

Board of Education Meeting
January 19, 2016

Executive Session

Wiesel moved, Keane seconded to go into executive session at 6:06 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter: Superintendent's mid-year evaluation.

Keane moved, Wiesel seconded to come out of executive session at 6:27 p.m.

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members Lori D'Ostuni, Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Kendra Wiesel, Matt Service, Susi Keane, John Richter, Michael Sepko, George Beiter, Superintendent Karen Berasi, and Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Suffield High School Student Representative

Giancarlo Isotti updated the Board on the events that are taking place at Suffield High School this month:

- Students are preparing for mid-year exams
- Juniors are preparing for the SATs on March 2
- Seniors had a class meeting to discuss class dues, senior sweatshirts, prom, senior banquet, safe grad, and the Kevin Vitale memorial
- The boys basketball team started off the season undefeated, and the girls basketball team has started strong as well
- The swim teams are holding a fundraiser at Zantos restaurant to benefit needy families.
- Incoming freshman orientation is being held on February 3
- Course selection for the upcoming year has begun
- The Drama Club is working on their spring musical The Wizard of Oz
- The FFA held an event where parents and students learned how to make flower arrangements
- The FFA is holding its capstone night on January 28
- Unified basketball and theater have started again this year

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Semyanko moved, Sepko seconded to approve the January 4, 2016 minutes. All members voted in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Beiter moved, D'Ostuni seconded to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes. Board member Beiter said the minutes should indicate it was a special meeting. All members voted in favor of the amended minutes except Beiter and Sepko, who abstained. The motion carried 7-0-2.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion Items

- 2016-2017 Athletics Budget Presentation

Mr. Bosworth and Mr. Moccio presented the district's 2016-2017 proposed athletics budget. Mr. Bosworth gave an overview of the programs offered at the high school and middle school and the program's guiding principles. Mr. Bosworth highlighted team and individual accomplishments for last year. Mr. Moccio reviewed notable drivers in the 2016-2017 athletics budget. The overall percentage increase to the athletics budget is 3.6%.

Mr. Bosworth highlighted recent projects done and future projects to be done in the athletic department.

- 2016-2017 Elementary, Middle School, High School and Curriculum & Instruction Budget Presentation

Mr. Hendrickson, along with curriculum leaders, teachers, and building administrators, presented the 2016-2017 proposed Curriculum and Instruction budget. Mr. Hendrickson acknowledged all those who contributed to the presentation, and their input and collaboration resulted in tonight's presentation. The budget focuses on the district's mission, which is to prepare all students with the knowledge, skills and attributes required for success in a rapidly changing world and is aligned to the district's goals. Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the current and proposed staff that is needed to support this budget. Teachers, curriculum leaders and administrators spoke of the need for an integration technology coach, instructional coaches at the K-5 level, a K-12 math consultant, and a social studies curriculum leader and a science curriculum leader, both 6-12. The team also explained the need for putting resources in place to support social-emotional learning and provide district-wide Professional Learning Committee (PLC) training. Mr. Moccio discussed the textbook resource needs at the high school. This budget focuses on building teacher growth which leads to student growth. Board members discussed the need to have philosophical discussions relative to the budget. Superintendent Berasi said now that all the budget presentations are complete, the Board will be having those discussions at each meeting until the Board votes on the budget. Board members also discussed scheduling a budget subcommittee meeting.

- Discussion of Policy #1250; Policy #1250.1; Policy/Regulation #4118.113 & #4218.113

MOTION #16-04: D'Ostuni moved, Semyanko seconded to approve policy #1250 – Visits to School; 1250.1 – Classroom Observations; Policy & Regulation #4118.113 & 4218.113 – Harassment. All members voted in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

None

Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Berasi said she and Mr. Plano met with representatives from Eversource and Powerpoint Energy today to discuss the issues relative to the unrealized savings in the energy agreement with Eversource and Powerpoint Energy. The representatives will attend the February 17 Board meeting to present the issues and what they are doing to remedy the situation.

Chair's Report

- Board Chair Gee reminded Board members of the January 30 workshop.

Business Manager's Report

- None

Subcommittee Reports

- Communications – Board member Semyanko said Board members were sent information on the CAFE on the Hill workshop and legislative priorities.

Future Business

None

Adjournment

Beiter moved, Sepko seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on February 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary