

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.:

Suffield Board of Education Meeting

May 19, 2009

Call to Order

Board Chair Michael Smith called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Library. Present: Board members Michael Smith, Lori D'Ostuni, Mary Ellen Tunsky, Lauren Life, Robert Parks, Sue Porcello, Robert Eccles, Mary Roy. Superintendent of Schools, Jack Reynolds, and Director of Fiscal Administration, Ed Basile.

Mary Ellen Tunsky arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Executive Session

Life moved, Parks seconded to enter executive session at 7:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A personnel issue was discussed.

Parks moved, Life seconded to return to regular session at 7:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Parks moved, Porcello seconded to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2009 Board meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition to Board Agenda

Parks moved, D'Ostuni to add acceptance of a gift and vote to complete School Building Project #13900052 RR Suffield Middle School to Discussion/Action.

Special Reports to the Board

Jay Presser, Treasurer of the Sports Council, advised the Board that a grant had been applied for and received for two electronic scoreboards one for softball and one for baseball to be installed at the Suffield High School. Discussion was held in regard to installation costs and who would be responsible for the installation. Jack Reynolds said he would be contacting First Selectman, Scott Lingenfelter to facilitate the installation.

MOTION #09-023: D'Ostuni moved, Parks seconded to accept the gifts and stated that the Board does not suggest or assume the town's previous commitment to accept these gifts. The motion passed unanimously.

A letter of thanks will be sent - contact?

Acceptance of Art Curriculum

MOTION #09-024: Life moved, D'Ostuni to approve the Art Curriculum.

The motion passed unanimously.

Technology Plan

Becky Osleger, Director of Technology reviewed the final revision of the Technology Plan for July 1, 2009-June 30, 2012, previously approved by CREC and the Suffield Administration. Michael Smith suggested that this be an ongoing discussion/topic for the Board of Education. Mary Roy suggested that perhaps this would be discussion for a future retreat.

MOTION #09-025: Parks moved, Roy seconded to approve the Technology Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Bob Parks.

Jack Reynolds complimented Becky Osleger, stating that she did an excellent job in preparation of the Technology Plan. Sue Porcello complimented both the Technology Curriculum and the Technology Plan.

Budget 09/10

Bob Eccles stated that now that the budget has been approved May 13, 2009, and we have passed the deadline for referendum, the Budget Subcommittee has a lot of work still to be completed. The Budget Subcommittee will meet and discuss – and bring back to the full Board before the end of June. Mr. Eccles asked the Subcommittee members to contact him with their availability for a meeting next week.

Impact Testing

A discussion was held regarding Impact Testing and whether the Suffield Board of Education should prepare a policy for this process. Dawn will contact Mrs. Gardocki for additional information.

Sue Porcello asked about policies and procedures used by Mike Bosworth, Athletic Coordinator at the Suffield High School and how do these policies serve to support Mike in his capacity.

Renovation Project

MOTION #09-026: Parks moved, Roy seconded to approve the following motion: **“The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the School Building Project #139-0052 RR for the Suffield Middle School for public school purposes.”** The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent’s Report

1. The Superintendent informed that the administrators were continuing their discussion and preparation of a report to the Board regarding the Community Forum process. This report will be brought to the Board at their next meeting on June 2.
2. The Superintendent thanked Board of Education members, staff members and the parents for all of their work and support during this most difficult budget time and process.
3. The list of achievements and challenges is extraordinary and growing daily in the district and future reports will be made to the Board by the administrators.
4. The Suffield High School guidance staff and administration are exploring alternative high schools with the Windsor Locks public schools.
5. The Superintendent reported on the bus fire on Monday, May 18, 2009. He praised the bus driver, Lori Grano for the wonderful job she did to insure the safety of the students on the bus. He also thanked Pam Delude, the bus driver that alerted Lori Grano to the smoke coming from the back of the bus. The Department of Motor Vehicles will be inspecting the bus and determining what the cause of the fire was. The Board will be advised as to the cause once the report has been received.
6. The Superintendent reported that he has been meeting with representatives from the Wyse Project, located in New York state to discuss a graduation capstone project.
7. Vendors are being contacted for givebacks.
8. The Superintendent reported that SFES has award \$160,000 in grant monies. The Superintendent will be asking representatives of the SFES to come to the next Board meeting to present and accept the gifts.

Board Chair’s Report

Michael Smith thanked Lisa Coatti and Annette Laursen, McAlister PTO, for their help and assistance in the budget process.

Subcommittee Reports

The following policies have been placed on the table for 30 days.

These are policies for first read

0521	Equal Opportunity Plan/Nondiscrimination
2120	Organization Chart
4147.3	Staff with HIV, ARC (AIDS Related Complex) or AIDS (certified)
4247.3	Staff with HIV, ARC (AIDS Related Complex) or AIDS (non-certified)
5141.22	Communicable Diseases
5141.24	Students with HIV, ARC (AIDS Related Complex) or AIDS
5145.12	Search & Seizure
6146	Graduation Requirement

Facilities and Transportation

Bob Parks reported that a meeting had been held with Mike Bosworth to talk about storage sheds at the Suffield High School. The Board of Education is opposed to individual sheds. Bob Parks will be discussing this with Jack Muska. There are two sheds on the high school property at this time.

There was also discussion of use of the turf field by high school football. The board decision was to allow jets to practice two nights a week in November – no lines – no equipment. No other teams will be allowed to use the field.

Michael Smith asked that Principal of the Suffield High School and Superintendent make sure that these rules and regulations are in place. Discuss with the Athletic Director to be sure he is clear also.

Graduation Requirement

Mary Greenlaw-Dixon reviewed the new requirements in the Graduation Requirement/Policy with the Board. Lori D'Ostuni emphasized the importance of students being fully aware of this policy as they look to apply to colleges. Lauren Life stressed the importance of transcripts being accurate. Rosa Perez assured the Board that transcripts are very accurate when they are mailed on behalf of the students.

Adjournment

Life moved, Parks seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT