Suffield Board of Education
Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2015
7:30 a.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Call to Order 7:34 a.m.

Present: Dr. Chafetz (Interim Superintendent), Natalie Semyanko, John Richter, Matt Service, Bill Hoff (Business Manager), Lori D'Ostuni (arrived 7:38 a.m.), George Beiter (via phone), Ryan Anderson – BOF- (arrived 7:42 a.m.)

Mr. Hoff explained the budget work has been characterized by a conservative, accurately aligned examination of current line items. There are positions in the district for 2014/2015 that were not budgeted positions in the passed budget for the current school year. These include: speech therapist, occupational therapist, paraprofessionals, high school special-education teacher/transition specialist.

There was a discussion around the "Choice budget" being separate from the regular BOE budget and the previous practice of sometimes using Choice grant funds to cover FTE positions that should be funded directly from the BOE budget.

Mr. Richter and Ms. Gee left at 8:04 a.m.; Ms. Gee rejoined at 8:06 a.m.

Discussion continued around working closely with the Board of Finance and engaging in timelines and discussions that engage both boards in the work around a BOE budget.
Ms. D'Ostuni was interested in compiling budget information with greater detail allowing BOE members to understand drivers on proposed changes. There was a historical discussion around the amount, presentation and level of detail in the budget information.

The committee had a discussion of TRB (Teacher Retirement Board) Stipends and various grants and the budget impact.

Mr. Hoff pointed out the main drivers of the 2015/2016 BOE Budget:

- Teacher Salaries
- 15.2 Additional Paras
- Certified Substitutes
- Health Benefits
- Social Security
- Instructional Supplies (math program k-5/6)
- Food Service Subsidy

Mr. Service left at 8:30 a.m.; Mr. Beiter left at 8:35 a.m.; Ms. Semyanko left at 8:40 a.m.

The committee had a discussion around next steps and the agenda for the upcoming meeting on February 23, 2015. Agenda items to include: digital memberships, technology, Open-Choice grant, and stipends (club).

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Gee