

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
May 20, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Board members Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, John Richter, Matt Service, Jamie Drzyzga, Debra Dudack, James Mol (arrived 5:21 p.m.), and Brian Fry; Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi, Business Manager Bill Hoff, and Superintendent-elect Timothy Van Tasel; and SHS Student Representative Hannah Stack (arrived 5:27 p.m.)

Absent: Michael Sepko and SHS Student Representative Sarah Dubocq

Public Comment

None

Discussion/Action Item

- Discussion of Revisions to the 2019-2020 Board of Education Budget  
Board Chair Mercik Davis said the Board and administrative team have been diligent in developing the budget. With the Board of Finance reduction to the Board of Education budget, the Board needs to decide how to make up the approximately \$131,000 to balance the budget. She noted that in addition to this number, administration has determined due to larger kindergarten enrollment than projected for next year, there is a need for an additional kindergarten teacher, increasing the budget gap to \$183,710. Board Chair Mercik Davis said the Board does not want to make any of these difficult decisions, but it is necessary to balance the budget for next year. The Board originally looked at making up the \$131,000 solely through instituting pay to participate; however, at the last Board meeting members expressed discomfort with having families responsible for the full amount. The Board discussed instituting lesser fees for pay to participate and also instituting pay to park for high school students. The Board discussed the logistics of implementing pay to park with Mr. Blain, SHS Principal. By consensus, the Board was in agreement to instituting pay to park for students at the high school at a fee of \$100 per year, generating approximately \$17,000 a year, with Board member Dudack expressing opposition. In addition, the Board discussed where and how much to institute for pay to participate, with Board member Dudack expressing opposition. They also looked at a possible budget reduction list provided by the administration. This list included recommended positions by the administration to reduce or eliminate, new positions budgeted for the 2019-2020 school year, positions added in the 2018-2019 school year, and a list of other possible positions and programs to eliminate. Mr. Winzler said the recommended list was a result of meetings and discussions with Central Office and building administrators. Mr. Smith, SMS Principal, explained the impact that potentially reducing two eighth grade ELA teachers would have on students. Mr.

Van Tasel spoke about the benefits of a middle school teaming model which promotes collaboration across disciplines and can be enhanced with interventionists. Board Chair Mercik Davis reminded Board members the Board will need to vote on the budget by its June 3 meeting. Board member Richter suggested the administration give a final recommendation to the Board for its consideration. Board Chair Mercik Davis summarized the consensus of the Board this evening which included \$50,000 to \$65,000 in revenue generated by pay to park/participate and eliminate the 0.5FTE SMS music teacher proposed for next year. Mr. Winzler stated the administration will send their recommendations to the Board in advance of the June 3 meeting.

Adjournment

Dudack moved, Richter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

*Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of June 3, 2019.*

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dudack  
Secretary