

Suffield Board of Education
Policy Subcommittee Special Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Attendees: Brian Fry, Dustin Rose (via Zoom), Maureen Sattan, Suffield High School Principal Anthony Hibbert (exited the meeting at 6:52pm), and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar

Absent: Gianna Rossi, Sam Toskin

A. Call to Order - Board member Fry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. Policies for Review and Discussion

a. Policy/Regulation #5123.3 Graduation Ceremony

Graduation Ceremony discussed. Proposed changes would allow members of all officially recognized honor societies to wear their designated cord at the graduation ceremony. Policy will move to the larger Board for "first read" and potential discussion.

b. Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements were discussed with regards to US History as a requirement. Principal Hibbert states that approximately 95% of all graduating students are already taking US History and that other graduates are taking alternate Civics classes. He states that making a change (to require US History) would not be difficult from a scheduling/staffing standpoint. Policy will be presented to the larger Board seeking additional input. If there is further interest in making a change, the policy can be added to the regular BOE agenda for discussion. If not, it will be moved to "first read" at the next regular meeting.

c. Policy #6141.322 Bring Your Own Technology

Bring Your Own Technology was discussed with regards to cell phone use in schools. The subcommittee recognizes that the CT State legislature is currently considering a bill regarding this matter. The State may offer a directive before the end of this school year. There was mixed opinion on the currently allowed use of cell phones by high school students during "hallway time" and during lunch. Administration is not recommending any changes at this time. The subcommittee recognizes and appreciates the input from the members of the public that expressed concern at the last regular BOE meeting. The subcommittee hopes that these members of the public can partner with the High School in efforts towards education regarding responsible cell phone use.

d. Policy #6163.3 Live Animals in the Classroom

Live Animals in the Classroom was discussed with regards to the introduction of service animals, therapy dogs and/or facility therapy dogs. This is introduced as a possible new policy. The subcommittee will review the proposed policy and it will remain on the agenda for further discussion and possible action at the next scheduled meeting.

C. Adjournment - The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.