I. **CALL TO ORDER**
   A. **Salute to the Flag**

   Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.
   Mr. Stanek spoke of a retired Seymour School teacher, Mr. Leonard Albaitis, who passed away on Sunday May 5.
   Mr. Albaitis taught in the district for 47 years and a moment of silence was observed in his honor.

II. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**
   A. **Recognitions**

   1. Presentation of certificates to the Spring Citizens Academy members. Mrs. Syriac spoke fondly of the members of the Spring Citizens Academy and presented a certificate to Mr. Kevin Flaherty who was able to attend tonight’s meeting. Mrs. Syriac said we would do another Citizens Academy in the fall and encouraged people to attend.

   2. Congratulations to Bungay Elementary School on their very successful effort to raise funds for the Lymphomas Research Foundation. They were able to donate $500.00.

   3. Mr. Jay Hatfield and Kristen Harmeling were able to attend the post prom event at Shelton Sports Center. Mr. Hatfield praised the event and thanked all the wonderful volunteers who organized the event and who stayed up all night chaperoning our students.
4. Mr. Ed Strumello noted our softball coach, Ken Pereiras, achieved 200 wins in nine years. This is a huge accomplishment based on the number of games that are played each year.

B. Correspondence
1. Letter dated April 24, 2013 to Glenn Lungarini from NEASC granting the request for a postponement of the scheduled evaluation of Seymour High School from 2015 to the calendar year 2016.
2. Letter dated March 25, 2013 to Christine Syriac from PACE.ECA thanking the Seymour Public Schools for funding the tuition for students to attend ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA).
3. Email dated April 30, 2013 to Nancy Snopkowski, Christine Syriac, Glenn Lungarini, and Jim Freund from Paul Lucke inviting all board members and members of our community to see Seymour High School participate in the Electrathon race on May 10, 2013 at Lime Rock Park

III. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION
A. REPORTS
1. Chairman’s Report
   a. Chairman’s Report
      None
   b. Board Members Comments
      1) Mr. Ed Strumello noted that May 8 is Teacher Appreciation Day and asked that an email be sent to teachers and administrators from the board members thanking them for their service to the students of Seymour.
      2) Mr. Jim Garofolo requested the administration do a presentation on technology to the Board of Education prior to the 2013-14 school year and to specifically address the concerns brought up by the members of the student council.

2. Superintendent’s Report
   Mrs. Syriac reminded everyone that the referendum on the budget will be on Thursday, May 9, 2013. She said she has been reaching out to parents and leaders of the school PTAs. She noted that she will send an additional reminder. Mr. Strumello asked if Mr. Putorti, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Danka had drafted a letter to the public. Mr. Putorti indicated that this had not been done. Mrs. Syriac said she had been contacted by a newspaper related to the New Haven Register concerning a story that was being done about teacher attendance statewide. Regarding the last two days of school, Mrs. Syriac indicated that she continues to get requests from teachers to reduce the number of school days and use the last two days for professional development. Secretaries’ negotiations have been cancelled on May 8 due to a scheduling conflict. She spoke of the interviewing process for the Bungay School Assistant Principal position and said the committee interviewed many fine candidates and has narrowed the field to three. Those three candidates will return for additional interviews and she is very hopeful to bring a candidate forward at the June 3 meeting. Mr. Strumello agreed with Mrs. Syriac saying the candidates were outstanding. Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board members that the Awards meeting would take place on June 3, 2013 and there would be a Special Board of Education meeting on May 20, 2013 at 7:30 in Seymour Middle School.

3. Committee Reports
   a. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2013
   b. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2013
      Mr. Hatfield asked about the voting abilities of committee members when no chair is present and said he could find no past practice.
   c. Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2013
   d. Finance Committee Meeting Agenda – May 6, 2013
B. INFORMATION

1. School Activities and Recognitions

   a. High School Student Representative Report
      1) Inside Out 10th Annual Seymour High School Student Art Show
      2) FBLA State Leadership Conference
      3) Core Values and Beliefs focus group
      4) Sikorsky Financial Reality Fair
      5) Diversity Day
      6) Distractology
      7) Take a Stand Day
      8) Prom and Post Prom

   b. Middle School (see attached)

   c. Bungay School (see attached)

   d. Chatfield-LoPresti School (see attached)

2. Staff Resignation – Non Certified
   a. Sandra Guard
      ▪ Part time Clerical Paraprofessional
      ▪ Bungay Elementary School
      ▪ Effective April 19, 2013

3. Staff Resignation – Appendix E
   a. Joseph Poulson
      ▪ Head Coach
      ▪ High School Cross Country Team
      ▪ Effective immediately

4. School Improvement Plan Mid Year Report
   a. Seymour Middle School – Bernadette Hamad
      Mrs. Hamad presented the mid year report on the School Improvement plan for Seymour Middle School. She thanked the Board for allowing her to present this very important information. Mr. Strumello questioned the reference to 20% growth in math and expressed some concern that this was not flattering to the district. Mrs. Hamad said overall she felt we were in a good place and would continue to grow for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Garofolo asked for more detail when she says we are increasing rigor. Mrs. Hamad said teachers are forming questions, and developing student tasks that increase rigor. Basically it’s the way the teachers are teaching. When asked for a specific example; Mrs. Hamad indicated the way Social Studies is taught is a perfect example. In previous years, they taught about each country now they ask students to compare each country and gather information themselves. Teachers encourage students to take a stance and defend it. Teachers have higher expectations of their students.

5. Women in Science Seminar

6. Seymour High School Assistant Football Coach Discussion
   Mr. Hatfield questioned why this was on the agenda without going through the Athletic Committee first. Mrs. Syriac reminded him that a Board member had questioned whether we might be able to reduce the number of coaches. When this position was vacated, she felt it would be important for the Board to review and decide if we should move forward with a replacement. Mr. Lungarini and Mr. Rostowsky indicated we currently have 1 head coach and 5 assistants which is one coach less than when Oxford exited. The current ratio is 51 students to 6 coaches. Both Mr. Lungarini and Mr. Rostowsky advocated for keeping the position. Mr. Kubik asked about surrounding schools and the number of coaches they had. Woodland has six coaches; Waterbury has five coaches but no freshman teams. Ms. Magri said the contract says we should have 1 head coach and six assistants and wondered if having less would be a problem. Mr. Belden said we are not obligated to the number of coaches, only to the salaries of coaches.
When asked about volunteers, Mr. Lungarini indicated we do have volunteers but cannot count on them for a set schedule and therefore do not rely on volunteers for coaching duties. After the discussion, the board decided that they have no problem with the position and approved the replacement hiring of one assistant coach.

7. Contingency Fund Discussion
Mr. Belden discussed the need to request the opening of a contingency fund in writing to the Board of Finance and indicated that if they wanted to move forward this would be the next step and he could provide the necessary wording for the motion for the next meeting. Mr. Belden said he has found this has become more common in districts in recent years. The amount that can be deposited into a contingency fund is up to 1% which would be $300,000 for Seymour. He again said that the Board would need to take formal action to request the Board of Finance to establish the contingency fund and we should be flexible when making plans for the use of the funds. There was a discussion among the Board members regarding the impact a contingency fund might have on future budget requests. The fear being, the amount in the fund would be used as an argument to reduce our budget. Mr. Belden said this is why it is important that we identify specific uses for any funds in the account. Mr. Garofolo said if we deposited money into the account each year and did not use it, we would probably get scathing reviews from the public and town officials. He said he was uneasy about this and fearful that we would suffer damage. Mr. Putorti agreed and Ms. Magri asked if it would have an impact on our funding from the state. Mr. Belden indicated it would not because those dollars are based on our budget. Mr. Stanek said he was in favor of a contingency fund and said the funds could be used to address security and beyond, it would help with unforeseen infrastructure needs, unexpected Special Education costs or unexpected failures of equipment. He also indicated he often hears about the need for a late bus and the funds could be utilized to solve that problem. He reminded the Board that we have no idea what the amount would be. Mr. Garofolo asked if we could have the Board of Finance sign a memorandum of agreement to not cut our budget requests based on the amount in our contingency fund and they would understand that it would be used for the growth of our district. Mr. Stanek reminded everyone that we have been criticized in the past for spending down our budget and that the public would question why we returned funds to the town. Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that the amount is not going to be $300,000 and noted that the Town has a contingency fund. Mr. Strumello wondered if the memorandum of agreement would go forth when a new Board of Finance was elected. Mr. Stanek said it would be an understanding at the time it was written. It establishes a history and could help to establish precedence. There would have to be good faith involved. He said if this doesn’t work we can simply stop funding the account. The board ended the discussion by directing Mr. Belden to get the wording for a formal request to the Board of Finance and bring it to the next meeting.

