I. CALL TO ORDER:
Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:37 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Congratulations to the staff and students of Bungay Elementary School for collecting and donating $600.00 to the American Red Cross to be used for relief in Haiti.

2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School cheerleading team on their second place trophy in the Regional Cheerleading Competition in Rhode Island on March 20, 2010.

3. Congratulations to Bungay School Students and Staff for their successful collection for the Umbrella Shelter.

4. Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as winners of Seymour Culture and Art Commission Community Spirit Contest Winners and will have their artwork made into a flag that will hang in the Seymour downtown business district:

   Kara Pasnault
   Jessica Lasto
   Lauren Almonte
   Danielle Lemachko
   Brittany Brassell
5. Congratulations to Brian Thompson on being named “Mr. Seymour” this year.

B) Board Correspondence

1. Letter dated March 23, 2010 from Rich Kearns, Director of Security to MaryAnne Mascolo sharing information and pictures from the 911 program that was presented to all second graders in the district.

2. Letter dated March 17, 2010 from Paul Wetowitz, Seymour Fire Marshall to MaryAnne Mascolo reporting on the March 16th inspection that was conducted in all five Seymour Schools. Ed Strumello wanted to add a response to this letter that the district received compliments from the Fire Marshall regarding the storage of our Combustible and Hazardous Waste Material.

3. Letter received by Yashu Patori dated March 24, 2010 from the SHS Parent Advocating Responsible Teen Years (P.A.R.T.Y.) addressed to Local Business Merchants asking for financial support and gift certificate donations for an after prom event to take place May 14, 2010 through May 15, 2010. The donations will go towards door prizes, entertainment, games, prizes, food, custodial fees and police.

4. A letter received by The Board of Education via Ed Strumello from the Seymour Democratic Town Committee requesting use of the Seymour Middle School auditorium for May 10, 2010 from 5:00-10:00pm. The auditorium would be used for a nominating caucus for U.S. Representative, Rosa DeLauro, which may attract as many as 350 people.

5. Judith Flood recommended that the Seymour High School Cheerleading squad receive recognition at the next board meeting for their recent accomplishments.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Olivia Saffo of 54 Brookfield Rd, Seymour, CT and a student at Seymour High School brought before the Seymour Board of Education a petition signed by 220 Seymour High School Students. The petition requests that the current parking fee of $180 be lowered. The petition was signed by a handful of seniors but was mostly made up of signatures for the junior and sophomore classes. According to Olivia the students of SHS were told that the money would be used for afterschool activities at the high school. She also stated that tax dollars were used to add parking spaces making parents and students pay $180 dollars which amounts to double taxation. She also mentioned that she was aware that all the schools in the Valley have lower parking that Seymour High School, which included Derby that does not have parking fees. Olivia also asked the Board of Education to explain what exactly the parking fee monies paid for and why they were raised.

MaryAnne Mascolo also let the Board know that there is an additional group of seniors that will be presenting the Board with a PowerPoint Presentation on the High School Parking Fee that will be presented to the Board May 3, 2010. In answer to Olivia’s inquiries MaryAnne Mascolo indicated that last year the Seymour Board of Education went in with a Zero increase budget and 1.3 million dollars was cut from the budget. In doing so, the Board had to make some very serious decisions. Raising the parking fees is not something that was done lightly. The Board decided that the raised parking fees would help subsidize the keeping of Appendix E, Non-Sport programs such as the Drama Club and the French Club. Students were given a one year notice of the price change so that they could save the money to put towards the $180 price that equals $1.00 a day for the school year. The cost was also prorated to when a student started parking lot use.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of minutes
   1. Regular BOE meeting – March 15, 2010
   2. Special BOE Minutes – March 29, 2010

B. Staff Hiring – Volunteer
   1. Reilly, Steven
      • Assistant Coach
      • Boys Baseball
      • Seymour High School
C. Staff Resignations – Non-Certified

1. Barton, David
   • Custodian
   • Seymour Middle School

10-2965 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to remove the March 15, 2010 Regular BOE meeting minutes from the Consent Agenda.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker

10-2966 MOTION: (Mr. Loda, sec., Mr. Baker) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the removal of A1 Regular BOE Meeting minutes – March 15, 2010.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Flood, Ed Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:
1. Regular BOE Meeting: March 15, 2010 Minutes

   Discussion: Make correction to Motion 10-2956. Ed Strumello as BOE Chairman cannot make a motion. Also a correction needs to be made on Motion 10-2960. Ed Strumello recused himself from the motion, not abstained.

10-2966 MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the Regular BOE Meeting: March 15, 2010 minutes as corrected.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Flood, Ed Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

INFORMATION
A. Student Representative Report
   1. Mr Seymour – Brian Thompson was voted Mr. Seymour for this year. All proceeds from this event went to Haiti Relief.
   2. Softball Record – the softball team has participated in 3 weekday scrimmages and has won all three.
   3. Track Meets – boy and girls start this week. Boys at woodland on Wednesday and the girls are home and are up against Derby, Woodland and Sacred Heart.
   4. Going Green – SHS will be going green. There is an advisory group who is working on recycling cans and bottles in addition to the white paper that the Hope Club already recycles. This will be put in place in the next couple of weeks.

B. NEASC Report – Cathy Goodrich
   • The Board received the NEASC Report, a sample of the 10th grade English Curriculum, as well as, the SHS mission statement and learning expectations. A summary of the directions on how this 5 year report needs to be completed is also included.
   • Two Sections: Section I indicated the Highlighted Recommendations, Section II is a copy of all of the recommendation from the visiting committee that were marked as in progress for the two year report. The committee had to go back to the 2 year report and look at everything that had been marked in progress and address those issues as well.
   • The committee was formed in March of 2009. Ms. Heather Brown is chair of this committee and chair of the two year committee as well. Volunteer members of this committee are indicated on the last page of the report. The committee formulated a timeline on how they wanted to address the tasks at hand, meeting at least monthly last year and then again in the fall. The report was submitted for the deadline of March 1, 2010.
Mr. Garofolo asked Mrs. Goodrich to clarify the specific difference between the classifications of “Completed” vs. “In Progress” with the example of Section II, page 1, under Item 2 – Providing examples of the school’s use of the mission and expectations. It is classified as Completed, but it is stated that the Heterogeneous grouping will begin in all 9th grade Social Studies Classes in 2010-2011 school year. This has not happened yet though it is classified as Completed. Mr. Garofolo asked Mrs. Goodrich to clarify to clear any confusion. Mrs. Goodrich answered that they have begun the process and the teacher who are going to be teaching social studies in the 9th grade and are in the process of professional development on how best to address heterogeneously grouping to review classics. Mr. Garofolo then asked Mrs. Goodrich if she was going to reverse that decision after having submitted this report would that then disqualify this particular items classification for being complete with respect to the 9th grade social studies class, hypothetically speaking. Mrs. Goodrich answered that, hypothetically yes it would disqualify this item as complete; however this is one area that is being sited here. See also highlighted response number 5, Section I. This response indicates that the SHS will re-introduce in September of 2010, the UCONN English course that has not run for several years. Mr. Garofolo indicated that this has not yet begun as well. Mr. Garofolo asked if the 11th and 12th grade English classes already been modified. Some of them have been the others will begin in September. Mr. Garofolo asked if “Completed” can mean “almost there”. It’s talking about the fact that the mission statement as it is right now influences our decision to make these changes.

Mr Garofolo also asked Mrs. Goodrich about Section II page 6, Item 6. The response states that the standards driven curriculum and common summative assessments ensures academic rigor (abbreviated). Mr. Garofolo stated that he knew that we have common formative assessments but is there such a thing as common summative assessments? His understanding is that Common Summative assessments where used for teacher evaluations. Mrs. Goodrich clarified that the common summative assessments refer to the midterm and final exams created by the teachers. Jim asked if the common reader would understand this if they read the report and Mrs. Goodrich was confident that they would.

