Suffield, Connecticut Approved by Bd. of Ed.

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Suffield High School Library Media Center
and via Zoom Webinar
November 2, 2026

Call to Order
Board Chair Sattan called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, Greg Sparzo, and Sam Toskin (Zoom); and Superintendent Matt Dunbar and Assistant Superintendent Laura Norbut

Absent: Business Manager Eric Remington, Board member Melissa Finnigan

Recognition
A. Suffield Rotary Club
Superintendent Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent Norbut and the Board of Education recognized the Suffield Rotary Club for its generous contributions to the Ecology Explorers Program for the students of Suffield Public Schools and presented a plaque to Suffield Rotary Club President Natalie Donais.

Dr. Norbut discussed how Suffield Rotary Club's support helped students in grades 2, 5, and 7 participate in hands-on environmental learning at the McLean Outdoor Learning Preserve. Ms. Donais spoke about Rotary's commitments to education and the environment.

Suffield High School Student Representatives
Olivia Nicora, Class of 2028, shared the news and events at McAlister Intermediate School and A. Ward Spaulding School. Student Representative Nicora reported on Ecology Explorers, Dwarfism Awareness, a PTO fundraiser, grade-level traditions, a $7,500 Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools (SFES) grant for Bringing Literacy to Life through Purposeful Play, and the reopening of the McAlister library.

Lucy McCoy, Class of 2027, shared the news and events at Suffield High School and Suffield Middle School. Student Representative McCoy reported on eighth-grade exposure to the Agriscience program, the Suffield Middle School Variety Show, Veterans Day observances, parent-teacher conferences, and the upcoming homecoming dance.

Public Comment
None

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Board Member Comment

- Board member Dudack thanked the Suffield Rotary Club and Natalie Donais. She acknowledged the Permanent Building Commission (PBC) for its ongoing leadership concerning the proposed middle school project. She encouraged community members to vote and congratulated Board member Mol on his outstanding campaign.
- Board member Rossi thanked the Suffield Rotary Club, encouraged the community to vote, wished Board member Mol luck, and wished all veterans, including her husband, a happy Veterans Day.
- Board member Fry thanked the Suffield Rotary Club, acknowledged Dr. Norbut for her success in securing the $50,000 grant for high-dosage math tutoring, and encouraged the community to vote.
- Board member Mol thanked the Suffield Rotary Club and provided an update on the Wellness Committee.
- Board members Rose and Sparzo echoed previous comments.

Reports to the Board

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dunbar reported that the district was preparing for its scheduled professional development day on November 3, 2026. He acknowledged the significant planning and coordination required to organize professional learning opportunities for district staff and expressed appreciation to Dr. Norbut for coordinating the day's activities.

He highlighted upcoming Veterans Day assemblies throughout the district and recognized the importance of these events in bringing school communities together.

Superintendent Dunbar noted that the district was entering a busy season for athletics and performing arts, with student performances, productions, and athletic competitions taking place at both the conference and state levels. He congratulated the high school volleyball team on its recent conference tournament quarterfinal victory and encouraged Board members to attend upcoming student events.

He invited Dr. Norbut to provide an update on the implementation of the district's high-dosage mathematics tutoring program, which is supported by a $50,000 state grant. Dr. Norbut reported that tutoring had begun at Suffield Middle School for an initial 24 students (12 seventh graders and 12 eighth graders). Students receive instruction in groups of four, maintaining a ratio of four students to one tutor, consistent with grant requirements. Students may exit upon meeting goals beginning in January; additional students could then enter, with a possible total of 48 students served during the year. Families were offered an opt-out. Dr. Norbut said district administrators and the tutoring provider were working closely to ensure effective implementation, appropriate staffing, and ongoing communication with families.

Superintendent Dunbar provided an update on the proposed Suffield Middle School building project. He reported attending a recent Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting at which the proposed middle school project and other capital needs were discussed. He thanked the PBC for its continued work and leadership in developing the middle school proposal and explained that the BOS had requested additional information regarding potential opportunities to reduce the overall project cost. Superintendent Dunbar will attend an upcoming meeting with Board Chair Sattan to provide further information and to respond to questions. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the BOS

had accurate information regarding project scope, potential costs reductions, state funding opportunities, and future capital obligations as it continued its deliberations.

B. Board Chair's Report
Board Chair Sattan thanked Superintendent Dunbar, Business Manager Eric Remington, and Assistant Superintendent Norbut for the recent Board of Education retreat. She referenced discussions with ACCE and district administration concerning capital projects, and noted the calendar committee's work on a possible two-year school calendar, which would be brought to the Board for approval. Board members were asked to consider attending the CABE/CAPSS Convention.

Board Chair Sattan called for a recess at 7:02 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

Adjournment
Dudack moved, Mol seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of December 7, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Gianna Rossi
Board of Education Secretary

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