

Board of Education Meeting
November 4, 2015

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Michelle Zawawi, Matt Service, George Beiter (arrived 6:36pm), Susi Keane, Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson and Business Manager Bill Hoff.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Gee asked for a motion to add recognition to the agenda.

MOTION #15-61: Service moved to add recognition to the agenda. Keane seconded and all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Recognition

Board Chair Gee congratulated Kendra Wiesel for being elected to the Board of Education and welcomed her. She also thanked the other candidates who ran for the Board of Education.

Board Chair Gee recognized Board member Zawawi as this was her last Board meeting. She noted Ms. Zawawi's collaborative nature and dedication to the Board, and thanked her for her years of service. Board Chair Gee and Superintendent Berasi presented Board member Zawawi with gifts of appreciation. Board member Zawawi thanked the community for the opportunity to serve in this role. She also thanked fellow Board members.

Public Comment

Mr. Walter Beck and several supporters were in attendance to petition the Board to name the Suffield High School track after Mr. Joseph Sinicrope, a long-time Suffield teacher and track coach. Mr. Mike Bosworth, Suffield High School Athletic Director, Mr. Eric Senger, Suffield teacher and SHS Boys Indoor Track coach, and Mr. Dom Casolari, Suffield teacher and SHS Boys Cross Country coach all spoke in favor of naming the high school track after Mr. Sinicrope. Mr. Sinicrope is well respected in the Suffield community and statewide and has impacted many athletes and coaches over the years. Mr. Senger distributed copies of letters and emails of support to Board members. Board Chair Gee thanked all who attended to show their support and said they will be notified when the Board schedules this decision on a future Board meeting.

Mr. Jonathon Metcalf, 39 Cedar Crest Lane, thanked Board members for their service. He suggested the Board schedule open forums for public and Board member communications.

Ms. Jen Bombard, 6 Whitfield Way, thanked all the candidates who ran for the Board of Education. She appreciated the Board's support for teachers.

Approval of Minutes

Beiter moved, Zawawi seconded to approve the minutes of October 20, 2015. All members voted in favor except Beiter and Keane, who abstained. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion Items

- 2014-2015 District Discipline Report

Superintendent Berasi reviewed the report and noted this report only includes incidents that are required to be reported to the State. She stated next year's report will include more explanations, and she asked for Board members' feedback. Mr. Moccio explained the decisions around assigning sanctions for infractions that occurred. Superintendent Berasi said a main discipline problem is illegal substances and the district is being proactive to address this problem by working with the Police Department and SRO Kieselback to bring K-9s into the high school to sniff out illegal substances. There will also be a great emphasis on educating students on health and wellness. Health and wellness education is going to be presented to high school students through an advisory lesson. Board members discussed the data in the report.

Action Items

None

Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Berasi said the Panorama survey went out to all parents, students and faculty members and the district should have the results in about a week. The results will be reported to the Board and community. She said 84% of faculty, 88% of students, and 23% of parents completed the survey.
- Superintendent Berasi said the negotiations committee met with the SEA today, and negotiations are going well.
- Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson gave a brief update on the work that is being done in the district around curriculum and instruction. He will give a more comprehensive report at the next meeting. Along with curriculum leaders, he is reviewing the curriculum, establishing a process for curriculum revision over the next few years, and looking at data to drive the decision making process.

Chair's Report

- Board Chair Gee reported that she received communications from Sue Davis and Jonathon Metcalf which are on file in Central Office.
- She reminded Board members the CABA convention is November 20-21.
- Board Chair Gee received an invitation to CREC Director Bruce Douglas' retirement party.

Business Manager's Report

- Mr. Hoff said he continues to work with Aramark on the food services contract.
- Mr. Hoff said he is on the CREC stop-loss insurance program steering committee. He will attend a meeting next week.

Subcommittee Reports

Board member D'Ostuni noted the subcommittee met on October 27, 2015 and the following policies are being placed on a 30-day read: (1) Policy & Regulation #5135 – Participation in Athletics & Extracurricular Activity (*revisions*), (2) Policy #6145 – Interscholastic Competition / Extracurricular Programs (*revisions*), (3) Policy #6145.22 – Sportsmanship (*review*), (4) Regulation #6145.23 – Appeals to the "C" Rule (*dissolve*), (5) Bylaw #9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies (*revise*), (6) Policy #5118 – Non-Resident Students (*revise*), (7) Policy #5117.2 – Inter-District School Choice (*review*), (8) Policy #3240 – Tuition Fees (*new*)

Board member D'Ostuni noted the CABE convention was November 20-21. There is also a new board member and returning leadership conference on December 9 open to all Board members.

Communications

None

Future Business

2016 Board of Education meeting dates

Executive Session

Board Chair Gee said the executive session has been cancelled.

Adjournment

Zawawi moved, Beiter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on November 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary

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