

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd.of Ed.:

Board of Education Meeting

September 16, 2008

Call to Order – Non-Meeting

Board Chair Michael Smith called the non-meeting to order at 6:05 in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Michael Smith, Sue Clark, Lauren Life, Robert Parks, Lori D'Ostuni, Mary Roy, Mary Ellen Tunsky, Sue Porcello, Robert Eccles; Superintendent of Schools Jack Reynolds, Director of Fiscal Services, Ed Basile, Dean Dodson, SEA President, Stephanie Holland, teacher – Suffield High School. There was discussion of a contractual issue. Board member Sue Clark left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Call to Order

Parks moved, Life seconded to move into a regular session at 7:35 p.m.. The motion was unanimous.

Consent Agenda

MOTION #08-048: Parks moved, Roy seconded to remove the Acceptance of School Building Projects from the Consent Agenda. The motion was unanimous. Each motion to be proposed individually.

MOTION #08-049: Parks moved, Roy seconded to approve the following motion:

“The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts School Building Project #139-0039CV for A. Ward Spaulding School for public school purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #08-050: Parks moved, Tunsky seconded to approve the following motion:

“The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the School Building Project #139-0040 CV for McAlister Intermediate School for public school purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #08-051: Parks moved, Tunsky seconded to approve the following motion:

“The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the School Building Project #139-0041 CV for Suffield Middle School for public school purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #08-052: Parks moved, Life seconded to approve the following motion:

The Suffield Board of Education approves as complete and accepts the School Building Project #139-0042 A. Ward Spaulding School for public school purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue Clark returned to the meeting at 7:50.

Suffield Board of Education Retreat

The Board of Education held a roundtable discussion regarding the four goals that resulted from the Strategic School Plan. The tangible improvements of class size reduction and increase in technology (hardware, software and use) were mentioned. The discussion focused on the need for community and school community engagement, especially in the area of what it values. Included in school community is students, staff, administrators, parents and the community. The goal of balance between community values and standardized testing was discussed in length. A discussion was held regarding having Mr. Jonathan Costa (facilitator for our strategic goals completed five years ago) come back and facilitate an open forum with school community members to expand on the work started with the four strategic goals (class size, technology, communication and balance of community values with standardized testing).

The main points to come out of the discussion are 1) involving and engaging the community and 2) what do we identify as our school culture and how do we live it (put it into operation).

Suffield Board of Education Self-Evaluation – Executive Session

MOTION #08-053: Parks moved, D'Ostuni seconded to move into executive session at 8:57 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Parks moved, D'Ostuni seconded to come out of executive session at 10:30 p.m.

D'Ostuni moved, Parks seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m.