Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed. 10/05/2026

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Media Center
September 21, 2026

Call to Order
Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry (arrived 6:33 p.m.), James Mol, Dustin Rose, Maureen Sattan, Greg Sparzo, and Sam Toskin; and Superintendent Matt Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Laura Norbut, SHS Principal Anthony Hibbert, SMS Principal Ken Smith, and MIS Principal Kris Pryce

Absent: Board members Debra Dudack, Gianna Rossi

Discussion/Action Items
A. Student Achievement Results: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Grades 3-8

Superintendent Dunbar introduced the results review. He acknowledged that performance fell short of district expectations. The district has reflected on the results and has begun implementing a plan for improvement. Assistant Superintendent Norbut reviewed the curricular resources recently adopted for ELA, Math and Science. She reviewed SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) results with State, cohort and DRG (District Reference Group) comparisons over time. Dr. Norbut stressed that the SBAC scores are a snapshot in time. The district also uses internal data to drive instruction, including DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for ELA, USNS (Universal Screener for Number Sense) for math, and IAB (Interim Assessment Blocks) performance data for both ELA and math.

The Administrators discussed the strategies for ELA improvement, which include strengthening the implementation of the new curricula, ongoing professional learning, restructuring the LABS (Learning and Building Skills) intervention blocks and analyzing performance data throughout the year to identify areas of need. The Administrators discussed the strategies for improvement in mathematics, which include strengthening the implementation of the math curricula, ongoing professional learning, restructuring the LABS intervention blocks, and monitoring student progress throughout the year to identify areas of need. The district has applied for the CSDE High-Dosage Tutoring Grant to provide intensive small-group math tutoring for seventh and eighth grade students.

Board members acknowledged the results and asked questions regarding curricular rigor, the efficacy of the student-focused strategies, and the efforts to improve teaching. They discussed the possible reasons behind the results including the likely curriculum implementation dip and school discipline. Board members asked what high performing peer districts are doing and discussed the challenges of drawing conclusions from intermittent achievement data.

B. Student Achievement Results: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Dr. Norbut presented the achievement scores for grades 5, 8 and 11, explaining that the science curriculum is tied very closely to the NGSS assessment. The district plans to implement in depth units of OpenSciEd for grades 3-5 and continue to analyze NGSS strains/domains to drive instructional decision making.

C. Student Achievement Results: SAT School Day Grade 11

Dr. Norbut reviewed the SAT test scores that have remained fairly consistent for years. Administration outlined a strategy to embed the Desmos calculator into classroom instruction and assessment. Other strategies include implementing the Amplify ELA pilot in Grades 6-8 and continuing to refine the high school English curricular scope and sequence. The SHS Math Department will work with an instructional consultant this year. Principal Hibbert discussed the shift from procedural knowledge to deeper understanding and plans to continue the successful SAT Academy.

MOTION #27-08: Sparzo moved, Mol seconded to alter the agenda order to move the Advanced Placement Results to following the SAT Results. All voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0**.

D. Student Achievement Results: Advanced Placement (AP)

Dr. Norbut reviewed AP course enrollment patterns and the percents of AP students with scores greater than or equal to three. AP scores by course were reviewed and compared to state and global results. Suffield consistently outperforms the state and global results. SHS AP offerings are routinely reviewed. AP data will be used to drive decision making on scope, sequence and instructional practice.

Executive Session

MOTION #27-09: Finnigan moved, Toskin seconded to enter into executive session for the purpose of a discussion of strategy concerning pending litigation involving a current Suffield Public Schools student and the Board of Education, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §1-200(6)(B), inviting Superintendent Dunbar into the executive session. All members voted in favor. The motion passed **7-0-0.**

The Board entered executive session at 8:06 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 8:32 p.m.

Adjournment

Sparzo moved, Finnigan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of October 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sattan
Board Chair