

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Board of Education:

Board of Education Meeting

July 27, 2010

Call to Order

Board Chair, Mary Roy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Mary Roy, Lauren Life, Lori D'Ostuni, Sue Porcello, Bob Eccles, Jeanne Gee; Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mary Greenlaw-Dixon, Ed Basile, Director of Fiscal Administration.

Executive Session

Roy moved, Eccles seconded to move into executive session at 6:03 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

A personnel issue was discussed.

Mary Ellen Tunsy arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Roy moved, Eccles seconded to move into regular session at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Smith arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Mary Roy stated that another request had been received from Justin Donnelly for additional information. After discussion it was agreed that Mary Roy will make the initial call to Justin Donnelly and the Board will follow through from there.

Mary Roy read a thank you note from Beth Chafetz thanking the Board for the special recognition of her retirement from the Suffield Public Schools at the meeting held on June 15, 2010.

Lauren Life read two other thank you notes from Jeff Gowdy and Shirley Levitz also thanking the Board of Education for the special recognition at the Board of Education meeting held on June 15, 2010.

Boy scouts, Colin Works and Evan McDonough, attended the meeting for the purpose of obtaining their citizenship badges.

Approval of Minutes

Eccles moved, Smith seconded to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting with requests from the BOE to receive the list of SFES Grants as noted in the minutes. The minutes were approved with changes with Jeanne Gee and Bob Eccles abstaining.

Consent Agenda

MOTION #10-071: Smith moved, Life seconded to approve the following listed on the Consent Agenda:

- **Graduation Policy Approval – on table for required 30 days**
- **Healthy Food Certification Statement**
- **Board Approval for Asbestos Abatement and Tile Replacement Plans/Specs**
- **Nurses Contract**

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Action

- A. Sodexo Food Service Report – Jolyn Harss reviewed the summary of her Year End Recap 2009-2010. Lack of participation is still an issue in Suffield. Similar districts such as Granby and Windsor Locks have a much higher participation rate. The Board discussed some possible solutions to try to increase participation.

Lauren Life suggested that Sodexo make a special visit to each classroom. Lauren also suggested that maybe a young child could write an article for The Suffield Observer regarding the Sodexo program.

Other suggestions were to have Sodexo at the open houses planned in the fall, have the kitchens open for parents to tour. Increase the amount of information sent out to students and their families prior to the start of the new school year and continue through the year. Increase the amount of information sent out to students and their parents through the electronic backpack.

The Board asked that Sodexo return in a few months and update them as to how things are going. There was a question regarding the Granby participation. The Board asked that Jolyn study the initial participation in Granby to see how Suffield compares and report back to the Board.

- B. Professional Learning Community Model – Angie Roman, Principal of Spaulding School, reviewed the vision, mission statement and philosophy of the school. The Scientific Research-Based Intervention System ensure success, growth, options and intervention which include and go beyond academia. Angie explained that every teacher has this very comprehensive document and that it is revisited 2 to 3 times per year. She stated that our expectations are aligned with the state and we go beyond the state's expectations. Mrs. Roman also noted that the state's standards are about to change and our expectations are an evolution.

Lauren Life asked if all teachers in the Spaulding School are engaging in web-sites. Mrs. Roman explained that the K-1 staff each have their own individual page and teachers in grade 2 work together as a team on one web-site.

Staff members are receiving professional development provided by Linda Kaufman from CREC and Nancy Boyles an independent consultant. Kris Pryce and Sue Pearson have been a very valuable internal resource for Language Arts.

Mrs. Roman reported that the new speaker system is being well accepted and Mr. Ferraro stated that some teachers at McAlister have mentioned an increase in on-task behavior in the classroom due to the addition of this system.