Cathy Goodrich discussed how the high school faculty has accomplished the monumental task of completing curriculum for 93 different courses in the past 3 years. Would like the Board to be aware of the how much work the faculty has put in to the writing the recommendation and curriculum.

Mr. Baker acknowledged the amount of work of the faculty at the HS had done around NEASC. He also said he remembers discussing the high school and their test scores last year and had been disappointed. Mr. Baker asked Mrs. Goodrich how the high school is doing. Mr. Baker commented that he was hoping that with all the work done for NEASC that is was going to lead us down a path of making the school better and making the test scores better. Mr. Baker indicated that he hoped that the work around NEASC was not just an exercise, but that the faculty and administrators are trying to make the school better. Mrs. Goodrich responded that the high school has completed the entire curriculum in compliance with the state standards. She also stated that the CAPT test is different in some areas because it concentrates on skills, especially in the reading and writing. We have been focusing on the goals that we set forth in the School Improvement Plan so she is hopeful that this year’s test schools will show improvement.

Mr Stanek asked Mrs. Goodrich if she believed based upon new strategies or new teaching that you may have invoked since your report to this board last fall about the CAPT Scores, that the CAPT Scores will be higher as a result of the recent administration of the same. Mrs. Goodrich replied that she believe that they would. Mr Stanek asked Mrs. Goodrich if there had been a great deal of change and improvement in the high school strategies for CAPT testing in the last several months. Mrs. Goodrich said that they will be reporting on this progress at the June 7th Board meeting. MaryAnne Mascolo informed the Board that all the schools will come forward with this information, however the new CAPT scores will not be in over the summer but in the fall and there will be another report at that time. Mrs. Mascolo also indicated that the schools, at the end of this year, will look at their goals they set for themselves and then report to the board what progress they have made towards those goals.
Mr. Kubik asked Mrs. Mascolo that although we may not have the test scores will we not use some kind of measure as the year goes on so that we know we are going in the right direction and not waiting to see test scores. Mrs. Mascolo commented that the goals each school set for themselves are the measures that they will be using.

- Mrs. Mascolo thanked the teachers involved with the NEASC Committee for coming to the Board meeting and for their hard work.

C. CAPPs Executive Director Correspondence in Public School Funding

- Mrs. Mascolo wanted the Board to know that the Superintendent organization has been very proactive in regard representing our constituency to the state legislature and was particularly fond of this correspondence and wanted to share it with the Board.

D. All Star Transportation

- Rick Belden updated the Board regarding the letter that was received by All Star Transportation outlining the safety policies and procedures that All Star Transportation follows. It stated that they are listed as one of the best in the state. They have been working with the Connecticut State Legislative Transportation Committee in regards to the use of 3-point harness seat belts on all state buses. Rick indicated that we are lucky to have a bus company that has its fleet garages in Seymour and that having all the buses stored in Seymour lends greatly to our property tax intake. He also commented that having the repair depots in Seymour adds to the excellent upkeep of our buses and allows for maintenance and repairs in a timely manner.

REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum Committee Meeting – March 9, 2010 – Mr. Stanek highlighted the minutes for the meeting on March 9, 2010. Mr. Stanek stated that there was lengthy discussion around the middle school Language Arts and Science Curriculum. And the committee voted to accept those two curricula as presented and move the same to the full Board for approval. At the appropriate time a motion would be in order to approve those two curricula. The committee also discussed an Algebra II textbook proposal for the high school that would be in conjunction with or terms as an articulation with the Naugatuck Valley Community College and an expenditure of $15,000 which would include shipping and handling would be necessary to purchase the textbooks. NVCC, upon approval to be secured by Paul Lucke, would contribute $7000-$9,000 dollars towards the purchase of these textbooks. The Administration and the math department chair are in favor of ordering the book since the current book in use is from 1992 and the new book includes other resources and digital enhancements. The committee tabled that any action in committee on the purchasing of the Algebra II textbooks since the funding issue was not yet known. The motion passed. The committee also discussed drop-out data that was presented for the Board’s review. The committee also had extensive conversation regarding the Curriculum Committee of the Board and a District Curriculum Committee as required by a public act passed by the legislature some two years ago. The act is ambiguous, but it appears in the act that is states that it is necessary for district have a Curriculum Committee separate from that of the Board because most Board members are not qualified to write and develop curriculum, but to review on behalf of the school district and approve the same. Ms. Mascolo has indicated that she has created a District-Wide Curriculum Committee as required by that statute. Finally, there was discussion of renaming the Curriculum meeting which the full Board dealt with at the last meeting. Mrs. Mascolo scheduled another meeting to discuss these items for Tuesday, April 27, 2010. It was discussed a motion does not need to be made at this Board meeting to approve the purchase of the textbooks.

