

**Suffield Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.  
Suffield Middle School Media Center**

Attendees: Board members: Kendra Wiesel, Debra Dudack, Michael Sepko, Jamie Drzyzga, Susan Mercik Davis, and Maureen Sattan, and Interim Superintendent Michelle Zawawi.

Board Chair Kendra Wiesel called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sattan moved to enter into executive session for a personnel matter to discuss candidates for Interim Director of Special Services and Interim Superintendent while inviting our current Interim Superintendent Michelle Zawawi to participate in the executive session. Mercik Davis seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed 6 - 0.

Board Chair Wiesel ended the executive session at 8:35 p.m.

**Discussion and possible action to appoint an Interim Director of Special Services:**

**MOTION:** Mercik Davis moved, Sattan seconded to appoint Denise Epps as Interim Director of Special Services. All members voted in favor. The motion passed 6 - 0.

Board Chair Wiesel stated that the Board wanted to thank Denise Epps for the good work she has already done in the district as a consultant. Board Chair Wiesel also stated that while the Board hoped the search for a permanent Director of Special Services would yield a candidate who could take over the full-time position, the Board is happy to be able to continue to work with Ms. Epps as that search continues.

**Discussion and possible action to appoint a new Interim Superintendent:**

**MOTION:** Mercik Davis moved to appoint Mark Winzler as Interim Superintendent for such time as deemed necessary by the Board, subject to the execution of a contract by the Board Chair on behalf of the Board, and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Drzyzga seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 6 - 0.

Board Chair Wiesel thanked current Interim Superintendent Michelle Zawawi for coming into Suffield and filling the role of Interim Superintendent while also starting her regular position as Assistant Superintendent. Board Chair Wiesel noted that the Board is grateful for all she has accomplished in the short time she has been in the District. Board Chair Wiesel noted that the Board planned to have Ms. Zawawi serve temporarily as the Interim Superintendent while the Board searched for another Interim. She also stated she began to connect with potential Interims last week and was fortunate to find multiple highly distinguished and experienced Interim Superintendents who were interested in coming to Suffield while also understanding that our timeframe for how long we need the position filled is not well defined. Board Chair Wiesel

noted that Mr. Winzler retired as Superintendent of Bolton Public Schools in 2009 and currently serves as the Interim Director of Human Resources in Manchester, a position that is winding down. Including that position, he has served in 12 interim positions, with most of them being Interim Superintendent positions. Board Chair Wiesel stated that Mr. Winzler comes highly regarded and recommended, and that he has a proven track record of working effectively with all stakeholders in districts. She stated the Board is looking forward to working collaboratively with both Mr. Winzler and Ms. Zawawi in their roles. Board Chair Wiesel will begin work on negotiating a contract and start date immediately.

**MOTION:** Drzyzga moved to adjourn the meeting. Sepko seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed 6 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.