

Board of Education Meeting  
October 17, 2016

Call to Order

Board Chair Gee called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium. Present: Board members Natalie Semyanko, Jeanne Gee, Susi Keane, Matt Service, Superintendent Karen Berasi, and Business Manager Bill Hoff.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board did not have a quorum so no business was conducted, but did conduct the following items:

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized the Safe Grad committee members. Board Chair Gee said she and the community are grateful for the work of this committee and the example they set for our kids. Mr. Moccio echoed Ms. Gee's comments and acknowledged their hard efforts and persistence. He was profoundly grateful for their work they do on behalf of the students at Suffield High School.

Suffield High School Student Representative

Giancarlo Isotti updated the Board on events that have occurred at the high school for the months of September and October:

- Giancarlo also thanked the Safe Grad committee for their work in planning the after graduation celebrations
- Fall Athletics is underway: field hockey, football, swimming, cross country and soccer. The boys' varsity soccer team is 8-1; and the girls' varsity soccer team is undefeated.
- The National FFA CEO toured the Agriscience facility. Suffield Ag students placed 3rd in the nursery landscape category at the Big E. Eighteen students are going to the FFA convention; a total of 47,000 attend this convention. The Agriscience open house is November 9.
- The Color Run was on October 15 where there were 140 participants and \$1000 was raised for the 2017 and 2018 classes.
- 17 students will be inducted into the National Honors Society at its ceremony on October 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- The fall theater production, Happy Days, will be performed on November 10, 11, 12.
- October is Hispanic heritage month – students have made Spanish dishes as a way to celebrate
- PSAT's will be administered on October 19.
- The College Fair will take place on October 27; there will be 140 colleges, technical schools and military academies at the fair. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Advisory is highlighting new core values and recognition program
- Giancarlo is serving on the State Student Advisory Council on Education – he is on a focus group looking at ensuring excellence and equity for all students; areas being studied are closing gaps, social emotional learning, and college career readiness.

Public Comment

Jill Caron, 574 Halladay Ave W, thanked the district for piloting the autism program at the middle school. It has resulted in many positive results in her son who is in the program. She said the program is amazing and hope it continues next year.

Beth D'Agata, 448 North Grand Street, thanked Board for their supportive comments for the Safe Grad committee. She reviewed the current financial status of safe grad fund and asked the Board for a donation or monetary subsidy.

No other agenda items were discussed due to not having a quorum.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting on November 7, 2016.*

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Guerrette  
Secretary Pro Tem

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