

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.: 7/14/09

Suffield Board of Education

June 16, 2009

Call to Order

Vice Chair Lori D'Ostuni called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Michael Smith arrived at 6:07. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Michael Smith, Sue Clark, Lauren Life, Sue Porcello, Robert Eccles, Mary Roy, Superintendent of Schools, Jack Reynolds and Director of Fiscal Services, Ed Basile, Director of Fiscal Administration. Thomas Mooney, Esq., from Shipman and Goodwin was present to discuss a personnel matter with the Board.

Executive Session

Smith moved, D'Ostuni seconded to enter executive session at 6:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A personnel matter was discussed.

Tunsky moved, Life seconded to return to regular session at 7:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pubic Comment

Chelen Kost, Chair, Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools introduced members David Biederman, President, Barry Armata, Vice President, Charlie Alfano, Jr., Brett Bishop, Tom Johnson, Sue Ann Nealon and Deb Pileika, to the Board of Education and thanked them for their dedicated time and service to the SFES.

Mrs. Kost also reported on the success of the 2009 Auction and most notably "Raise the Paddle" following the Superintendent's Leadership challenge and the generosity of the Board of Education and Administrators, which enabled them to fulfill over 40% of the grants received for a total of \$64,250 reported to the Board.

Below is a summary of the awards:

- K-5 Kids Doing Science *
- K-8 Suffield Connects – Educational Video Conferencing
- Spaulding – Showcasing Student Work, Mimio Interactive Capture Kit
- McAlister – Document Cameras, Web Conference Tools, Linking Students through Science (Holcomb Farms)
- SMS – Composting Kids, Preparing our Middle School Students for the Future*, Elements of Architectural Engineering/Drafting Technology
- SHS – Becoming Me Theater Relaunch, Educational Landscaping, Mimo Boards and New Astronomy Program*

* Denotes a Raise the Paddle” designated grant.

Since 2002 the SFES has granted a total of \$389,000 in grant monies.

D’Ostuni moved, Tunsy seconded to make the following changes to the Board Agenda.

- Add VII.D. Acceptance of Gift
- E. 2009/2010 Budget
 - F. Financial Transfer

Consent Agenda – add Food Service Reports – April and May

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Tunsy moved, Lori D’Ostuni seconded to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009 Board meeting as amended. The motion passed with Susan Clark abstaining. Changes were to Motion #09-025 – seconded paragraph Bob Eccles abstained from the approval of the Technology Plan.

Special Reports to the Board

A. C.A.B.E Student Leadership Awards

Two seniors, Walter Malec III and Jennifer DiMauro, were presented the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Award. This award represents strong student leadership and involvement in the school community.

- B. Don Miner from the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance reported to the Board on the plans to install defibrillators on nine athletic complexes in Suffield. Mr. Miner described how the units worked. The Suffield Ambulance will be responsible for the maintenance of the units and they will be taken down during the winter months.

Motion #09-027:D’Ostuni moved, Robert Eccles seconded to accept the most generous gift of defibrillators. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Impact Testing

Michael Bosworth, Athletic Coordinator at the Suffield High School reported to the Board on the Impact Testing. Mr. Bosworth introduced Perry Siegel as the Athletic Trainer. Both Mr. Bosworth and Mr. Siegel believe the testing is very beneficial to the health and safety of all athletes in Suffield. It was recommended

that the policy committee develop a policy/regulation regarding the Impact Testing.

Consent Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any items that the Board wanted to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

It was requested that the 6154 Homework policy and Renovation Project #139-0051RR Suffield Middle School be removed.

MOTION #09-028: Roy moved, Eccles seconded to approve the Consent Agenda without two items removed as noted above. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies approved:

1. 6154 Homework
2. 920 Conflict of Interest
3. 5145.1222 Use of Dogs to Search School Property
4. 5145.121 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds
5. 3516.4 Sex Offenders on School Property

Dissolve Policies

1. GCE-E Substitute Teacher
2. JKB Homework

Policy Statement for Free and Reduced Price Meals
April and May Food Service Financial Reports

Homework Policy

Lori D'Ostuni stated that parents need to have more conversations with the children in regard to homework assignments.

MOTION #09-029: Life moved, Eccles seconded to approve the Homework Policy. The motion passed with Mary Roy and Lori D'Ostuni abstaining.

Discussion Action Items

A. Community Forums

The Superintendent presented an outline to the Board on the process to be followed by a Community Task Force. The outline is as follows:

Community Forum Task Force

Task force will meet monthly and consist of the following:

PTO/PTAC/PAC – SHS/Parent Leadership/Sped-PK/Student/All
Principals/Teacher/Senior Citizens/Local Business/Local Government/Board of
Education

- I. School Community/Communications

- II. Post-Grad Competencies – Grad Feedback or SHS/SPS
- III. Common Understanding of S&W (Strengths & Weaknesses)

Or Suffield Public Schools Community

Or Organizational Assessment

Or Student Quality of Life

Or Long Range Planning

Or 21st Century Skills Curriculum

B. High School Handbook

There was discussion regarding the high school handbook, as well as the other school handbooks. The other handbooks will be submitted when revised for Board information only.

C. Textbook Adoption

Three new textbooks have been placed for review in the Central Office for 30 days. The books are:

1. Exploring Journalism and the Media
2. Theatrical Design and Production
3. Essential Yoga Poses

D. Acceptance of Gift

MOTION #09-030: D'Ostuni moved Life seconded to accept the most generous gift of \$64,249 from the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools. The motion passed unanimously.

E. 2009/2010 Budget

Bob Eccles, Chairman of the Budget Subcommittee reviewed the list of adjustments to the 09/10 budget .

Reductions

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 nd Grade Teacher | (65,000) |
| Central Office Reduction | (36,000) |
| Reduce Substitutes | (27,000) |
| Eliminate 0.5 Enrichment | (40,000) |
| Eliminate 0.4 SHS Teacher | (34,000) |
| Eliminate Tech Position | <u>(33,000)</u> |
| Sub Total | (235,000) |

Additions

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Increase Tech to 12 month | 8,000 |
| Agriscience Restoration | <u>27,000</u> |
| | 35,000 |

Recap

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Reductions | (235,000) |
| Amounts added back | <u>35,000</u> |
| Total Reductions | (200,000) |

Mr. Eccles thanked everyone involved in the budget process this year. Mr. Eccles felt that both the Board of Education and town officials worked together to bring the best budget to the taxpayers of Suffield.

Financial Transfers

MOTION #09-031: Eccles moved, Clark seconded to approve the following:

RESOLVED: That in accordance with CGS Section 10-222 and Board Policy, the Board authorizes the Director of Fiscal Administration to make the necessary transfers within the 2008-2009 budget without affecting the total amount of the adopted budget.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Renovation Projects

MOTION #09-032: Clark moved, D'Ostuni seconded the following motion:

“The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the School Building Project #139-0051 RR for Suffield Middle School for public school purposes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported that he had received two very exciting pilot course proposals – Studio Art Grade 8, Basic Skills, Safety and Operations Technology - Suffield Middle School

K-12 Alerts Discussion – Use of system for other purposes – future business.

Charles Kimball retirement – the Superintendent reported that Mr. Charles Kimball is retiring from the high school after 14 years. Mr. Kimball worked in the Guidance Office working with students as a career counselor. Mr. Kimball retired as a high school principal in Massachusetts before coming to Suffield.

Students at the SHS received awards for outstanding performance in the National Latin Examination sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League.

The Superintendent reported on the status of the Agriscience grant. He and Mr. Basile will be meeting with officials from town hall to try to bring this to closure as soon as possible.

Future Business

1. College Report
2. MS – who's going to private school
3. Administrators plan for possible absences – continuing education – Swine Flu
4. Maintenance Custodial Cleaning Services
5. Bruce Douglas – schedule new date
6. Food Service RFP
7. School Reports
8. College Reporting

9. Quest Advisory Update
10. School Building Committee Update – Vo-ag
11. Report on Central Office Restructuring

Michael Smith stressed the importance of keeping good communications between the Superintendent and PTO and PTAC.

Mr. Smith mentioned that elections will be coming up quickly. He would like to put some information together for potential candidates for the Board of Education – what are the responsibilities of a Board of Education, etc.

Mike Smith left the meeting at 10:05 pm.

Executive Session - Roy moved, Tunsy seconded to move into executive session at 10:10 p.m.

A personnel matter was discussed.

Tunsy moved, Roy seconded to return to regular session at 10:27 p.m.

Roy moved, Tunsy moved, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Lori D'Ostuni, Secretary

LD/dal