

Suffield Board of Education
Community Engagement & Public Relations Subcommittee Special Meeting
May 6, 2026
4:30 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Minutes

Present:

Debra Dudack, James Mol, Dustin Rose (via Zoom), Greg Sparzo, Maureen Sattan (joined via telephone at 4:40 p.m.) and Superintendent Matthew Dunbar

Absent: None

Subcommittee Chair James Mol called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. Subcommittee members discussed the following items:

- **Communication Structure for the Suffield Middle School Building Project:**

Superintendent Dunbar provided an update on the current status of the Suffield Middle School project, including concerns regarding the size of the existing building relative to current student enrollment. He noted that this could impact state grant reimbursement under a renovation-as-new scenario.

Board members discussed the feasibility of the projected costs associated with the various options under consideration, including constructing a new school, renovating the existing building, or maintaining the current facility through continued repairs. Members also emphasized the importance of clearly communicating the timeframe associated with any cost comparisons, particularly the distinction between short-term and long-term financial impacts.

The subcommittee also discussed the timing and approach for future communications to the community, including articles in *The Suffield Observer* and additional outreach efforts. Given that project details and cost estimates are expected to become clearer in the coming weeks, the subcommittee agreed to proceed with a more limited introductory article at this time, with additional information to be shared later through the district website, Permanent Building Commission communications, and community outreach efforts.

Adjournment: Subcommittee Chair Mol adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.