

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
May 7, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, John Richter (by phone at 5:22 pm), Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Matt Service, Jamie Drzyzga, Michael Sepko, Debra Dudack, George Beiter, and Superintendent Karen Berasi

Executive Session

Davis moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion concerning the employment contract for the Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager. Sattan seconded the motion.

At 6:06 p.m. Sattan moved, Davis seconded to come out of executive session.

Regular Session

Board Chair Wiesel called the regular meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Matt Service, Jamie Drzyzga, Michael Sepko, Debra Dudack, George Beiter, John Richter (joined at 6:16 pm by phone), Superintendent Karen Berasi, Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson and Business Manager Bill Hoff.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

Four students were recognized by the Board of Education for receiving this year's CABA Student Leadership Awards: SMS students, Sadie Stauffer and Connor Boudreau, and SHS students Camden Miller and Alyssa Zawawi. Administrators spoke of their leadership attributes that led to them being selected for this award and they were presented a certificate.

The Suffield High School Class of 2018 Valedictorian and Salutatorian were recognized by the Board of Education: Valedictorian Joseph Longo and Salutatorian Marissa Guzzo.

Suffield High School Student Representative

Zachariah Service updated the Board on happenings at Suffield High School which included updates on spring sports, specifically mentioning tennis, lacrosse and golf. The boys and girls track team will be hosting the NCCC tournament in May. He commented on how the school has come together to support the girls lacrosse team which has shown amazing willpower after the tragic loss of teammate Brianna Mailloux. Within the next two weeks AP testing is happening at the high school with more sophomores than ever participating. The academic quiz team (AQT) went 5-5 placing 2nd overall in the afternoon bracket. Debate team placed 1st overall in the CT Valley debate championship with two team members ranked 1st and 2nd. The Unified Theatre will hold a performance on May 16th at 7pm; Spring Concert will be on May 24th at 7pm; Suffield Prom is this Friday 6pm at Riverview in Simsbury; senior outing will be at Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park. World Language Honor Society inducted 37 new members; Vo-

Ag banquet is on May 23rd. Dustin Doyon Memorial 5k Road Race will be held on May 26th and Joseph LaValla was chosen as April Rotary Student of the Month.

#### Public Comment

Melina Denno, 497 North Main Street, stated that her younger daughter currently attends 3 year old preschool program and has concerns with 4 year old program moving to a full day. She requested that current students would be grandfathered to have a half day option. Superintendent Karen Berasi stated she could not comment during public comment but would appreciate talking to the parent the following day.

Tracy Hespelt, 875 Copper Hill Road, shared FOI results of public act 17-3. Initial FOI request to provide certifications that teachers hold which fall under PA 17-3. Further detail was given in her FOI request to break down of certification and ELA training for teachers, response was we have no documents. Tracy stated that Suffield does not track certification as it relates to ELA and reading training provided to students.

Amanda Tini, 1220 Blossom Street, stated that on April 19th she withdrew her son from 4th grade because she felt he was not being challenged academically. Her son is now attending Academy Hill for gifted and talented children. Ms. Tini also commented on the Suffield Gifted and Talented program.

#### Consent Agenda

**MOTION #18-46:** Dudack moved to approve the following on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Revisions to Policy #5123 – Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
2. Approval of Minutes of the April 3, 2018 Regular Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes of the April 16, 2018 Special Meeting
4. Approval of Minutes of the April 18, 2018 Special Meeting

Beiter seconded the motion and all members voted in favor except Jamie Drzyzga who abstained. The motion carried 8-0-1.

#### Discussion/Action Items

- Possible appointment of the Suffield High School Principal

**MOTION #18-47:** Sattan moved to appoint James Blain as the Principal of Suffield High School and authorized the Superintendent to complete the hiring process. Davis seconded the motion and all members voted in favor except Jamie Drzyzga, who abstained. The motion carried 8-0-1.

