

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. Of Ed:

Board of Education Meeting

April 2, 2013

Call to Order

Board of Education Chair, Susan Porcello, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members, Susan Porcello, Jeanne Gee, Mary Roy, Scott Schneider, Robert Eccles, Michelle Zawawi and Mary Lou Sanborn; Director of Fiscal Administration, Ed Basile; Superintendent of Schools Karen Baldwin and Assistant Superintendent, Jim Collin and observers.

Susan Porcello, Chair, reminded the observers that although this meeting is held in public, it is not a public meeting, which means that questions or comments are welcome; however questions would not be answered at this time. The Superintendent or Board Chair will make a note to address questions or concerns and would get back to those individuals as soon as possible.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Mrs. Melissa Finnigan, 50 Cedar Crest Road, stated that she was not in favor of the Board's decision to change to the M & J Bus Company.

Communications

Chair Porcello stated that she had received an email communication from Suffield employees of First Student.

She also stated that she had received an anonymous letter and that no anonymous letters will be responded to.

Approval of Minutes

Sanborn moved, Schneider seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on March 21, 2013. Sue Porcello, Mary Lou Sanborn, Michelle Zawawi and Bob Eccles abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion #13-17: Gee moved, Roy seconded to **approve the following items on the consent agenda:**

- **Policy 4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting**
- **Policy 1212 School Volunteers**
- **Policy 1250 Visits to Schools**
- **Policy 4118.4 Electronic Monitoring**
- **February 2013 Financial Statements**

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

Change in Order of Agenda Items

Motion #13-18: Roy moved, Gee seconded to **change the order of the agenda to move the field trip request to C. and moved District Technology report to E. on the agenda.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Awarding of Student Transportation Contract

Motion #13-19: Eccles moved, Roy seconded to **award the Student Transportation Contract for 2013-2018 to M & J Bus Company, LLC.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Gift

Motion #13-20: Gee moved, Zawawi seconded to **accept the gift from the Class of 2011 of a DuraMesh Scoreboard for Beneski Field.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Field Trip Request

Motion #13-21: Sanborn moved, Eccles seconded to **approve the Field Trip Request for the MILD Group for April 26-28, 2013 and the Promise Group June 7-9, 2013 to Camp Jewell in Colebrook, CT as per Board of Education Policy 6153P/R.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Suffield High School Graduation Date

Motion #13-22: Sanborn moved, Schneider seconded to **approve the date of June 22, 2013 as the graduation date for the Suffield High School.**

The motion passed unanimously.

District Technology Transition Supported in the FY2013-2014 Budget and New Website Launch

Rebecca Osleger, Director of Technology, reported to the Board on the progress of the redesign of the district web page. Rebecca presented the new branding and logo design for the Suffield Public Schools Website and reviewed the timeline for the conversion. Rebecca has been communicating to the staff and will be providing training throughout May with the conversion complete by June 25, 2013.

Class Size Report

The Superintendent reviewed the newly formatted class size report based on information from PowerSchool and reviewed by the building administration. This new report will continue to be provided annually in the fall and could be an excellent tool for budget and programming decisions.

Update on Common Core State Standards Implementation

Dr. Collin provided the Board with an update on the progress of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in the district. The Student Programs and Services Subcommittee received the report on March 12 and reviewed the deliverables developed thus far. Sophia Gintoff, English Language Arts Supervisor, reviewed the English Language Arts rubric standards and base reporting tool with the Board.

The next Student Programs and Services meeting is April 4, 2013.

Another informational meeting regarding the Common Core State Standards will be held for parents. Date to be determined.

Board Chair Report

Susan Porcello, Chair, stated that the Board of Education budget was delivered to the Suffield Board of Finance at their meeting held on April 1, 2013.

The Chair also stated that at the request of the First Selectman, a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of combining the services between the Town Hall and the Suffield Public Schools Business Office, as a cost saving measure. It was suggested that the town may want to have an audit similar to what the Suffield Public Schools had a few years ago with Blum Shapiro, and after their audit is complete they could meet again to discuss the combining of services.

The Chair reminded the Board that the Student Programs and Services Subcommittee will meet on April 4, 2013 in the CO Conference Room at 5:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

- Policy Subcommittee – Mary Lou Sanborn stated that at their last meeting the Policy Subcommittee reviewed and revised Policy 2400R Evaluation of the Superintendent. This policy is on the table for the required 30 day read.

Future Business

- Safety & Security Updates – Ongoing Training and Next Steps
- Common Core State Standards – SMS
- Large Animal Facility
- Substitute Service
- High School Graduation/Future dates

- School Climate Survey
- Suffield Middle School Schedule

Public Comment

First Student bus drivers spoke to the Board regarding the awarding of the bus contract to M & J Bus Company. The Board and Superintendent explained the RFP process and stated that anyone who might want to review the budget document etc., should contact Karen Baldwin or Ed Basile, School Business Manager.

The drivers who were in attendance were – Theresa Yeltema, Jim Diffranco, Sylvia Guyette, Michele Cormier, John Shepard and Becky Conner, Manager, First Student.

Adjournment

Roy moved, Sanborn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Lee
Secretary, Pro tem

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