

Board of Education Meeting
January 9, 2017

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members Natalie Semyanko, Kendra Wiesel, Jeanne Gee, Lori D'Ostuni, George Beiter (via phone), John Richter, Matt Service, Susi Keane, Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson and Business Manager Bill Hoff (left at 6:54 p.m.)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

None

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Semyanko moved, Keane seconded to approve the January 3, 2017 minutes. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 8-0.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion/Action Items

- 2017-2018 Proposed Elementary, Middle School, High School and Curriculum and Instruction Budget Presentation

Mr. Hendrickson gave an overview of the proposed 2017-2018 schools and Curriculum and Instruction budget. This budget request reflects a continuation in the work started last year. Last year's request in resources has resulted in creating a core team of curriculum and instruction leaders working with teachers and administrators, and this budget request will further strengthen this model. He reviewed the increases and decreases in each category as compared to this year's budget. Teachers and curriculum leaders spoke to the benefit of working with a math consultant this year, the impact of having curriculum leaders help teachers enhance their teaching practices, and curriculum writing that has been completed which has provided support for teachers. The principals spoke about the advantages of teachers writing curriculum and sharing it with their colleagues, strong curriculum documents that have been created to support teachers, the progress that has been made with curriculum leaders working with teachers, the benefits of professional development in organizational health, and the supporting of teachers through administrator professional development in teacher evaluation. Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the percentage increase in professional development over the last seven years, and added that the district will be monitoring the return on investment through key benchmarks in the district and school improvement plans, as well as through stakeholder feedback. Ms. Berasi thanked the teachers, curriculum leaders, coaches, and administrators for the quality of their work, which is having great impact on the students of Suffield. In response to a Board members question, Mr. Hendrickson said the biggest challenge in continuing this work is giving teachers time to collaborate with one another. Teachers, curriculum leaders and administrators gave specific examples of where more time would improve best practice and outcomes for students.

Reports to the Board

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Berasi said the district has received two donations: a snare drum and a piano.
- Ms. Berasi said Ms. Osleger received a quote of approximately \$40,000 from Cox Communication for internet service.
- The Superintendent received two emails from families in the last week who are opposed to the early release day proposal.

Board Chair's Report

- Board Chair Gee asked Central Office to send a list of all Board meeting dates through the end of February to Board members.

Business Manager's Report

- None

Subcommittee Reports

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting of January 5, 2017 - Board member Semyanko said the committee approved moving forward SHS courses Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B to the full Board for approval at its next meeting. Assistant Principals were in attendance to discuss intervention methods, and Mr. Bosworth was present to give an update on student athletes. Ms. Semyanko reminded Board members of the Curriculum Cabinet workshop tomorrow at 8:00 a.m.

Future Business

Recording of meetings

Adjournment

Semyanko moved, Service seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on January 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary