nine-year average of \$6,120,004. Some of the grants are multi-year and the budgeted amounts are the amounts expected to be recognized in FY 27. Superintendent Dunbar discussed salaries. Negotiated settlements with all bargaining groups in the district were completed over the last 18 months, resulting in salary increases that remain slightly below average but are competitive. Superintendent Dunbar thanked Mr. Kost for his many years and Ms. Forman, who recently joined, as liaisons to the BOE. A reduction in personnel has saved \$385,000 in the budget. A part-time Spanish position has been added at a cost of \$60,000. Superintendent Dunbar gave details of the impact of a 11.5% health insurance premium increase, which will increase the budget by \$252,400. Business Manager Remington discussed the bus contract being in its final year of a five-year contract. Negotiations on a new contract will add approximately \$200,000 to the budget. Special Education was discussed next. The cost of the 26 students that require outplacement and transportation services, along with the 11 special needs students from ages 18-22 in the transition program, is \$4,000,580. Superintendent Dunbar explained a new program at McAlister School with the company, Effective School Solutions, which provides comprehensive, in-school behavioral health programming that allows the district to serve high-need students safely and effectively without sending them out of district. The yearly cost is \$162,000 which includes a clinician to support 10-12 students, 1 ESS clinical supervisor to help oversee the program, data analysis, progress monitoring, attendance at PPT meetings, family therapy/parent caregiver support group, and professional development. The plan is to start this program at the middle school next year. There have been 31 special education students moving into Suffield from other towns over the last four years. There are four new students this year. Business Manager Remington shared enrollment changes and said that the headcount is finally starting to trend upward. The number of teachers has dropped over the last 10 years corresponding with the decrease in student enrollment. Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE) for Suffield Public Schools is \$21,164, while State of Connecticut

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average is \$24,251, and the DRG C Average is \$25,965. Mr. Kost noted that many schools in DRG C are smaller and since they have fewer students to spread the fixed costs across, their PPE is higher. Chairman Harrington thanked Superintendent Dunbar for his presentation.

**Mr. Haines made a motion to give Mr. Sinopoli's voting rights to Ms. Forman. Mr. Kost seconded. All in favor; motion passed 5:0.**

- i. Replacement of BOE Transport Van – Superintendent Dunbar spoke of the accident involving the transportation van and is asking for \$28,000 from contingency to cover the additional cost of replacing the van. **Mr. Kost made a motion to approve the transfer of \$28,000 from Contingency to the Board of Education Capital Account for Van Replacement Line item, pending approval from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Haines seconded. All in favor; motion passed 6:0.**
  - b. Municipal Spending Cap – There was discussion about the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. Payments were received in FY 23 and 24. Ms. Moore will research and confirm the correct amount of the grant and email her findings to the Board of Finance.
  - c. Total Budget Review – The bond premium and debt payments on the newly issued debt will be known tomorrow. Ms. Moore recommended having the bond premium amortize no more than two years. There was discussion regarding paying for ACCE projects out of CNRE. These items could be added to the budget as a capital line item. The Board of Finance will review and make decisions on the overall budget over the next 1-2 weeks.
5. **Mr. Haines made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kost seconded. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary