

Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 19, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Suffield Middle Media Center.

Present: Board members Kendra Wiesel, Michael Sepko, John Richter, George Beiter, Matt Service, Susan Mercik Davis (arrived at 6:49pm), Maureen Sattan (arrived at 6:49pm), and Jamie Drzyzga (arrived at 6:49pm); Assistant Superintendent Michelle Zawawi (arrived at 6:50pm), Business Manager Bill Hoff; and SHS Student Representatives Sarah Dubocq and Hannah Stack (arrived at 7:13pm)

Absent: Debra Dudack and Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Wiesel asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda under Discussion/Action Items for the Board to discuss its future planning and scheduling.

MOTION #19-18: Beiter moved, Sepko seconded to add Future Planning and Scheduling as Item A and move Item A: Election of Board of Education Chairperson to Item C. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 5-0.

Recognition

None

Suffield High School Student Representatives

Sarah Dubocq reported that 32 students were inducted into the National Honors Society, Zielinski's Kindness Crew raised over \$1000 for a service dog, the FFA placed 4th in a horse evaluation competition, and all fall sports teams went to states this year.

Miss Dubocq left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Presentations

None

Reports to the Board

- Superintendent's Report - None
- Board Chair's Report - Board Chair Wiesel said four board members, as well as Mr. Winzler and Ms. Zawawi attended the CAFE conference. She announced this is her last meeting and appreciated board members' support.
- Business Manager's Report - Mr. Hoff said teachers are scheduled to vote on their contract tomorrow and, if ratified, the contract will be presented to the Board for its approval at the next Board meeting. Mr. Hoff said the budget process is underway. Department budget meetings begin tomorrow and Mr. Winzler will present the superintendent's budget to the Board on January 22, 2019.

Consent Agenda

Beiter moved, Richter seconded to approve the November 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Action Items

- Planning and Scheduling Update

Board Chair Wiesel reviewed the upcoming items that the Board will have to plan for in the coming weeks; the first being filling her seat as she will be resigning from the Board on Wednesday. The Board has 14 to 30 days to fill the vacancy so interviews will need to be scheduled; however, she has not yet received any information from the Democratic Town Committee. Board member Beiter said since this is a public office, interviews should be conducted at a public meeting not in executive session.

Board Chair Wiesel added that Mr. Winzler would like to have a budget discussion at the next board meeting for the Board to articulate its goals.

Board Chair Wiesel reviewed the process for hiring a new superintendent. The first step is for the Board to appoint itself as the search committee. The board discussed the need to appoint themselves as a search committee since the bylaws state it is the Board's duty to hire a superintendent. Board members discussed utilizing Mr. Winzler's vast experience in this area to help guide them. Board members also discussed the possibility of hiring a search consultant, the timeline of the hiring process, and seeking input from all stakeholders.

Board Chair Wiesel said an executive session with the Board's attorney to discuss Board roles and responsibilities was supposed to occur in early fall. Mr. Winzler would like to schedule that meeting for December 6. Board members decided it would be more beneficial to schedule that meeting after the new Board member is appointed.

- October 2018 Financial Report and Approval of Budget Transfers

Mr. Hoff reported the projected year end shows a net surplus of \$135.00. There is an approximate projected year end amount of \$500,000 in the Open Choice grant, but the budget is very tight. He noted the projection for legal expenses was increased due to actual expenditures. Special Education tuition also increased due to out of district and unilateral placement expenditures higher than what was budgeted. Mr. Hoff noted the increase in the ASTE grant award from \$74,371 to \$226,33, which was due to the state increasing funding per student and the increase in Agriscience enrollment. Mr. Hoff reviewed the need for the Board to approve the budget transfers presented, specifically adjustments for salary increases and turnover and to move funds from accounts where costs are below budget to accounts that are over budget.

MOTION #19-19: Service moved, Mercik Davis seconded to approve the budget transfers as presented. All members voted in favor. The motion carried 8-0.

- Election of Board of Education Chairperson

MOTION #19-20: Beiter nominated Mercik Davis for Board of Education Chair; Sattan seconded the nomination. Beiter moved to close the nominations, Sattan seconded the motion. Votes were taken by written ballot and Board Chair Wiesel tallied the votes. All members voted in favor of Mercik Davis' nomination as Chair except for Wiesel, who abstained. The motion carried 7-0-1.

Board members thanked Ms. Wiesel for her hard work during this difficult time and her ability to unite the Board. The Board presented Ms. Wiesel with a gift. Ms. Zawawi also thanked Ms. Wiesel for her time, dedication and energy.

Board member Sepko left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mercik Davis chaired the meeting from this point forward.

Subcommittee Reports

November 19, 2018 Curriculum & Instruction subcommittee meeting - Board Chair Mercik Davis said the committee heard proposals for a new middle school history textbook and new SHS courses: AP Human Geography, AP Computer Science, and AP capstone course and a school to career experience. The school to career experience will be piloted in the spring.

Future Business

None

Adjournment

Wiesel moved, Richter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes are subject to approval at the regular meeting of December 3, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Guerrette
Secretary Pro Tem