C. Acceptance of Gifts

1. The Rhode Island Foundation has approved a grant from the Cox Charities New England Fund for the 2010 COX Charities Community Grant. This is the second year this grant has been awarded. Mrs. Ida Hickerson, Assistant Principal, made the contacts necessary to facilitate this grant on behalf of the Suffield Middle School. The funds will be used for the Homework Club – which consists of approximately 30 students, 3 days per week receiving home work assistance including a snack after school. The Mild and Promise groups, as well as the LEO Club benefit from this grant.
2. Mr. Kevin Moriarty, who is a member of Suffield's Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, has donated the funds remaining in their account to the Suffield Middle School in appreciation for the years the middle school band was able to participate in this annual event. The amount of this donation is \$294.70 and the funds will benefit the Middle School Music Department.

MOTION # 10-072: Smith moved, D'Ostuni seconded to accept both very generous gifts to the Suffield Public Schools. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Gift of dual use goal posts for soccer/football from the Jets Football and The Friends of Suffield valued at \$5,000. Mr. Schoner, a representative of the Jets Youth Football & Cheerleading, addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the proposed goal posts. Mr. Schoner stated that the installation will be included as part of the donation and that the highway department will work with them to install the posts.

MOTION #10-073: D'Ostuni moved, Life seconded to accept this generous donation to the Suffield Public Schools. The motion was passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

1. Solution for Safety at McAlister and SMS. The Superintendent presented a proposed diagram of changes to be made to improve safety of students at both schools during pick-up and drop off times. Mrs. Roy thanked the administrators, Larry Plano and Terry Antrum for the work involved in making these changes. In the coming weeks, information will be made available to the community on the website and in the newspapers. Signage, lines, etc., will be updated prior to the opening of school.
2. Dr. Greenlaw-Dixon, gave a preliminary report to the Board regarding the CMT and CAPT Scores. The CMT Math and Reading scores have gone up, however the CAPT scores are lower, specifically in Reading. Donna Hayward, Principal of Suffield High School introduced Mr. Tim O'Donnell an Administrative Intern working at the Suffield High School. She said that Mr. O'Donnell along with other the other high school administrators, will be looking carefully at the data to determine why the scores are down. The Board will be updated again in September when the School Improvement Plans are presented to the Board.
3. Dr. Greenlaw-Dixon updated the Board on the status of the Vocational Agriculture Project stating that the process is moving forward. It has now been determined that we can continue to utilize the space for the automotive classes. Mr. Basile stated that the grant was approved and that he had met with Dave Wedge from the State and Mark Welch as the architect. Mr. Basile showed the Board preliminary drawings of the proposed facility. Things are moving along and it is possible that the project could break ground in April.

4. Private School Update – Dr. Greenlaw-Dixon updated the BOE on the final number of students who are attending private schools. A letter was sent out to parents whose children will be attending schools on a full-time basis asking them to provide feedback regarding their decision. One response has been received and the student is seeking more of an international experience. The Superintendent will update the Board if any other responses are received.
5. Neha J. Mehta, Student Representative to the BOE has been appointed as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education. This is a one year term, subject to confirmation by the Connecticut General Assembly. Neha took the oath of office on Wednesday, July 7, 2010.
6. The school marquees at the elementary and middle school are in need of updating. The Suffield Middle School PTAC will be donating funds to update the one at the middle school and Larry Plano is working with a boy scout who would like to use the update of the signs as his Eagle Scout project. This will include fundraising, etc., to meet the needs of the project.
7. The Central Office is undergoing some renovations to make better use of space. One .4 FTE position has been eliminated. Allyson Kehoe continues to provide administrative assistance to the Curriculum Department as well as registration for the entire district. This will provide more consistency in the reporting process for PSIS and SSP data. Lauren Life asked if the movement is being accepted by the staff. Dr. Greenlaw-Dixon responded by stating that all in all the changes are going well and the changes will make everything function better.

Subcommittee Reports

None

Future Business

Buddy Report – Lauren
Use of Sound Field Speaker Systems
Bus Dismissal and Pick-up Safety Update
Board of Education Retreat – September 14

Adjournment

Eccles moved, Life seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryEllen Tunsky, Secretary

dal