8. School Resource Officer Discussion
Mr. Putorti said that what he said at the budget meeting was misinterpreted and that the Board is not interested in a school resource officer at this time until we get all the facts. Currently we have one police officer in the schools. The Board still has a lot of questions regarding SRO’s in our schools. How many would we need? Four SRO’s would cost the district $377,000. Who would fund the position – the town or the Board of Education? Who would be the decision maker? The current police officer in our schools is not an SRO because he has not yet taken that training. Mr. Strumello stated that because of the training the officer has a different demeanor in the schools. He said he was in favor as long as we have a say in the selection of the officer and the decision making. Mr. Putorti noted that the residents of Newtown voted down their budget because security costs were too high. Mr. Stanek said he would reserve his opinion until after we had a chance to meet with the chief of police. He said he would like one officer assigned to each school and that they do random visits to the schools. He likes the idea of having an officer in the schools and would like to try and work out a plan. Mr. Kearns indicated that Detective Ditria is currently the only officer that has been trained as an SRO. SRO courses are offered throughout the year in different locations across the country.

May 6, 2013
Mr. Strumello wondered why, given the number of people assembled at our school's, an officer is not assigned. Mr. Hatfield noted that we have not heard from the Board of Police Commissioners and for all we know they may be opposed to having an officer in the schools. It was again noted that we still had many questions to answer before the Board could make a decision.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Minutes

Mr. Putorti reminded Board members that they can vote to approve minutes even if they did not attend the meeting as long as they have read them.

1. Regular BOE Meeting – April 1, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting on April 1, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Magri

2. Special BOE Meeting – April 22, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on April 22, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek

B. Financial Management Summary

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending April 30, 2013 as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Sub-Committee

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

C. 2013 High School Graduation Date

Mr. Glenn Lungarini, Principal of Seymour High School proposed changing the date for the high school graduation from the traditional last day of school to June 27. Mr. Lungarini noted that it backs up to the week of July 4th when many families take their vacations. Mr. Stanek reminded the Board it wasn't too many years ago that parents were indicating they wanted graduation to always fall on a Friday and noted this is how things change. Mr. Lungarini indicated many local schools have moved back their graduation for the same reasons. Mr. Lungarini said changing the graduation date would not impact instruction; underclassmen would be taking exams as usual.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the 2013 Seymour High School graduation date as June 27, 2013.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

Mr. Hatfield said he thought this was a good time to bring up the idea of Board members wearing academic gowns to the graduation ceremony.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda the wearing of academic regalia by members of the Board of Education to the graduation ceremony

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri

ABSTAINED: Ms. Gesek
Mr. Hatfield is in favor of this, saying it brings continuity to the ceremony for those sitting on the stage. He knows in the past there was an issue of not everyone having a degree but everyone on the Board has a degree now. When asked, Mr. Lungarini indicated that only the Board members who spoke were on the stage and wore academic robes in Oxford. Mrs. Syriac said she has not been in a district where Board members wore robes. Ms. Magri was opposed saying she felt strongly that graduation is about the students and the educators. Mrs. Gesek said she felt that the Board members should not even be on the stage; that the top ten students should be there instead. It was noted that Board members should wear proper business attire to the ceremony and no motion was made.

D. 2012-13 CTE Innovation Grant

Mr. Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal of Seymour High School gave an overview of the innovation grant he is applying for and indicated there was a need for the Board to approve in order for him to apply for the grant. The money from this grant would be used to purchase 3D desktop replicators.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the application for the 2012-2013 innovation grant to develop a model curriculum and culminating project to engage students in the Rapid/Direct Manufacturing process and will continue to support the program within the Technology Department at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

E. Musical Instrument Donations

1. Acrosonic (Baldwin) Piano

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the donation of an Acrosonic (Baldwin) Piano from Mr. Hillel Weisel to the Middle School Music Program

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Drum Set

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the donation of a drum set from Ms. Rose Cantore to the Bungay School Music Program

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

F. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Michelle Martelli
   - Instructional Paraprofessional
   - Seymour High School
   - Step 4, Paraprofessionals Contract
   - Replacing Kelli Wrogg

