

Board of Education Special Meeting
August 6, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Auditorium.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, John Richter, Susan Mercik Davis, Maureen Sattan, Matt Service, Michael Sepko, Debra Dudack, George Beiter, and Jamie Drzyzga (via telephone)

Discussion

- Discussion Concerning the Superintendent's Employment (proposed for executive session)
At 5:30 p.m. Dudack moved, Sepko seconded to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's employment. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 9-0.

The executive session concluded at 6:20 p.m.

- Possible Action Concerning the Superintendent's Employment
MOTION #19-03: Dudack moved that the Board place Karen Berasi, Superintendent of Schools, on administrative leave with pay, effective August 6, 2018 and continuing for such time as deemed necessary by the Board, pending the investigation of matters related to Ms. Berasi's performance and conduct. Beiter seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The motion carried 9-0.

Board Chair Wiesel read the following statement: We wish to assure all Suffield residents that the safety of our children is our foremost concern. While we have decided to place Ms. Berasi on administrative leave during the ongoing investigation, we want to be very clear that in doing so, the Board has not reached any conclusions regarding whether Ms. Berasi engaged in improper conduct. We have remained in contact with our attorney since becoming aware of the investigation. In consideration of the information we have to date, and in order to permit the police investigation to proceed most effectively and for the district to move forward productively, we have determined that placing Ms. Berasi on administrative leave is appropriate. We believe this action is in the best educational interest of the district at this time.

Adjournment

Beiter moved, Sepko seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 6:28 p.m.