

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed. 05/04/2026

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
April 20, 2026

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry (arrived at 6:36 p.m.), James Mol, Dustin Rose, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Matt Dunbar and Assistant Superintendent Laura Norbut, Ed.D.

Absent: Greg Sparzo

Discussion/Action Items

A. Board of Education Professional Development

The Suffield Board of Education participated in a professional development session led by Executive Director Jonathan Costa of EdAdvance. The presentation focused on preparing students for learning, life, and work beyond school in the context of a rapidly changing landscape. Mr. Costa emphasized the accelerated pace of disruption, particularly due to artificial intelligence, noting that while transactional tasks are increasingly automated, human-centered transformational skills will remain essential. He encouraged a shift from viewing AI as simply a tool to understanding its broader implications and applying it intentionally within education systems.

Discussion centered on the need for education to evolve in order to remain relevant. Mr. Costa highlighted skills such as curation and verification of information, creative synthesis, algorithmic thinking, and interdisciplinary problem solving. The Board also explored the balance between content knowledge and application, including the concept of developing durable skills that extend beyond classroom learning.

Additional topics included effective board governance practices, emphasizing a focus on mission, clarity of roles, systems thinking, and adherence to policies and bylaws.

Adjournment

Sattan moved, Toskin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of May 4, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Gianna Rossi
Secretary