**MOTION:** (Mr. Jay Hatfield/sec., Mr. Ed Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Administrator and the Superintendent to hire Michelle Martelli as an Instructional paraprofessional at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
G. Contract Extension – All Star Transportation Company  
MOTION: (Mr. Ed Strumello/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with All Star Transportation to extend the current bus services contract an additional three (3) years from an end date of June 30, 2015 to an end date of June 30, 2018. The contract extension shall incorporate the terms and conditions included in the proposal from All Star Transportation dated April 30, 2013

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello  
OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Stanek

H. Policy Changes
1. Policy #6146 - Graduation Policy  
MOTION: (Mr. Ed Strumello/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the changes to Policy #6146 – Graduation Policy

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Policy #5141.5 - Suicide Prevention and Intervention  
MOTION: (Mr. Jay Hatfield/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the changes to Policy #5141.5 – Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

3. Policy #4118.51 - Social Media for Educators and Employees  
MOTION: (Mr. Ed Strumello/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve Policy #6141.326 – Social Media for Students

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

4. Policy #6141.326 – Social Media for Students  
MOTION: (Mr. Ed Strumello/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to add Policy #6141.326 – Social Media for Students

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

5. Policy #6141.321 – Computers: Acceptable Use for Students Policy  
MOTION: (Mr. Ed Strumello/sec., Mr. Pete Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve Policy #6141.321

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

I. High School Pool Project  
Ms. Magri asked why the amount was different than what was originally budgeted ($39,500). Mr. Belden explained that since the time that a problem was identified with the pool drains which are cracked and deteriorated, the pool surface is beginning to degrade and rusting was noted by Valley Health during their inspection. Originally the pipes would be relined but this is no longer an option. To make up the difference in the amount, Mr. Belden is planning on taking $20,000 from the middle school flooring project which is being deferred. Mr. Belden explained he had two bids but one was not legally acceptable because it was not submitted on time which left one bid. He said the work on the pool can be deferred but we are at a point where the work needs to be done and waiting will probably result in higher costs.
MOTION: (Mr. Pete Kubik/sec., Ms. Jennifer Magri) to award the contract for RFP #12-004 Seymour High School Pool to Connecticut Custom Aquatics, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of $59,508.70 - Items 1-8 with Item #3 amended.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

J. Waiver of Bidding Process

Mr. Hatfield asked if we had gotten quotes on legal services and wanted to be sure we are getting the best possible price. He noted last year the legal services were from Siegel O’Connor. Mrs. Syriac explained that Attorney Fred Dorsey changed firms and because of his knowledge and history with the Seymour Public Schools, it was felt that we should switch to Kainen, Escalera, & McHale. She noted that there is no formal contract and we pay hourly rates. When asked why the items that are listed are included in the Bid Waiver, Mr. Belden said that the services listed are ones that are typically $25,000 or more. The bid waiver is placed on the agenda each year so that we have a record for audit purposes. He noted that we still do RFP’s as needed.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Kubik) per Board Policy #3320, the Board of Education waives formal bidding for the following Per Board policy #3320, the Board of Education waives formal bidding for the following goods or services in excess of $25,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year per the reasons provided in the policy:

- Legal services (Kainen, Escalera & McHale; Shipman & Goodwin);
- Third party proprietary HVAC maintenance and support services (Siemens, Johnson Controls, Andover Systems, Environmental Services Corporation, A&B Mechanical);
- Heating oil and diesel fuel utilizing Ct. Fuel Consortium and DAS (East River Energy 12PSX0028);
- Custodial and maintenance supplies utilizing CREC consortium and DAS (Grainger 10PSX0204, Dumouchel, and Benham);
- Instructional and office supplies utilizing CREC consortium and DAS (School Specialty 12PSX0108AF, W.B. Mason, Staples 12PSX0108AG);
- Computer supplies utilizing PEPPM consortium and DAS (CDWG 12PSX0308, RnB Enterprises 10PSX0104AJ, Connecticut Business Systems 10PSX0104AF)

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion and possible action upon matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting school and public security.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting school and public security and to invite Mrs. Christine Syriac, Mr. Rich Kearns, Ms. Roberta Pratt, Mrs. Nancy Snopkowski, Mr. Rick Belden, and First Selectman Kurt Miller to attend

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

B. Discussion and possible action concerning a personnel matter

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Gesek) move that the Board enter Executive Session for discussion and possible action concerning a personnel matter and to invite Mrs. Christine Syriac to attend.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

May 6, 2013
It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded.

Enter Executive Session: 9:50 p.m.
Out of Executive Session: 10:40 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk