

Board of Education Meeting  
November 21, 2016

Call to Order

Board Member George called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium. Present: Board members Natalie Semyanko, George Beiter, Kendra Wiesel, Susi Keane, John Richter, Matt Service, Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson and Business Manager Bill Hoff.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

None

Suffield High School Student Representative

Giancarlo Isotti updated the Board on events going on at Suffield High School:

Public Comment

**Mark Janick** – SHS Teacher and President of SEA

- Commented on a different opening day convocation, voices heard, plan, great day, ice cream at all schools
- PDEC Committee great way for teachers to get voice into district, all about working on common goal. New curriculum people working well, working well with teachers. Department meetings and faculty meetings are better, teacher centered. Shout out to Dom Casolari and Jay Efland for their work with NEASC.
- Mr. Janick in favor of the conversation that is starting about early release day once a week in 2017-18 for teachers to receive training. Teachers need more time to work together, need to be there during the day for kids.
- Mark asked the board to fully invest in technology. Support tech is needed.
- Organizational health has improved
- Pep rally – Personal invitation to all BOE members 9:00 – 10:00 on Tuesday, November 29. Principal Moccio and Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson will be taped to a wall.
- Encouraged to watch the SHS commercials in the morning. Kids are doing amazing stuff. First pep rally in 16 years. Sixty teachers volunteering time. Spirit night on Friday night great to watch.

**Jackie Mahanna** - Diane Lane

Spoke on the Suffield Prevention Council. Thanked everyone for a good turnout. A lot of parents want more real stories for the children to hear.

**Melissa Sullivan** – 20 Mountain Laurel Way

Reported she has a letter coming to BOE, waiting signatures. The letter is formally requesting that public comment be returned to end of BOE meeting. Requested that the BOE consider adding to tonight's meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

Natalie Semyanko moved, Matt Service seconded to approve the November 7, 2016 minutes. All members voted in favor; the motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

### Consent Agenda

**MOTION #17-17:** Matt Service moved to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

1. Revisions to Policy #5145.14 - On-Campus Recruitment
2. Revisions to Policy #5125.3 - Directory Information
3. Revisions to Policy #5118.1 - Homeless Students

Natalie Semyanko seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; the motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

### Discussion Items

#### ● Report on 10-Year Enrollment Projection

Rebecca Augur from Milone and MacBroom presented a report on the 10-year enrollment projection for Suffield Public Schools. Board member Beiter stated that Justin Donnelly, Ann Huntington, and Chris Childs from the Board of Finance and Krystal Holmes from the Selectmen's office were in the audience available to ask questions.

- Chris Childs asked if the prison population was counted in this report. Yes it is counted and it does skew the report.
- The decline in AgSci has started to increase. The 117 number now in Ag-Sci includes Suffield residents as well as out of town students.
- Mr. Moccio stated that, Ag-Science teacher Mrs. LaFlamme is recruiting more, will accept 35 students per year
- Don't see us growing a lot in the next 5 years, may get to 130 students.
- Chris Childs asked if the district was comfortable with present number of CHOICE students. Karen Berasi reported that presently the district is at a good number.

#### ● Annual 2015-2016 District Discipline Report

Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the 2015-2016 District Discipline report. The data will be analyzed by school and district leadership teams in relation to district and school improvement plans. He said state and federal regulations require school districts to collect, track and report student discipline data. He reviewed the specific offenses required by state regulations. Mr. Hendrickson reported that the data is tighter this year. Last year we worked at cleaning up the data and setting procedures.

#### ● Biannual Special Services Fall Update

Ms. Donais presented the special services fall update. She reviewed the areas of focus for this year and the philosophies for improving student outcomes. Ms. Donais highlighted the training provided to staff. Data was shared on the number of special education students in the district, broken out by disability, and the number of special education students outplaced and in magnet schools. Information on the number of students on 504 plans, and special education state assessment results were also shared. In response to Board members' questions, Ms. Donais said that forty-six paraprofessionals and certified staff participated in CCSN training with focus on social emotional training. There has been great growth on goals and objectives with many students. So much so in fact that PPTs have been scheduled to set new goals because students are mastering their previous goals. A Board member questioned the disparity in the number of students with a particular disability from 2015 to 2016 in each category. Ms. Donais said it is

difficult to have consistent numbers due to the fluidity in diagnoses. It was asked why there are no 504 students in Pre-K. Children at this age are going through the diagnoses process. Board members asked why there was little progress in the Smarter Balanced test data from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016. Superintendent Berasi said the Smarter Balanced Assessment is not a reliable means of measurement since the sample group is small. It was asked what other data could be used to measure student progress that would be more meaningful and could be reported in the spring to the Board. Ms. Berasi said the percentage of PPT goals being met would be a good measure and could be presented to the Board in the spring. The number of outplaced students for 2016-2017 was questioned. Ms. Berasi stated the number of outplaced students does not include students who were unilaterally placed. The Board asked when they will receive an updated on CCSN. Ms. Berasi asked what specific information the Board would like to receive. Board member Beiter said he would like to see information showing the effectiveness of the program to determine if it should be funded in the future.

- October 2016 Financial Report

Mr. Hoff reviewed the finance report pointing out that special education is over budget and that health care revenue is not as high as expected. Special education expenses for tuition and transportation are \$178,753 over budget. This is primarily due to tuition for student outplacements and mediations occurring after budget approval last year.

- SHS/SMS Course Proposals – SHS Writing Center Theory and Practicum, SHS UCONN ECE: Introduction to Individual and Family Development (H), and SMS Introduction to Robotics

Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the new courses proposed for the high school and middle school next year.

**MOTION #17-18:** Semyanko moved to approve the new SHS/SMS courses; SHS Writing Center Theory and Practicum, SHS UCONN ECE: Introduction to Individual and Family Development (H), and SMS Introduction to Robotics. Service seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried unanimously. (6-0)

### Reports to the Board

#### Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Berasi passed around the CABE convention packet – she and Brian Hendrickson attended on November 18.
- Superintendent Berasi received one email after the email to parents was sent regarding the early release day - one hour earlier. This study group is headed up by Brian Hendrickson. There will be a webinar and parent focus groups are being formed. A discussion will come to the public and BOE.
- Ms. Berasi also encouraged BOE members to attend the SHS Pep Rally, it “warms your heart” seeing kids get so excited. Thrilled to hear 60 teachers involved.

#### Chair's Report

No report available

### Subcommittee Reports

Board member Service reported on the Policy subcommittee meeting of November 21.

Policy #0521 and corresponding regulations were discussed. He extended an invitation to any and all members to attend.

Future Business

Regarding second public comment – Board member Semyanko reported that the policy change regarding second public comment was on the agenda when there was not a quorum at the November 7, 2016 meeting. Second public comment should be on the Board Chair’s agenda to address soon. Board member Wiesel questioned recording the BOE meeting and requested that this too be added to a future discussion.

Adjournment

Service moved, Wiesel seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on December 5, 2016.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Moriarty  
Secretary Pro Tem