I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Salute to the Flag
   The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Recognitions
      1. Congratulations to Seymour High School student Julia Maturo (Grade 11) who competed
         in the girls cross country, 3.1 mile race at the NVL cross country championships on
         Tuesday, October 16th at Veterans Park in Watertown. All NVL schools with Girls XC
         programs competed in this race and Julia finished second with a time of 20:08
A. Recognitions (continued)

2. Congratulations to Middle School students Rachel Bernhardt and Spencer Beddington and High School students Katherine Acquavella and Michael Conlan on being chosen as the recipients of the 2012 CAPSS Superintendents' Award for Excellence.

3. A great big thank you to all of our staff and students who worked together to fill a school bus full of supplies for our New York neighbors who are in great need following the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

4. Congratulations to Rich Kearns and all the people involved in the Seymour Trunk or Treat event. This year’s event had the highest community participation since the program began.

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated October 25, 2012 from Rich Kearns to Christine Syriac describing the School Bus Safety program that was conducted during the week of October 22nd and sharing some photographs of the activities.

2. Mr. Hatfield read a letter from CASBO recognizing Mr. Rick Belden’s appointment to the organization’s Board of Directors.

3. Mr. Putorti acknowledged the receipt of an invitation from Tavern 715 but noted the date of the event had passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. REPORTS

1. Chairman’s Report

   a. Mr. Putorti reported that he attended the CABE CAPSS Convention on November 19-20 with Ms. Magri, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Strumello, and Mrs. Syriac. He noted the event was very informative and encouraged board members to consider attendance next year. He also noted that we will be starting the budget process as it is due to the Board of Finance by February 1, 2013.

   b. Board Member Comments

      Mr. Stanek said he would like the budget process to start earlier and to consider using one of the two December meetings to discuss the preliminary budget, review the contractual obligations, and have an opportunity to discuss issues and suggestions Board members might have for the budget.

      Mr. Hatfield noted that he was happy to see all three members of the Administrative team at the football game.

      Ms. Harmeling discussed her attendance at a workshop at the CABE Convention that dealt with getting people involved in the budget process. She was particularly interested in the presentation the Trumbull High School Parent Council did. She also described the technology program at New Fairfield High School where every classroom student has a device throughout their high school years.

      Mr. Strumello also commented on the New Fairfield program saying parents were given the option to: bring your own device, use one in school, borrow one from the district or opt for no participation. He said it was interesting to see that they had no parents who opted for no participation.
b. Board Member Comments (continued)
Ms. Magri talked about the budget presentation at the CABE Convention and found the Trumbull document very interesting. She also participated in a workshop on online learning and how to incorporate it into the curriculum. Online learning is used by some schools for credit recovery, World Language, and other programs and she noted that Wolcott does this. She also attended a workshop that included Board of Education student representatives and noted that many boards encourage their student representatives take a more active role in the meetings. She noted that she was able to attend the first Citizens Academy and thought we had made a great start. We had good attendance and good interaction among the attendees.

Mr. Stanek indicated that the original intent of the Board of Education Student Representatives was to have them participate in the board meetings. He suggested we chat with our current representative and let her know that she is welcome to participate in the discussion.

2. Superintendent's Report
Mrs. Syriac distributed a memo from Lee-Ann Dauerty describing the advantages to scanning the agenda. She invited the Board Members to the Legislative Breakfast which will be held in Hartford on December 12th. She will send details to the Board Members by email. She reminded the Board that the CAPSS Award dinner will be held on December 4, 2012. She reported that the middle school had 82 parents visit during Parent Visitation day and the high school had two parents visit. Mrs. Syriac reported that we have had school closures 5 times this year which brings us to the last day of school being June 21, 2013. This leaves 5 days available until the end of June. She mentioned that the school calendar included a note that said the calendar may change due to closures. She has sent an email to all staff regarding the potential to reduce some recess days. The Union indicated to Mrs. Syriac that teachers were not aware of the potential to reduce vacations. She feels it is too soon to make a decision since we still have to get through several months of winter.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda a discussion of adding additional days to the calendar due to school cancellations.

**SO VOTED**

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

Mr. Hatfield asked to have the school calendar on the website updated to reflect the closures and the days added to the end of the school year. Ms. Harmeling talked briefly about New York where snow days are included into the school calendar. Mrs. Syriac noted that students are scheduled to attend 182 school days and staff will work 185 days. Ms. Harmeling said she would not be in favor of taking away time from April vacation. If we have more closures, we would need to make a decision of adding it to the end June or reduce breaks. The consensus was that we did not need to make a decision now but will need to revisit the issue if more days are needed. Ms. Magri asked when we would need to make this decision. Mr. Garofolo pointed out that all school districts face this situation and everyone has to make this decision. He asked if anything could be done with Professional Development days to alleviate the problem. Mr. Putorti said he was not in favor of adding more days to the end of June; he feels it
is too hot in some of the schools noting that not all schools are air conditioned. He is in favor of adding the missed days to breaks instead. Ms. Harmeling stated that she was not in favor to adding the missed days to breaks saying she felt the teachers and the students need a break. Ms. Gesek agreed. Mr. Strumello asked about contract problems regarding this issue. Mrs. Syriac indicated that we have 182 student days and 185 staff days and we cannot exceed that amount. Ms. Harmeling and Ms. Gesek reiterated that they wanted to add the days to the end of the school year. Mr. Stanek said we have added days to the end of June in the past and we should do it again this year if we exceed the number of days available in June then breaks will be exposed. Mr. Kubik agreed. Mr. Putorti then asked if we should take from the beginning or the end of April break should it become necessary. Mr. Kubik said he would prefer we take them starting with Friday and working back. The Board then directed the Superintendent to add any additional days to June and then any further additional days would be taken from April break starting with Friday first.

Mrs. Syriac continued with her Superintendent’s Report. She reported on the Citizens Academy and felt that it went very well; it was a wonderful evening and she couldn’t wait for the next one which is scheduled on December 5th at the middle school. The subject will be “The Wheels on the Bus”. She said she escorted Mr. Milia to the Teacher of the Year ceremony and it was a very nice evening. The Welcoming Walkthroughs continue and this will give us good information on how welcoming our schools are. Regarding the storm, she thanked Mr. Gardner from All Star Transportation, all the administrators, and the staff who worked at the shelter. She said the Emergency Management meetings were very helpful and she was glad to be at the table with all the town officials. A CLP representative was also included in the meetings and this gave us a voice on how the town would be re-energized. The budget workshops will be held on January 15-16. She is having her second Listen and Learn at the high school tomorrow and reported that her Listen and Learn was so busy that she was not able to see everyone who wanted to see her. She will be having another day at CLS to see those staff members. She reported that there will be a grant position made available to assist in developing student reports. Ms. Harmeling questioned why we do not have a BOE meeting on January 7th. Mrs. Syriac said we can add a Special Meeting if the Board desires one. This would mean there would be three or possibly four meeting in January. Mr. Hatfield asked if we can use a Monday or Tuesday for these meetings. There was some concern regarding the budget information being shared too late in the month. Mr. Putorti said he would work this out with Mrs. Syriac. Mr. Strumello asked about the grant position and Mrs. Syriac said this would be Title 4 under technology and they have confirmed that data collection is eligible and this would be a part time position. She also updated the Board that the Union is meeting tomorrow to decide if we can split the Appendix E position of Student Council Advisor into two positions.

3. Committee Reports
   a. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – October 1 2012
      Mr. Hatfield asked if the Policy Meeting was still scheduled for December 6th and Mrs. Harmeling confirmed that the meeting would take place.
   b. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2012
   c. Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2012
   d. Finance Committee Meeting Agenda – November 19, 2012

B. INFORMATION
1. Student Representative Report – High School
   a. Review of 8th Grade Open House
      Mr. Lungarini reported that the 8th Grade Open House went very well. It was a two part program with the students visiting the school during the day and their parents joining them to come back during the evening. During the day the students met the staff, participated in tours, and started a lesson. When the parents came in the evening the students and the parents finished the lesson. Mr. Lungarini has gotten good feedback so far. The question that parents wanted address was “What’s in it for me to attend Seymour High School?” The attendance was approximately 160 in the evening which was a better turnout than expected. He thanked the teachers who he felt did a phenomenal job. He emailed the middle school staff for feedback and what questions the students had as they travelled back to the middle school. The middle school students will meet with the high school again in the spring for more information on daily life at the high school.
   b. Athletic Events Update
   c. Community Outreach – Hurricane Sandy
   d. Upcoming School Events
2. Student Activities and Recognitions – Seymour Middle School
   a. On Friday, October 26th, we held our first PBIS “Doing the Right Thing” celebration. Students who earned tickets during the month of October for going above and beyond in demonstrations of positive behavior expectations traded in their tickets for prizes. In addition, raffles were held for a grand prize and secondary prizes at each grade level. The grand prize winners received an i-tunes gift card and the students are:
      6th Grade - Mohad Khan
      7th Grade - Hayley Hathaway
      8th Grade - Nick Martins
      Tickets for November will be given out starting on Monday.
   b. On October 18th the students at SMS were gathered in the auditorium to experience a multi-media production on character and doing the right thing by standing up for each other. The Camfel production, sponsored by our Parent Council, is a continuation of providing quality programs to our students reinforcing SMS Cougar Pride by respecting self, respecting others, and respecting the environment. Thank you SMS Parent Council.
   c. The SMS Book Fair was held on November 8th to the 15th
   d. Mr. Brian Cleveland had the opportunity last March to travel to the Darfur refugee camps in Eastern Chad with the organization, i-Activism, to assist in selecting the first all refugee Darfur United soccer team. We have just been notified that Darfur United won the award and is the NGO (Non-governmental Organization) of the year! Seymour Middle School and members of our community raised funds last year to “sponsor a player” and continue to be the only community to fully sponsor a player. Mr. Cleveland is proud that we played a part in this, and helped Darfur United win an award for a people who live day in and day out with literally nothing, wondering where their next meal will come from. Thank you for the support; it is appreciated by people all around the world!
2. Student Activities and Recognitions – Seymour Middle School (continued)
e. Food and Turkey Drives
The Student Council Food Drive has been extended. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off in any of the food collection bins. The Gold Club Turkey Drive is this Saturday, the 17th. We are asking you to drop off turkeys in front of the middle school on Saturday any time between 9:00 and 3:00.

3. Student Activities and Recognitions – Bungay School
a. Congratulations to the following Bungay School students who will be attending the CAS Leadership Conference on Wednesday, January 9, 2013.
   Greg Bastek  4th Grade
   Jason Diaz   4th Grade
   Erik Harkey  5th Grade
   Anthony Lovanio  5th Grade
   Victoria Sampiere  5th Grade
   Kaylee Sudimick  5th Grade
b. Bungay will be recognizing the following teachers for their dedication and outstanding programs at the CAS Recognition of Excellence Celebration on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.
   Andrea Lund-Teixeira, Reading/Language Arts
   Kathleen Riordan, Kindergarten Teacher
   Nicole Gardner, Kindergarten Teacher
   Meghan McDonough, Grade one Teacher
   Angelique McAuliffe, Grade two Teacher
   Stefanie Slie, Grade Two Teacher
   Lisa Heneghan, Grade three Teacher
   Megan Goletz, Grade Three Teacher
   Kristen Ramadon, Grade Four Teacher
   Mary Lavoie, Assistant Principal

4. Student Activities and Recognitions – Chatfield-LoPresti School
a. At the CAS Recognitions of Excellence Celebration on November 27 CLS teachers will be recognized for their work piloting units on the Common Core State Standards. We are proud of our teachers for undertaking this endeavor – Grade 3 teachers Gina Wendland and Joan McCasland, Grade 4 teacher Jara Ciocca, Grade 5 teachers Allison Cunningham and Dave Fleming, and our Language Arts Consultant, Darlene O’Callaghan

5. School Improvement Plan, Special Education – Virginia Bauer
Ms. Bauer presented the Special Education Improvement Plan to the Board saying she will include some of the things we have already worked on. She explained last year, Special Education was incorporated into the School Improvement Plans. She said she had 5 teachers; a school psychologist, a school counselor, and the inclusion facilitator volunteer their time to work on the school improvement plan. She let the board know that special education numbers are low and looking at specific numbers may breech confidentiality so she may not always be able to address specific numbers. She went over the data from the CMT and the Modified CMT and discussed where we could improve. She said they were already addressing Indicator #4 which was student discipline. They would target intervention to match the kinds of disabilities. PBIS is already working in the middle school and in the high school.
5. **School Improvement Plan, Special Education – Virginia Bauer (continued)**

She indicated they will be working with Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions and looking at numbers by grades and will be working with those teachers. They will be focusing interventions early (as early as 5th grade). She spoke briefly about the plan to have an Open House for local businesses with the hope to build relationships with those companies for future job placement opportunities for our students. Mr. Strumello said there were some business leaders who sat on the Strategic Planning Committee a few years ago and they may be willing to be involved in the open house. She also talked about doing exit interviews with students who drop out with the hope of gathering information on why students drop out or why they stay longer.

6. **Veterans Day Activities**

Mrs. Syriac distributed a handout describing the Veterans Day activities in the schools.

7. **Review of SYAM Power Management Software Savings – Rick Belden**

Mr. Belden discussed the handout that was provided with the agenda saying the detail was self-explanatory. He said the product has delivered on promises. We have decreased electricity usage with this product. Mr. Garofalo asked if there was a correlation between the use of this product and decreasing wear/tear on the equipment because the equipment is not left on all night. He asked for specific numbers. Mr. Belden said we can look into this and get back to the board at a later date. Mr. Kubik said he was a proponent of the product and he has paid attention when he has been in the schools and has noticed a definite decrease in the number of computers on.

8. **Adult Education – Christine Syriac**

Mrs. Syriac reported on her meeting with Valley Adult Education. She said Seymour has been part of the adult education consortium for about 18 years. Every district in the consortium has to provide some adult education programs such as GED Programs and Credit Diploma Program. Students who take the Credit Diploma program after dropping out are not counted in our dropout rate. ESL programs are required by the state and are given to interested residents free of charge. They also provide Citizenship classes. Enrichment classes are also provided and they are paid completely for through fees, all we do is provide a facility. Currently the members of the consortium are Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Monroe, and Seymour. We pay a set amount and we receive a grant which paid $160,000 toward adult education programs last year. Mr. Strumello asked if the fee is based on population and Mrs. Syriac said she was not sure. She is waiting for more information and will report back to the board when she receives the additional information.

9. **Board of Education Email – Christine Syriac**

Mr. Putorti said he attended an FOI workshop at the CABE convention and it was said that board members should not use their personal or work email for board business. Doing so can open those computers up for an FOI request. District emails should be used. Also he said that board members should never use “reply all”; doing so causes the email to become a meeting. If you receive any requests for information with the district emails, do not respond and those requests should be forwarded to Mrs. Syriac. Using the district email system will protect the board members; all emails are on the website not on the computer being used. District emails are archived. Mrs. Syriac distributed the user names and passwords for the district emails for the board members to use. She also distributed the Computer Usage Form asking them to read and sign it. She gave directions on how to sign in on the website. If there are problems, Roberta Pratt is available to help.
9. Board of Education Email – Christine Syriac (continued)
Ms. Gesek asked if they can change the password and Ms. Pratt said it must be done on a computer that is in the district. Mr. Stanek expressed his concern about having to use the district email.

10. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
   a. McEnerney, Peggy
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Seymour High School
      • Effective October 26, 2012
   b. Walters, Siobhan
      • Part time Clerical Paraprofessional
      • Bungay Elementary School
      • Effective November 2, 2012
   c. Zaccagnini, Lisa
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Seymour Middle School
      • Effective October 18, 2012

   The board acknowledged the resignations noted in the agenda.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
A. Minutes – Regular BOE Meeting – October 15, 2012

   MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the Regular BOE meeting minutes for October 15, 2012 as presented

   SO VOTED

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

B. 2013-2014 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

   MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2013-14 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented

   There was discussion regarding whether there should be one meeting or two meetings during the month of April. The second meeting would be held during the April break. The superintendent indicated that she had no preference on this. Ms. Harmeling noted that only one meeting was scheduled during January. Mr. Putorti said that this was done because after the second meeting in December we have the holiday break and have very little business for a meeting in the first part of January. Ms. Harmeling said she felt it would be good to have the meeting to discuss the budget and proposed that January 6th be added to the schedule. Mr. Hatfield expressed some concern as to the location of the meetings. He felt there should be more variety in where the meetings are held.

   MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve Option 1 of the 2013-14 Board of Education Meeting Schedule with the addition of January 6, 2014.

   SO VOTED

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

   OPPOSED: Ms. Gesek
C. 2013-2014 School Calendar

Mrs. Syriac presented three options for the 2013-2014 school calendar. Mr. Putorti talked about starting the school year in August and Ms. Magri said an August start sometimes causes conflicts for parents and activities. Mrs. Syriac said there are no mandates regarding the start of school in August. Mr. Hatfield asked about moving professional development days to the end of the school year. Mr. Strumello said staff professional development is important for staff especially if there are new initiatives during the school year. Mr. Hatfield wondered if we can save money by condensing professional development days. Mrs. Syriac asked that we keep a full day at the beginning of school, Election Day; the third full day could possibly be moved. Mr. Strumello said full day professional development puts pressure on parents to find day care. Ms. Harmeling asked for an explanation on what the benefit of taking away student time to add a full day of professional development. Mrs. Syriac recommended that we not reduce student days. The 2013-2014 calendar provides for two full days of school (has been early dismissal in the past) the two days prior to the last day of school). This allows us to add two parent/teacher conferences in the spring which is mandated by the state.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve Option 1 of the 2013-2014 School Calendar

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri

D. Financial Management Summary ending October 31, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending October 31, 2012 as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Committee

SO VOTED

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

E. Bid Waiver - Copiers

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) per board policy, to waive formal bidding and use the CREC consortium pricing for multi function copiers. Further to authorize the superintendent to enter into a 54 month operating lease with the authorized CREC vendor, which is Advance Copy Technologies, Cromwell, CT

Mr. Strumello asked if we are getting the best deal without going out to bid. Mr. Belden said we have never gone out to bid for copiers but have done RFP's (Request for Proposals) in the past twice. He said what is important with regard to copiers is the after purchase services that are provided CREC has done all the research and this is the best for what we want. The proposal is less than anticipated. Mr. Strumello asked if this is a different vendor and Mr. Belden said yes because the current provider cannot provide the after lease services. Mr. Garofolo asked if the copiers are network compatible and Mr. Belden said yes and we currently do copying, faxing, scanning, and email from our copiers. This saves our printers.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello


MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the Nutrition Services Financial Report for the period of July to September 2012 as presented.

Ms. Magri asked about the significant deficit on the report. Mr. Belden said this has to do with encumbered costs and they will catch up in a couple of months. He also noted the new nutrition mandates are affecting sales.

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

G. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
1. Brenchak, Rita
   • Clerical Paraprofessional, Part Time
   • Bungay Elementary School
   • Step 1 Paraprofessionals Contract
   • Replacing Joan Zorena

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Rita Brenchak as a part time clerical paraprofessional in Bungay Elementary School

SO VOTED

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

2. Perry, Christen
   • Clerical Paraprofessional, Part Time
   • Bungay Elementary School
   • Step 1 Paraprofessionals Contract
   • Replacing Siobhan Walters

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Christen Perry as a part time clerical paraprofessional in Bungay Elementary School

SO VOTED

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

VI. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ASTERISKED ITEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
   ◆ 1. None

◆ It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session
VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Harmeling/ sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn the meeting

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

SO VOTED

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk