

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Board: February 5, 2013

Board of Education Meeting

January 22, 2013

Call to Order

Board Chair, Susan Porcello, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center: Present Board members: Sue Porcello, Lori D'Ostuni, Jeanne Gee, Mary Lou Sanborn, Michelle Zawawi, Mary Roy and Scott Schneider; Superintendent of Schools, Karen Baldwin; Assistant Superintendent, Jim Collin; Ed Basile, Director of Fiscal Administration.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Several parents spoke to the board in support of Full Day Kindergarten.

Suffield High School Student Rep

Student Rep, Alyssa Puia reported on current and upcoming events at Suffield High School

- It has been decided that the spring musical will be Bye Bye Birdie (April 4-7, 2013).
- Debate Team – Our first team is 8-0, the second team is 7-1 and we have teams that have placed 3rd and 4th. There are three rounds on Saturday in Suffield.
- SAE Experience – January 30, 2013
- February 6, 2013 - Freshman Orientation – 6:00 p.m.
- February 11, 2014 - Valentine's Day Fundraiser which benefits the Senior Class
- February 12, 2013 – Greenhand Ceremony in the Agriscience Department
- February 27 – Pops Concert – Suffield High School
- March 2-9 - Cheerleading Competition

Communications

Susan Porcello, Chair, reported that she had received emails in support of the Full Day Kindergarten program being proposed for the 2013 - 2014 school year. The emails were received from Bill and Kristen Sullivan, Jason and Amy Healy, Rebecca & David Strong, Kathleen Stanley, Hanna Krol, Catherine Noble, Stephanie Weinstein, Ahla Moussa, Michelle Morey, Rachael Motta, Denise and Chris Nikolis.

Motion to Revise Agenda Order

Sanborn moved, Zawawi seconded to revise the order of Discussion Action Items. The changes became – A. Field Trip Request, B. Suffield High School Course Proposals for SY2013-2014, and C. Presentation on Digital Learning Implementation in World Cultures in Suffield Middle School.

Approval of Minutes

Gee moved, Schneider seconded to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 BOE meeting as presented. The motion was passed with one abstention from Mary Lou Sanborn.

Consent Agenda

MOTION #13-02 - Sanborn moved, Schneider seconded to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

A. Policy Approval

1. 5113.2R Student Attendance Truancy
2. 2100 Administrative Staff Organization
3. 2120 Organization Chart

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action

A. Field Trip Request

MOTION #13-03: D'Ostuni moved, Gee seconded to approve the field trip to Mystic, Connecticut on March 8 and 9, 2013 to attend the Northeast Floral Expo as per Board Education Policy 6153 P/R Field Trips. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Suffield High School New Course Proposals

1. Robotics Engineering & Design #801

MOTION #13-04: Schneider moved, Porcello seconded to approve the course proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics #654

MOTION #13-05: Gee moved, Roy seconded to approve the course proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Presentation on Digital Learning Implementation in World Cultures in Suffield

Middle School - John Warrington, Principal of the Suffield Middle School provided the Board with a brief description of the learning environment taking place in Mrs. Cynthia Pfaff's World Cultures classroom and how technology is being integrated in the course work.

The Board moved to Mrs. Pfaff's classroom where they were introduced to Cynthia Pfaff and her students. The students were Madison Gadomski, Fatima Elmokaddem, Peyton Beiter, Katie Killam and Mia Laboto. The students provided a presentation to board members, parents, and administration, using applications for the iPad, BrightLink-Interactive Projector, and Mimeo, using Wikispace, Edmodo and iMovie to list a few. The use of these resources is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies and the National Educational Technology Standards.

Board member, George Beiter, arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Jim Collin and Karen Baldwin thanked the students, the teachers and their parents.

The Board moved back to the Suffield Middle School Media Center to continue the regular meeting.

D. Full Day Kindergarten Program Implementation for SY 2013-2014

Karen Baldwin reviewed the process to date for the Board. Karen Baldwin introduced Angie Roman to speak and discuss the Kindergarten orientation, registration and information process for the next coming months that familiarize the students and parents with what to expect before the new school year. Mrs. Roman distributed kindergarten readiness information from the Connecticut State Department of Education, as well as a draft of an invitation to parents for the orientation/registration night on February 27, 2013.

Sue Porcello, Chair, read a statement from board member, Robert Eccles, who was unable to attend the meeting. A copy of Mr. Eccles' statement is attached.

MOTION# 13-06: D'Ostuni moved, Mary Roy seconded, to approve implementation of Full Day Kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year with a half day option for parents as recommended by the Full Day Kindergarten Committee.

Board members expressed their thoughts in regard to Full Day Kindergarten. After discussion, the original motion was amended into two separate motions.

MOTION #13-07: D'Ostuni moved, Beiter seconded that the first motion be amended as follows: To approve implementation of Full Day Kindergarten in the 2013-2014 School Year. The motion was passed unanimously.

Motion #13-08: D'Ostuni moved, Gee seconded, to provide Half Day Kindergarten option in tandem with Full Day Kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year.

The Board chair asked for a show of hands. The motion passed 6-2.

Superintendent's Report

1. Update on Safety and Security Measures in the District -
Karen Baldwin, Superintendent, reported that as of this date, the electronic monitoring and video surveillance has been completed at McAlister and SMS. The work at Central Office will begin this week. The cameras are being updated at the Suffield High School.

Wednesday is picture day for staff for identification badges which will be implemented February 4, 2013.

We continue to get pricing on emergency communications and upgrades to our PA systems.

2. Report on January 17, 2013 CCSS and Middle School Leveling Parent Forum – Superintendent Baldwin reported that approximately 40 parents attended the forum. She stated that teachers will be receiving professional development for differentiated instruction. Another focus group is planned in March. The Student Programs and Services will be meeting next week for discussion around the next steps.

Board Chair Report

Mary Lou Sanborn mentioned that the SFES Auction is coming up soon and wondered if Board members would be interested in a donation this year. She said that she would be glad to coordinate the donation

Public Comment

Mr. Benjamin Rodriquez, Thrall Avenue, Suffield, stated that he fully supports the Full Day Kindergarten and said that he appreciated and complemented the work of the committee.

Adjournment

Mary Lou Sanborn motioned to adjourn, Michelle Zawawi seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni, Secretary
Suffield Board of Education

LD/dal