

Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 1, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Michael Sepko, Debra Dudack, Jamie Drzyzga, John Richter, George Beiter, Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi and Business Manager Bill Hoff

Absent: Matt Service

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

None

Public Comment

None

Minutes

Dudack, moved, Sepko seconded to approve the September 17, 2018 regular meeting minutes. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 8-0.

Consent Agenda

None

Discussion/Action Items

- 2018-2019 Elementary School Improvement Plans Presentation

Mr. Winzler said this year it was decided to separate out the school improvement plan presentations to the board and also for each school to focus on a few goals rather than all the goals that were previously in the plans in order to focus their efforts. Dr. Pangallo said Spaulding and McAlister worked together to create coordinated and cohesive plans. All stakeholders were involved in the process: school administrators, teachers, curriculum leaders and coaches. The plans, based on using historical data, focus on building capacity from one grade to the next, developing coordinated professional development, and enhancing programming and structures to ensure high quality teaching. Dr. Pangallo noted the fall assessment results are not included in the plan as the assessments are currently being administered. The plan will be updated when the scores are available. Ms. Carpenter-Snow reviewed the specific goals both schools will be focusing on based on the three district goals: curriculum and instruction, teacher and administrator growth equals student growth, and organizational health. Within those targeted goals, specific strategies have been developed to achieve the goals. Success will be measured using STAR reading and math data, benchmark assessment data, Smarter Balance results (McAlister), survey results from students and parents, and discipline reports. Several Board members' had questions relative to successes and challenges, how long certain assessments have been used in the district, what measure of growth is considered successful, and if any data that was presented previously was not included in the current plan. Dr. Pangallo said their efforts are focused on strengthening Tier I instruction by using the workshop model of instruction and focusing PLCs in this work as well. Dr. Pangallo

described how the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment is administered which assesses a child's reading ability: accuracy, fluency, understanding, comprehension and critical analysis. Dr. Pangallo said the standard of measurement moves from fall to spring. Ms. Carpenter-Snow said this model of reporting began in the fall of 2016. STAR math assessments began before 2016 and STAR reading assessments began in 2016. Ms. Carpenter-Snow said the DRP that was previously administered to McAlister students is no longer being used and not included in this year's plan because the DRP produced limited information and took a long time to administer. Dr. Pangallo said the expectation for success is a 4-5% growth per year. In response to a Board member's question relative to a significant decrease in office referrals at Spaulding, Dr. Pangallo said in reviewing previous years' referrals, many of them were minor and should not have been office referrals. In addition teachers are doing a better job in their social skills classes. In response to Board members' questions relative to comparing Suffield's data with other districts and tracking cohorts, Dr. Pangallo said it is difficult to compare data for lower elementary grades as there is not a lot of data available, but it can certainly be done with Smarter Balanced data, and it would be beneficial to compare that data. Dr. Pangallo added that cohort data is tracked and reviewed. In response to a Board member's question, both Dr. Pangallo and Ms. Carpenter-Snow said the challenges are similar in both schools. Board Chair Wiesel said that engagement with the community is also an endeavor the Board will be focusing on to improve communication with all stakeholders.

Reports to the Board

- Superintendent's Report - Mr. Winzler said he has been meeting with individual board members one-on-one. By end of this week he will have met with every Board member. He said he is still in process of hiring an Interim Director of Special Services. He met with one person today and will be meeting with another person on Thursday. Mr. Winzler stated he received the CREC proposal regarding special education late this afternoon but has not yet had an opportunity to review the proposal. Mr. Winzler said there are many events and responsibilities that pull administrators away from being in the classrooms such as developing their school improvement plans, but you can see the enthusiasm and energy the administrators have for improvement. Central Office is working to better organize and manage their time out of their buildings so that they can maximize their time in their buildings which will improve instruction.
- Board Chair's Report - Ms. Wiesel said the Communications subcommittee will begin so the Board can focus on community engagement. Board member Sattan will chair this subcommittee and meeting dates will be scheduled in the near future. The committee will look at different avenues of communication such as developing a communication plan, holding forums, public relations, social media, and providing professional development for board members on what boards should do in times of crisis. Two SHS student representatives will be attending Board meetings beginning in November pending board approval of the new bylaw.
- Business Manager's Report - Mr. Hoff said the installation of the new auditorium floor at Spaulding is complete.

Subcommittee Report

- A. September 17, 2018 Policy Subcommittee Meeting – Policy #6159 - Individualized Education/Special Education Program - is being placed on a 30-day read.
- B. October 1, 2018 Curriculum & Instruction Meeting - Board member Mercik Davis said Ms. Zawawi shared her vision and plan for curriculum and instruction in the district. The committee is looking at Tier I instruction to focus on student-centered learning and increase

rigor. All curriculum will be available to view on the district's website, starting in the next few weeks. Course proposals will be presented to the committee at its November meeting.

Future Business

None

Adjournment

Beiter moved, Dudack seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of October 15, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack
Secretary

DRAFT