- Naming of a Facility - Proposal to name the SHS Auditorium. Board members and the Superintendent applauded the students for presenting the BOE with a highly organized and passionate presentation to honor band teacher Joe Migliore. Board members spoke about the naming of the auditorium and how it would be setting a precedent. They discussed waiting until after retirement and also how other staff members use the facility. It was also discussed that naming the band room in his honor might be more appropriate.

**MOTION #18-48:** Beiter moved to name the SHS Auditorium the Joseph C. Migliore Performing Arts Center. Dudack seconded the motion. Richter and Service voted in favor of the motion. Sepko, Dudack, Mercik Davis, Sattan, Wiesel, Beiter, and Drzyzga voted against the motion. The motion failed 2-7.

**MOTION #18-49:** Davis moved to add a new item to the agenda proposing to name the SHS Band Room in honor of Joseph Migliore. Beiter seconded that motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 9-0.

**MOTION #18-50:** Davis moved to name the Suffield High School Band Room the Joseph C. Migliore Band Room, Service seconded the motion. Beiter amended the motion to rename the SHS Band Room the Joseph C. Migliore Music Center. Service seconded the amended motion. All members voted in favor of the original motion, and all members voted in favor of the motion as amended. The motion carried 9-0.

***Reception break at 7:50p.m. - Richter left the meeting via phone  
Resumed BOE meeting at 8:04p.m.***

- Gifted and Talented Update - Brian Hendrickson updated the Board on a recent participation in a workshop with board member Maureen Satan given by CTSDE & Connecticut Association for Gifted (CAG). In reaction to public comment he stated that he wanted to validate the parents' concerns and connect back to the increased need for professional development time for teachers to gain the tools for differentiating instruction. The Board watched a differentiation presentation from Assistant Superintendent Hendrickson which was produced in conjunction with the Library Media Specialist. Across the district Media Specialists are important partners in differentiation in all areas of curriculum and grade levels along with Curriculum Leaders and Instructional Coaches. Board Chair Kendra Wiesel asked that Mr. Hendrickson speak on Gifted and Talented within Suffield Public Schools. Mr. Hendrickson stated that Gifted and Talented falls under the SPED law in CT and that practices are in place to identify students that are Gifted and Talented but there are currently no requirements to provide services to identified students. Mr. Hendrickson stated that CT Boards of Education go about the practices of identifying in various ways depending on board policies. Board Chair Kendra Wiesel asked how many students in the district are identified as Gifted and Talented. Mr. Hendrickson stated that he has had conversations with SPED Director Natalie Donais about getting that information but due to various differences in record keeping and tracking she could not provide information at this time. Currently this school year there have been 2 PPT meetings with 1 identified student as Gifted and Talented. Superintendent Berasi spoke that to have students identified with an IEP through the PPT process is highly unusual in every district in CT. Students are identified through standardized testing and teacher collaboration to determine students in the top 5% of the class and challenge them academically. It is not required per the CT state statute to provide services once the student is identified as Gifted and Talented, which is why it is important that the district have a policy about implementing services once a student is identified as Gifted and Talented. Board chair Kendra Wiesel asked Mr. Hendrickson if there is more the board can do in the policy subcommittee to help support the program. Mr. Hendrickson stated that in order to implement a Gifted and Talented program there needs to be clear direction from the board. Superintendent Berasi agreed that having a discussion in policy would help set that direction. Board member Maureen Sattan asked if currently we have a program or what is being done for these students. Mr. Hendrickson stated that currently we do not have a clear plan at each school for Gifted and Talented but we follow clear directions from policy that differentiation is important for all students not just Gifted and Talented and this is embedded in the classroom. Board member Maureen Sattan expressed parents want more differentiation and can the district financially support a Gifted and Talented program. Mr.

