

Board of Education Meeting
June 20, 2016

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Kendra Wiesel, Susi Keane, Matt Service, Michael Sepko, John Richter, Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson, and Business Manager Bill Hoff

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

The Suffield High School Robotics Team along with their advisor, Bob Lowell, displayed the robot they built and explained the design and building process as well as the competitions they competed in this year.

Bob Lowell was also presented the newly created "Bob Lowell" Community Service award for his many years of community service, which was given by the district in conjunction with the Suffield Rotary Club. This award will be given to a member of the community who exemplifies the motto of "Service above Self".

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Semyanko moved, Richter seconded to approve the May 20, 2016 minutes. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 8-0.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion Items

- Possible Appointment of Assistant Principal of A. Ward Spaulding School
MOTION #16-38: D'Ostuni moved to appoint Ramsey Binnington to the position of A. Ward Spaulding Assistant Principal and authorize the Superintendent to complete the hiring process. Semyanko seconded the motion. Board member Wiesel served on the interview panel and explained the process. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 8-0. Ms. Binnington thanked the Board and noted the sense of community in Suffield.
- Discussion of Class Rank
Mr. Moccio and Mr. Sullivan discussed the topic of class rank. Nationally, districts are shifting away from reporting out on class rank. The Policy subcommittee and administration have engaged in a philosophical discussion on class rank. Mr. Sullivan spoke about the benefits of not having class rank. The administration and the Board discussed holding focus groups with teachers, students and families as next steps.
- Special Education Year-End Report
Dianna Kolodziey presented the special education year-end report. Special education data was given relative to the prevalence of special education students, a comparison of the special education population from November 2015 to June 2016, the number of outplaced

students, students on 504 plans, the comparison of the number of mediations over the last three years, and student outcomes in academics, counseling and social skills. She reviewed the 5-year improvement plan in special education, professional development given to staff this year, and requests by staff on professional development they would like to have. Ms. Kolodziej also shared results of a parent survey. She closed with highlighting the department's accomplishments this year.

Gee left at 8:06 p.m.; returned at 8:09 p.m.

- District Outcomes Update & Stakeholders Survey Results

Mr. Hendrickson shared the key deliverables in curriculum for this year and for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Hendrickson said much has been accomplished this year because of engagement with many stakeholders: teachers, students, parents, administrators and board members. He reviewed student performance results and shared the results of a professional development survey given to teachers in March.

Superintendent Berasi summarized the parent, teacher, and student survey results: 22% of families, 85% of students and 81% of teachers responded to the survey. She encouraged Board members to look in depth at the survey online. She will review the data with building principals as well as SEA representatives.

- 2016-2017 Healthy Foods Certification

Mr. Hoff reviewed the Healthy Foods Certification program and noted its financial benefit to the district.

MOTION #16-38: Wiesel moved that the Board approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification program for 2016-17 with an exemption for food sold at events after the end of the school day at the location of the event. Service seconded the motion and D'Ostuni, Service, Sepko, Semyanko, Wiesel, Keane, and Richter voted in favor, Gee abstained. The motion carried 7-0-1.

- May 2016 Financial Report

Mr. Hoff reviewed the financial report for May, noting a projected year-end surplus of \$99,115. Administration is monitoring purchase orders very carefully. Mr. Hoff noted the \$15,996 gain in food service for May. Ms. Strzegowski has done a great job managing labor and inventory. The Board will be asked to approve budget transfers at the July meeting. He informed the Board on the year-end projects being done, and the monthly financial report will be reformatted over the summer for more clarity.

Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Berasi said graduation was wonderful. She thanked Mr. Moccio and the high school administration for their hard work.
- The school vestibules are close to completion. The security committee met last week and she thanked Larry Plano and Art Groux for their work on the district's security procedures.
- Ms. Berasi said Chief Riello asked if the district was interested in having DARE in our schools and she was in complete support.

Chair's Report

- Board Chair Gee echoed the Superintendent's comment on graduation.
- The next Lighthouse meeting will focus on the second half of data from the survey and she would like to invite the principals to the next meeting.

- Board members received an email from Dawn Metcalf.
- Meetings will now be videotaped and posted on the district's Facebook page and website. Tonight's taping is a test for quality. Superintendent Berasi said in a survey done by Mr. Hoff, 39% of districts in the area take action minutes, and 61% take summary minutes; none take verbatim minutes.

Business Manager's Report

- Mr. Hoff said the vestibule walk-throughs with the Town building inspector will occur next week.
- Columns at the high school are in need of repair. They are not a safety issue but will still need to be addressed.

Subcommittee Reports

June 9, 2016 HR/Personnel (Negotiations) subcommittee meeting – Board member Service said negotiations with the nurses union concluded successfully. It is anticipated that the contract will be ratified by union soon and then will come to the Board for approval.

June 10, 2016 Budget/Finance/Facilities subcommittee meeting – Board member Sepko said the committee reviewed the year-end facilities projects in detail and prioritized them, which was presented in Mr. Hoff's financial report tonight.

June 14, 2016 Teaching and Learning subcommittee meeting – Board member Semyanko said the committee reviewed the K-5 summer reading list and math information, the K-12 program of studies, and the curriculum improvement plan. She thanked Mr. Hendrickson, the curriculum leaders and principals for all the work done this year.

Future Business

None

Executive Session

Keane moved to go into executive session at 9:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Wiesel seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Beiter joined via telephone at 9:47 p.m.

Wiesel moved, Keane seconded to come out of executive session at 11:12 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Adjournment

Keane moved, Wiesel seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on July 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary