

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.:

Board of Education Special Meeting  
July 28, 2016

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room. Present: Board members Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Susi Keane, Michael Sepko, Lori D'Ostuni, Kendra Wiesel, and Karen Berasi, Superintendent of Schools.

Executive Session

Keane moved, Sepko seconded to go into executive session at 5:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter – to interview the finalist candidate for the Director of Special Services position.

Sepko moved, Keane seconded to come out of executive session at 6:47 p.m.

Regular Session

Board Chair Gee reconvened the regular session to order at 6:54 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room with the earlier listed Board members and Superintendent Berasi present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Discussion/Action Items

- Discussion and Possible Appointment for Director of Special Services

**MOTION #17-03:** D'Ostuni moved, Keane seconded to approve Natalie Donais as the Director of Special Services for Suffield Public Schools with the Superintendent to negotiate the details of the appointment. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Board Chair Gee thanked Ms. Donais for her participation in the process and offered welcome and support for her coming on board the administrative team. She then noted despite diligent effort by the Superintendent to protect the hiring process, the very disappointing breach in confidentiality does not represent the professionalism of the District. She stated the Board understands the potential professional risk applicants take seeking employment in Suffield and our obligation to protect their confidentiality. Board Chair Gee offered apologies to Ms. Donais and assurance, if hired, she would be supported as the Director of Special Services, and the Board would work to promote her success working with Suffield students.

Ms. Berasi outlined the interview process: The position was posted both internally and externally in normal avenues (i.e. district and town websites, CTReap, etc.). Sixteen candidates submitted applications for the screening process. Nine candidates were determined to be qualified and four candidates were invited to interview. One of the four candidates dropped out of the process. The interview committee was comprised of parents, teachers, administrators and a Board member. All candidates were asked the same questions with the committee given key elements to listen for in the candidates'

responses. The committee forwarded two candidates for a second interview involving a performance task and follow up questions from the first interview or additional questions. The committee unanimously forwarded one candidate for a final interview with the Board. The Superintendent recommended the finalist for the position based on the finalist's professional documents, interviews, performance task, four reference conversations and comments from the interview committee.

Adjournment

Semyanko moved, D'Ostuni seconded to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the next board meeting on August 15, 2016.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni  
Secretary

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