

Suffield, Connecticut

Board of Education Meeting

January 19, 2010

Call to Order

Board Chair, Lori D'Ostuni called the meeting to order at 6:35 in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Lauren Life, Bob Eccles, Jeanne Gee, Mary Ellen Tunsky, Mary Lou Sanborn, Michael Smith and Director of Fiscal Administration, Ed Basile.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Smith moved, Life seconded to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2010 Board of Education meeting as presented.

Special Reports to the Board

None

Consent Agenda

Michael Smith withdrew Approval of Board of Finance Meeting Minutes from the agenda. It was added to Discussion Action Items VI.G.

Lauren Life requested that Calendar Approval 2010/2011 be withdrawn from the agenda. There was a question of dates – these will be filled in and submitted again at the next meeting.

MOTION #10-005: Smith moved, Eccles seconded to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

- **Video Cameras on School Transportation 3541.313 AND 3541.313 Rag**
- **Financial Statement – December 31, 2009**
- **Food Service Report – December 31, 2009**

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Action Items

- ARRA Resolution
MOTION #10-006: Michael Smith moved, Eccles seconded to approve motion:the following

That the Board of Education agrees not to spend the budget surplus of \$867,759 which will be used to offset the deficit in the General Fund Revenue line item.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Verizon Road Access
Ed Basile introduced Mr. Steven Schadler, Verizon and Kenneth Baldwin, Esq., from the Robinson & Cole law firm representing Verizon. Attorney Baldwin discussed the proposed site with the Board.

MOTION #10-007: Tunksy moved, Eccles seconded to approve the following amended motion:

That the Board of Education approves of a 25 foot wide easement, 30 feet off the western property line of Spaulding School for a new gravel road and electric utility extension related to a new cell tower site proposed by Verizon Wireless, as well as a 45-foot wide easement to provide appropriate turning radius onto the neighboring property to the west. This approval expires two years from 1/19/10. Any modifications to the plan will require Verizon to return to the Board of Education for approval before proceeding within this time period.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

- Sodexo Report/Food Services Report – POS
Jolyn Harss, Meg Kingston, Alan Dean, gave the Board of Education a mid-year status report. Meg reported that Sodexo has painted the kitchen and cafeterias in all of the schools to create a cheerful environment. The elementary schools are now being served premium meats, fresh salads, bagels, fruit, yogurt – no prepackaged foods. The middle school menus include regional and local food products, paninis and fresh pizza made daily. The high school brought in a Sushi Chef which was well received. Stir fry and pastas are also being offered.

Mr. Dean reported that participation is low as compared to similar districts and every effort is being made to increase the participation at all the schools with many proposed solutions being discussed.

Jolyn Harss The POS/NutriKids Program will go on line the week of January 25, 2009 and letters will be going out to parents advising them.

Board members asked Sodexo representatives how the district can help and thanked them for their report. Lauren Life offered to write an article for March edition of the Suffield Observer to assist in educating the public about the new program and the need to increase participation.

- Technology Vision
Lori D'Ostuni reported that due to illness in the family Becky was unable to meet with the Board. She will be scheduled to meet with the Board at a future meeting.

The Chair also reported that Becky Osleger has resigned her position as Director of Technology. Becky has agreed to work together with the Board to transition the district until a new director is in place. The position description was reviewed by the Board and no change will be made. The position will be posted as soon as possible.

Michael Smith commended and thanked Becky for all of her help and wonderful contributions to the Suffield Public Schools.

- School Improvement Plan

Karen Carpenter, Principal of the McAlister Intermediate School reviewed the status and process of the School Improvement Plan (as required by NCLB legislation for annual yearly progress) 2009-2011 with the Board.

MOTION #10-008: Smith moved, Life seconded to approve the report as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Kindergarten Childcare Program

Angie Roman, Principal of Spaulding Elementary School reviewed the proposal submitted to the Board regarding a Kindergarten Childcare program. Bob Eccles recommended that the proposal be reviewed by an attorney for any liability issues.

MOTION #10-009: Gee moved, Eccles seconded the Board's support of the childcare program.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Open Choice for 2010/2011

Mary Greenlaw-Dixon, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported to the Board on the current status of the Choice Program and advised the Board of the number of students to be accepted and in what grades seats will be available for next year. The State Dept. of Education asked us to accept 18 new students for 2010-2011 school year. Mary's recommendation is to add 16 new students in the following configuration: 2 – K, 4 – 2nd grade, 4 – 3rd grade and 6 – 6th grade.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Basile updated the Board on the Beneski Field Usage/Revenues.

Subcommittee Report

- Facilities and Transportation - There was a discussion regarding forgiving the receivables due from the Jet's Football team. The Jet's have offered to donate lights for practice behind the McAlister Intermediate School and have asked that the receivable be waived. After discussion, the Board agreed that this receivable would not be waived. The board expressed reservation about accepting the gift of the lights due to the fact that gifts of this nature result in expenses in future years. Also, we now have a field with lights at SHS that can be used and this could result in loss of revenue for Beneski field.
- Policy Subcommittee
Chair of the committee Mary Ellen Tunksy reported that the Policy Committee was up and running and that future meetings will include review of:
 - 1) Bi-laws of the Board of Education
 - 2) Review of Bullying and Cyber-Bullying

- Budget Subcommittee

Chair of the committee Bob Eccles, reported that the Budget Subcommittee will be meeting every Wednesday beginning January 20, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. in the Central Office Conference Room for as long as necessary. Mr. Eccles said that he plans to bring a recommendation to the full Board by March 1, 2010 and to present a completed budget to the town by March 29. The goals in this budget are to preserve core programs and services and to investigate a play to participate program. Mary Lou Sanborn and Jeanne Gee are researching other districts in Connecticut to determine if that have Pay for Play, parking and other fees. Mr. Eccles also reported that we are on target in this year's current budget.

- Future Business

1. Board Chair Lori D'Ostuni requested that the administrators be prepared to discuss the three questions listed on the Board agenda of January 19, at the next meeting on February 2, 2010.
2. Mary Greenlaw-Dixon, Director of Curriculum – will be presenting three course proposals for Board review.
3. CAFE Services Presentation to be schedule Feb 23 – Bob Rader
4. Quest Advisory Program review – Feb 23 – John Warrington
5. Guidance Department Presentation – SMS/SHS - Principals
6. Special Education Presentation/Review of programs – Dianna Kolodziej
7. Graduation Requirements – aligning them to reflect student preparation for a global society – Mary Greenlaw-Dixon
8. Guided Reading Program Review and How Data is Used to Improve Student Achievement – Karen Carpenter
9. Professional Learning Communities and Response to Intervention at Spaulding – Angie Roman
10. Athletic Program Presentation – Mike Bosworth
11. High School Accreditation Update and Transition Program Presentation – Donna Hayward
12. Safety Assessment of our District Facilities – Larry Plano
13. A report from the state on our reimbursement due from the building and renovation project – Ed Basile.

It was asked that each contact give the board chair a date when he/she will be ready to present the above future business so that it can be scheduled and placed on a future agenda.

Gee moved, Eccles seconded to go into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Discussion of a matter of attorney/client privilege.

Return to Regular Session

Eccles moved, Gee seconded to return to regular session at 9:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Gee moved, Eccles seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Life
Secretary

LL/dal