

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.: 5/21/13

Board of Education Meeting  
May 7, 2013

Call to Order

Board Chair, Sue Porcello, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members: Sue Porcello, Lori D'Ostuni, Jeanne Gee, Mary Roy, Michelle Zawawi, Mary Lou Sanborn, Bob Eccles and Scott Schneider; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Special Services, Jim Collin; Superintendent of Schools, Karen Baldwin and observers.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Karen Carpenter, Principal at McAlister, stated that she had enjoyed being on the Interview Committee for the Spaulding principal position and feels that Scott Dunn will be a wonderful addition to the administrative staff. Kris Pryce, Lead Teacher at Spaulding, stated that she was looking forward to continuing Spaulding programs with the new principal and thanked the Board of Education for their support of full day kindergarten. Elizabeth Jury, Spaulding Speech Pathologist, added that she was excited about the future of the Pre-K program. Board member Gee stated that meaningful work has been accomplished under the leadership of Mrs. Roman, and Spaulding's new principal will be able to move the school to the next level.

Communications

The Superintendent received a note from Mr. Richard Davis in support of the proposed Advanced Placement Government & Politics course.

Board member Beiter arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Gee moved, Roy seconded to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2013 Special Board of Education meeting. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (D'Ostuni).

D'Ostuni moved, Sanborn seconded approve the minutes of the April 23, 2013 Board of Education meeting as amended to remove the word "Special" from the heading. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Board member Eccles asked that the Financial Statements for March 2013 be removed from the consent agenda and be added to future business.

**MOTION #13-26:** Eccles moved, D'Ostuni seconded **to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda – Policy #2400REG – Evaluation of the Superintendent.** The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Action Items

- Appointment of Spaulding Principal – The Superintendent introduced Scott Dunn, candidate for the position of Spaulding Principal. **MOTION #13-27:** Gee moved, Roy seconded **to appoint Scott Dunn as principal of Spaulding Elementary School, effective July 1, 2013.** The motion passed unanimously.
- DigiGirlz Presentation – this item will be placed on a June Board of Education agenda.
- Common Core State Standards and Middle School Grouping Practices – Assistant Superintendent, Jim Collin, updated the Board on changes to date in classrooms in response to the Common Core. Recent meetings with parents were well attended and much feedback was received about the grouping practices in Grade 6 in math and language arts. Data shows that most districts do not start grouping until Grade 7 as emphasized in the Common Core State Standards. Data was shown with two points being stated – the numbers of students taking accelerated math from year to year do not change in the district and that the percentage of students who demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills is ten percentage points higher than the number of students in the accelerated program. Board member Schneider asked what criteria will be established to know the change to eliminating sixth grade grouping practices has been effective. Board member Beiter asked what are the current criteria used for placement. Board member Zawawi voiced concern as to whether teachers will have the time to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies to reflect the changing standards. Dr. Collin stated that this work was underway and would continue into the summer. Board member D’Ostuni voiced concern with the theory of what is suppose to occur with the change versus the district history of what happens leaving people frustrated and not asking for support when it is needed to make a change meaningful. She wanted to make sure there would be continued support for students, teachers and administrators. Both Superintendent Baldwin and Dr. Collin stated that the change would be monitored for adjustments. **MOTION #13-28:** D’Ostuni moved, Schneider seconded **to eliminate grouping practices in Grade 6 in math and language arts effective the 13/14 school year. The Board of Education will have an annual systemic discussion of this topic.** The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Beiter inquired about class size in Grade 6 for next year and if this change helped. The Superintendent stated the change did help and that a projected number could be available for the next Board meeting. An in-depth class size report (K-12) would be available in October and she plans this report to be annual to the board and used for district planning.

- BY 2013/14 Board of Education Budget – Board member Eccles stated that the Board of Finance had voted unanimously to restore \$240,000 to the Board of Education Budget. There was a brief discussion on insurance costs. Eccles reported that the Budget Committee will be meeting again on May 14 at 7:35 a.m. to address insurance costs, new bus contract budget impact and personnel projections. The 2012 budget closing statement will also be drafted.
- Partial Roof Replacement Projects

McAlister Intermediate School – 4 Classroom: **MOTION #13-29**: Eccles moved, Roy seconded:

- 1) **To reapprove the Educational Specifications for the partial roof replacement at McAlister Intermediate School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education reapproves the Educational Specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School that were originally approved by the Board on May 18, 2010.

- 2) **To reapprove submission of a state Building Grant to the State Department of Education for the partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education reauthorizes the application to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School that was originally approved by the Board on May 18, 2010.

- 3) **To reappoint the existing Permanent Building Committee as the Building Committee for this project.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the existing Permanent Building Committee be re-appointed as the Building Committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School that was originally approved by the Board on May 18, 2010.

- 4) **To request that the Suffield Board of Selectmen reauthorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant and to reauthorize preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the Suffield Board of Selectmen re-authorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the partial roof replacement project at McAlister Intermediate and that the Board of Selectmen also reauthorize at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for said project. The original authorization was approved by the Board on May 18, 2010.

- 5) **To reapprove the plans and specifications for the Suffield Middle School Media Center Partial Roof Replacement Project:**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education reapproves the plans and specifications for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at McAlister Intermediate School that were previously approved on March 20, 2012.

The motion passed unanimously.

Suffield Middle School – E Wing: **MOTION #13-30**: D'Ostuni moved, Eccles seconded:

- 1) **To reapprove the Educational Specifications for the partial roof replacement at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education reapproves the Educational Specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School E- Wing that were originally approved by the Board on October 4, 2011.

- 2) **To reapprove submission of a state Building Grant to the State Department of Education for the partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education reauthorizes the application to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School E- Wing that was originally approved by the Board on October 4, 2011.

- 3) **To reappoint the existing Permanent Building Committee as the Building Committee for this project.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the existing Permanent Building Committee be re-appointed as the Building Committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School E- Wing that was originally approved by the Board on October 4, 2011.

- 4) **To request that the Suffield Board of Selectmen reauthorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant and to reauthorize preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the Suffield Board of Selectmen re-authorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School E- Wing and that the Board of Selectmen also reauthorize at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for said project that was originally approved by the Board on October 4, 2011.

- 5) **To reapprove the plans and specifications for the Suffield Middle School Media Center Partial Roof Replacement Project:**

**RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Education reapproves the plans and specifications for the Suffield Middle School E- Wing Roof Partial Replacement Project that were previously approved on March 20, 2012.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Suffield Middle School Media Center – **MOTION #13-31:** Eccles moved, Roy seconded

- 1) To approve the Educational Specifications for the partial roof replacement at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School Media Center.**

- 2) To approve submission of a state Building Grant to the State Department of Education for the partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Education authorizes the application to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School Media Center.**

- 3) To reappoint the existing Permanent Building Committee as the Building Committee for this project.**

**RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the existing Permanent Building Committee be appointed as the Building Committee with regard to the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School Media Center.**

- 4) To request that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education for a Grant and to authorize preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School.**

**RESOLVED, that the Suffield Board of Education requests that the Suffield Board of Selectmen authorize the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the partial roof replacement project at Suffield Middle School Media Center and that the Board of Selectmen also authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications**

The motion passed unanimously.

- Acceptance of Gift – **MOTION #13-32:** Gee moved, Eccles seconded **to accept a gift of two Linden trees, fertilizer, hoses, labor and installation from Praxair, Inc.** The motion passed unanimously. Board member Gee suggested an article be placed in the local paper highlighting this much appreciated gift. Board member D'Ostuni thanked

Spaulding Principal, Angie Roman, for coordinating and communicating this project with other town departments. The trees have been planted near the school's playscape.

#### Superintendent's Report

- To date, 128 students have been registered for kindergarten for the 13/14 school year. Only six of these students were registered for the half day program. As our target number to run the half day program was not reached, that option will not be available. Parents will be contacted. There is a possibility that a 9<sup>th</sup> kindergarten classroom may be needed, which would have some budgetary implications. We will monitor registrations closely as the summer progresses. Board member Eccles stated that we should monitor the budget processes in area towns who are preparing to implement Full Day Kindergarten.

#### Chair's Report

- The Chair reminded Board members that the town vote on the budget would be held tomorrow night at Suffield High School.
- Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 22. Board members planning to attend should contact Central Office.

#### Subcommittee Reports

- Budget Subcommittee – next meeting will be held on May 14, 7:35 a.m.
- Policy Subcommittee – next meeting will be held on May 21, 5 p.m.

#### Future Business

- Safety & Security Updates – Ongoing Training and Next Steps
- Common Core State Standards – SMS
- Large Animal Facility
- Substitute Service
- School Climate Survey
- Curriculum Audit Findings/K-12 Social Studies
- DigiGirlz
- Financial Statements – March 2013

Board member D'Ostuni suggested to the board that administration looks at the Social Studies/History curriculum K – 12. She stated that without a Coordinator as we have in Math, Language Arts, and Science that the district curriculum is not connected throughout so that some students may study the Holocaust on four different occasions and some only study it once. Other board members thought it was worthwhile. Superintendent Baldwin stated that this could be done with the Curriculum Audit that was just completed.

#### Public Comment

Kristin Allard, Mountain Road, asked if there was a risk that full day kindergarten would not be started in 13/14. The Chair replied that if the town budget passed that the full day kindergarten program would be in place this fall.

Executive Session

D'Ostuni moved, Eccles seconded to enter executive session at 8:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A personnel matter was discussed.

Regular Session

Eccles moved, D'Ostuni seconded to return to regular session at 9:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Schneider moved, Roy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni  
Secretary

LD/ajk