Hendrickson updated the board on current curriculum and Panorama survey data points. Board member Sue Davis agrees this is a policy discussion and also a board vision discussion, she requested a report back on how much PLC time is used specifically for differentiation. Ms. Davis also asked for an update on calibrating between similar classes in the secondary level. Ms. Berasi and Mr. Hendrickson agreed and he stated that Department Chairs and Curriculum Leaders have worked hard in calibrating common assessments and grading practices within secondary departments. Mr. Hendrickson will provide a 3 year overview to where we are in regards to the board vision. Further discussion on this topic will be had during policy and also during the curriculum update at the next board meeting.

- March 2018 Financial Report, Mr. Hoff said the projected end of year net surplus is \$19,846. \$144,910 was taken away from ACCE. An error in the food service report and having three payrolls in March contributed to the loss.

- Approval of Revised Adopted 2018-2019 BOE Budget

**MOTION #18-51:** George Beiter moved to approve the revised adopted 2018-2019 BOE budget. Michael Sepko seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 9-0.

- BOE Discussion of Holding Two Meetings a Month

Kendra Wiesel opened with the discussion about moving to two meetings a month. Originally it was intended that the 2nd meeting would be for presentations and special meetings, but added the Board has encountered logistical challenges to adding topics at special meetings.

Ms. Wiesel discussed starting in September changing to two board meetings a month and also adjusting the start time to 6:30pm to provide time for executive session and special meetings prior. Board chair Kendra Wiesel will put together a schedule which will reflect two monthly board meetings and she will present it at the next board meeting in June.

### Reports to the Board

#### Superintendent's Report

- Ms. Berasi reported the resignation of Assistant Superintendent Brian Hendrickson as of June 30, 2018. She praised Mr. Hendrickson for everything he has done for the students and staff regarding curriculum and is grateful for their partnership. Mr. Hendrickson commented that teachers are hungry to keep the work going and assured staff that they will continue the great work. The Panorama survey is active for SPED families with only a 10 percent participation rate so far. Other Panorama surveys will go out this week. Ms. Berasi asked that a board member attend periodically the SPED improvement governance team; the next scheduled meeting is on May 16, 2018. SBAC, NGGS and AP testing has started. Mr. Hendrickson stated that the IT Director and IT staff have been on site to troubleshoot any issues. Student feedback has been very positive during the testing and students are eagerly awaiting results.

#### Board Chair's Report

- Ms. Wiesel welcomed new board member Jamie Drzyzga and thanked everyone for participating in the budget process and encouraged anyone to attend tomorrow night's Board of Finance meeting.

Business Manager's Report - none

### Subcommittee Report

- A. April 23 & 30, 2018 Policy Subcommittee Meetings – Board member Dudack reported at the April 23 meeting that committee members reviewed and revised the following bylaws and they are being placed on a 30-day read: #9130 – Committees; #9133 – Special/Advisory Committees; #9150 – Board Consultants; #9221 - Filling Vacancies; #9222 - Resignation/Removal from Office/Censure; #9240 - Board Member Development. At the April 30 meeting the committee discussed revisions to the Wellness Policy. They will present a revised policy to the Wellness Committee meeting on May 18.
- B. April 23, 2018 Finance, Facilities & Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting - Board member Sepko reported the committee discussed the \$150,000 reduction to the BOE budget by the Board of Finance, which is the revised budget the BOE voted on tonight.

### Future Business

- Debra Dudack would like to receive more information about the preschool program mentioned in public comment. Superintendent Berasi said she would provide the board with the information sooner than the next meeting and would be talking to the parent within the next few days.
- Michael Sepko would like to add a topic item to the next board meeting to discuss public conference calls being used for special topics as an option if board members are traveling or not available to attend meetings.
- RISE program update
- SADD program

### Executive Session, continued

Beiter moved, Sepko seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m. and return to executive session for the purpose of discussion concerning the employment contract for the Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Matt Service, Jamie Drzyzga, Michael Sepko, Debra Dudack, George Beiter, and Superintendent Karen Berasi

Sepko moved, Beiter seconded to adjourn the executive session at 9:06 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 4, 2018.*

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack  
Secretary