

Approved by Board of Education: June 5, 2012

Suffield, Connecticut

Board of Education Meeting

May 15, 2012

Call to Order

Chair Susan Porcello called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Suffield Middle School Media Center. Present: Board members Susan Porcello, Robert Eccles, Mary Lou Sanborn, Mary Roy, Jeanne Gee, George Beiter, Lori D'Ostuni, Michelle Zawawi, and Scott Schneider; Superintendent of Schools, Karen Baldwin; Director of Fiscal Administration, Ed Basile and observers.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Special Recognition Awards

Superintendent Baldwin introduced Suzanne Wosko as Suffield's Teacher of the Year 2012-2013. Suzanne thanked the Board and the Teacher of the Year Committee for recognizing her as the Teacher of the Year. Jack Ferraro outlined the criteria for the Teacher of the Year selection, stating that the teacher of the year recognizes excellence in teaching, community pride and role modeling for all. He also stated that Suffield is very fortunate to have so many outstanding teachers. Susan Porcello, Chair, thanked Mr. Ferraro for leading the charge of the Teacher of the Year Committee.

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards - Superintendent Baldwin introduced Susan Porcello, Chair, who recognized four students – two from the Suffield Middle School and two from the Suffield High School. Some of the criteria for this award include willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, commitment and diplomacy. The four students are Daniel B. Bahl and Olivia H. Stanley from Suffield Middle School and Natalie V. Hitt and Daniel J. Moroney from Suffield High School.

The Superintendent introduced Ida Hickerson, Assistant Principal of the Suffield Middle School. Mrs. Hickerson very proudly introduced the students from the Suffield Middle School. Also recognized were 8th grade students Noelle Albert and Lukas Baker by the Connecticut Association of Schools as Scholar Leaders.

Eighth grade students Laura Sweeney and Michael McDermott were recognized for Excellence in Leadership by the Connecticut Association of Schools and Jonathan Hagenow was recognized by the Secretary of the State for the Excellence in Citizenship.

The Superintendent congratulated all of the students and their families, praising and thanking all of the students for being positive role models in their school communities.

Superintendent Baldwin recognized the four school nurses. The Superintendent read a proclamation from Governor Dannel P. Malloy recognizing May 9, 2012 as School Nurses Day. The school nurses that were recognized were Molly Baumann, Suffield High School Nurse; Kristin Richards, Suffield Middle School Nurse; Michelle Fall, School Nurse, McAlister Intermediate School and Colleen Webber, School Nurse, Spaulding School. Each of the nurses was presented with a plaque and thanked by the Board of Education for their service and commitment to the students of the Suffield Public Schools.

Approval of Minutes

Roy moved, Eccles seconded to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2012 Board meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented and approved under the Consent Agenda.

- A. Financial Statements – March/April
- B. Position Descriptions
 - Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Special Services
 - Supervisor of Special Education for PreK-5th Grades
 - Supervisor of Special Education for 6-12th Grades

Board member Eccles noted that Item C should be moved to VIII. Discussion/Action Items

1. Presentation of the Suffield Public Schools Strategic Plan 2012/2017. Board members agreed.

MOTION #12-028 Eccles, moved D’Ostuni seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items - Presentation of the Suffield Public Schools Strategic Plan 2012/2017 by Jonathan Costa.

Superintendent Baldwin introduced Jonathan Costa, Consultant from the Education Connection.

Jonathan Costa stated that the Board had the opportunity to review the final plan prior to the Board meeting so he did not feel it was necessary to go over in detail. He asked the Board if they had questions or comments.

Mr. Costa stated that a great deal of time and work (approximately 75 to 80 hours) began in September 2011 with a Core Planning Team of approximately 23 people, consisting of district administrators, Board members and community members. The purpose of this process was to explore the current and anticipated conditions impacting the district and come together to identify a small number of data-

based goals that could guide the future work of policy makers and educational professionals within Suffield.

This process/study resulted in the following four goals:

Goal One: Develop and implement policy, systemic practices and cultural shifts needed for a digital learning environment.

Goal Two: Design and implement an integrated plan for professional learning aligned with district needs.

Goal Three: Systematically use meaningful data to drive and improve student learning

Goal Four: Revise and implement a curriculum that embeds 21st Century Skills and is aligned with Common Core Standards.

Mr. Costa stated that this was a good collaborative effort, very productive and invigorating. He said that Suffield has an advantage of about a six month head start to begin to meet the needs of the district.

MOTION #12-029: Roy moved, Eccles seconded to approve the Strategic Planning Executive Summary 2012-2017/Goals as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Board member Schneider thanked Mr. Costa stating that this is a very thorough report.

Suffield High School Student Representative

Alyssa Puia, SHS Student Rep, reported the following to the Board.

1. On May 12, 2012 – a 5K Road Race for Crohnes/Colitis Association of America was held
2. Girl's Tennis ranked #3 in NCCC – qualified for state team tournament
3. Boy's tennis 4 players qualified for state tournament
4. Girl's Softball ranked #3 NCCC - qualified for state tournament
5. Boy's Baseball – qualified for state tournament for the 2nd consecutive year
6. The Scholars' Breakfast will be held May 23, 2012
7. The Pops Concert will be held on May 24, 2012
8. The Prom will be held at LA Renaissance on May 25, 2012
9. High Meadow – May 29, 2012
10. June 4, 2012 – Underclass Awards and Art Show
11. June 5, Sports Awards

Alyssa reported that she did not have any new questions for the Board because it is such a busy time of year (AP), etc.

Board member Gee asked Alyssa if the students would be open to Superintendent Baldwin coming to the high school and having conversations with students. Alyssa said that she thought it was a very good idea. Principal Hayward suggested that an invitation be extended to Superintendent Baldwin to attend

the next "A" Team Meeting.

Reports to the Board

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Vacancy Timelines and Process for Central Office Reorganization

Karen Baldwin reported that the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Special Services has been posted. The Superintendent reported that an invitation to participate on the interview committee will go out this week. The first round of interviews will be with the interview committee. The second step will be a performance task and reference check hopefully to be completed by June 28. The Board of Education will interview the finalist at their July 17, 2012 Board meeting with a date of hire to be August 1.

2. Common Core State Standards

Karen Baldwin reported that on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 a half day of professional development was held throughout the district. The focus was on the Mathematics Common Core Standards. Principals at every level worked very hard to facilitate to their faculty members.

The Superintendent will provide an updated report at a future Board meeting.

B. Board Chair Report

1. The budget has passed and is in place.

C. Business Manger's Report

1. The Agriscience project is moving forward – floors are not yet installed.

The next step would be to complete a punch list with the contractor and then after that a punch list with the architect.

Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee - Mary Lou Sanborn reported that five policies have been placed on the table for the required 30 days prior to Board approval. The policies are 5141.221 Pediculosis, 5141.221R, 9010 Limits of Authority, 9130 Committees and 9030 Principles relating to Board Communications and Interactions.

- B. Facilities Subcommittee – Sue Porcello reported that the Facilities Subcommittee had met prior to the Board of Education meeting. There was discussion of landscaping around the Rotary Hut. Rotary has donated \$5,000 towards the project. There are some drainage issues which the town is addressing. There was also discussion of rebuilding the retaining wall, extending the pavement and plantings. The Board of Education may need to spend \$10,000 towards the completion of the project. Larry Plano, Facilities Director is working with a local landscape contractor to discuss what needs to be addressed.

Board member Gee asked if the sidewalk between the tennis courts and the turf field is designed for automobiles to drive on. No one should be driving on that area. Principal Hayward indicated that she would follow up so that no one drives on the property.

Human Resources – Mary Roy reported that the Food Services negotiations are moving along – the next scheduled session is May 29.

Public Comment

Doriana Vicedomini spoke in favor of the Strategic Plan, stating that it was a good process – she suggested that we put it out to all parents and would like to see the process move faster. She is sending her child to a magnet school because they are already using digital technology with all of their students.

Executive Session

Eccles moved, D'Ostuni seconded to move into executive session at 8:30 p.m.

There was discussion of the Superintendent's evaluation.

D'Ostuni moved, Eccles seconded to come out of executive session at 8:51 p.m.

D'Ostuni moved, Eccles seconded to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary

LD/dal

