

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed. 07/13/2026

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
June 15, 2026

Call to Order

Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Debra Dudack, Brian Fry, James Mol, Dustin Rose, Gianna Rossi, Maureen Sattan, and Greg Sparzo; and Superintendent Matt Dunbar and Business Manager Eric Remington

Absent: Melissa Finnigan and Sam Toskin

Discussion/Action Items

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of School Lunch Prices for the 2026-27 School Year

The Board reviewed the proposed food service budget and meal price adjustments. Administration noted that meal prices remain on the lower end compared to surrounding districts. A \$0.10 increase across all meal categories was proposed, equating to approximately \$18 per student annually. The USDA pricing tool recommends a minimum lunch price of \$4.16, and the district is required to make progress toward that minimum.

The Board also discussed the implementation of free breakfast for the upcoming school year. While breakfast is expected to be free, future funding is not guaranteed, and a price must still be established. Limited state guidance has been provided thus far regarding implementation.

Rising food and labor costs were cited as key factors in the recommendation. The district has had to increase wages above inflation to remain higher than minimum wage and remain competitive and attract employees. The meal price adjustment is intended to help offset increased operating costs and maintain a financially sustainable food service program.

MOTION #26-73: Dudack moved, Sattan seconded to approve that all meal prices be increased for the 2026-27 school year by \$0.10 across the district as presented. Dudack, Mol, Rose, Rossi, Sattan, and Sparzo voted in favor. Fry opposed. The motion passed **6-1-0**.

B. Discussion and Possible Approval of the M&J Contract Extension

The Board reviewed a proposed five-year transportation contract. District administration worked with legal counsel to update and strengthen contract language, resulting in terms to strengthen the district's position with added protections for service performance. The agreement includes a 14% increase from FY26 to FY27, with annual increases of 4–5% thereafter. Transportation costs are

primarily driven by labor as fuel is supplied by the district. The contract also establishes fleet age requirements.

The Board discussed the state's long-term mandate to transition school buses to electric vehicles.

MOTION #26-74: Mol moved, Sattan seconded to approve the five-year bus contract extension with M&J Bus Company at the daily rates presented and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

C. Discussion and Possible Approval of final plans, project manuals and cost estimates prepared for bidding of the roof replacement at Suffield High School

The Board reviewed motions related to upcoming construction projects. Administration noted that bid documents and plans will be reviewed by the Department of Administrative Services prior to going out to bid. The motions authorize submission of the current plans for bidding purposes and do not constitute final approval of project plans. The Permanent Building Commission must also approve the motions, and reviews are required from the building inspector, fire marshal, health department, and ADA/504 compliance officer.

MOTION #26-75: Mol moved, Rossi seconded that the Suffield Board of Education hereby certifies that these roof replacement final plans and project manual(s) as prepared for bidding and dated 06/04/2026, and the professional cost estimate, completed in accordance with Level 3 of ASTM International Standard E1557, Standard Classification of Building Elements and Related Sitework-UNIFORMAT II for this project, dated 06/04/2026, have been reviewed and approved for this project on the dates shown above. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

D. Discussion and Possible Approval of final plans, project manuals and cost estimates prepared for bidding of the roof replacement at Suffield High School

MOTION #26-76: Mol moved, Dudack seconded that the Suffield Board of Education hereby certifies that these photovoltaic project final plans and project manual(s) as prepared for bidding and dated 06/04/2026, and the professional cost estimate, completed in accordance with Level 3 of ASTM International Standard E1557, Standard Classification of Building Elements and Related Sitework-UNIFORMAT II for this project, dated 06/04/2026, have been reviewed and approved for this project on the dates shown above. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

Executive Session

At 7:03 p.m., Mol moved and Sattan seconded to go into executive session to discuss twelve-month non-affiliated personnel terms of employment and to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation, inviting Superintendent Dunbar and Business Manager Eric Remington into the executive session. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

Eric Remington left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Superintendent Dunbar left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Board Member Rossi left the meeting at 8:13 p.m. and returned at 8:14 p.m.

Superintendent Dunbar returned to the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Board Member Sparzo left the meeting at 8:47 p.m. and returned at 8:50 p.m.

The executive session ended at 9:12 p.m.

Discussion/Action Items

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of Twelve-Month Non-Affiliated Personnel Terms of Employment

MOTION #26-77: Dudack moved, Rossi seconded to approve the twelve-month non-affiliated personnel terms of employment as presented and authorize the Superintendent to execute any changes to the terms of employment. The Board thanked the non-affiliated personnel for their efforts this year. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Superintendent's Contract

MOTION #26-78: Mol moved, Dudack seconded to approve the Superintendent's contract as recommended and authorize the Board Chair to finalize the terms on behalf of the Board. Board members praised the leadership of Superintendent Dunbar and thanked him for his work on behalf of the district. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

Adjournment

Fry moved, Sattan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of July 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Gianna Rossi
Secretary