2. Finance Committee—March 15, 2010 – Committee approved the period ending February 8th Financial Summary with Mr. Belden. The committee did not recommend to the full board on the parking fees although there was great discussion and hopefully answered all the questions given them. Ms. Mascolo indicated changes to the cost chart for the high school parking fees.
3. Facilities Committee Agenda—April 5, 2010—Mr. Garofolo indicated that the committee met to discuss the approval of the SyAM power management software. Mr. Garofolo reminded the Board of the voting history of this proposal. After much discussion, the Facilities Committee has recommended to the Board that it approve the purchase of the SyAM Power Management System. Mr. Garofolo also wanted to make the point that there is no accurate way to determine, at this time, the actual amount of savings to be earned by utilizing this software. It was also discussed that the payment for the software will come out of the 2010-2011 budget.

B. Chairman’s Report—
   1. Yankee Institute of Public Policy Request for Teacher Salary and Retirement Information. Chairman Strumello asked if Seymour had received this request. Mr. Belden responded that yes we have; however, the district does not have access to this information due to it being handled by the State Department of Education. It was confirmed that Seymour Public Schools does not have to send the requested information to the Yankee Institute of Public Policy and will suffer no disciplinary actions because of it. It was also determined that any fees that may be incurred by the Yankee Institute of Public Policy will be covered by the same.

2. Board Members Comments—
   i. Mr. Stanek passed along Mr. Buschbaum’s regards to the Board.
   ii. Mr. Putorti complemented the new Board packets.
   iii. Mr. Baker inquired about the electronic Board packets and requested that the company who offers the software to make a presentation to the full Board. It was determined that this would take place at the Board meeting in July.
   iv. Mrs. Flood asked if the Finance Sub-Committee could postpone its next meeting until May 17th. It was determined that the approval for the Financial Reports for the months of March and April can be done at that same meeting. Should a need arise; a meeting can be scheduled in the interim.

C. Superintendent’s Report
   i. Impact Bargaining – Trial date has been set for June 10, 2010.
   ii. Race to the Top Meeting
      1. On May 3rd the Board will make a determination as to whether Seymour Public Schools will sign on for the program or not. Mrs. Mascolo presented information for the Board to review thoroughly. Even though the funds might not be worth what they are asking us to do, this is what the state will be asking us to do anyway. Ms. Mascolo reviewed the program highlights and asked the Board to read and review this in detail.
   iii. Commissioner McQuillan’s Circular Letter C-1 regarding SRBI
   iv. SRBI Data
      1. Mrs. Mascolo presented and reviewed some of the SRBI data and findings that the district has collected to date. Ms. Mascolo reported the positive SRBI data findings from Bungay School.
   v. RTTT grant materials

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
A. The Superintendent recommends the Seymour Board of Education approve the request of Ed Rostowsky, Athletic Director, to retire Jennifer D’Amato’s number 25 and her jersey to honor her accomplishments in softball.

10-2967 MOTION – (Mr. Kubik, Sec. Mr. Stanek) to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the request of Ed Rostowsky, Athletic Director to retire Jennifer D’Amato’s number 25 and her jersey to honor her accomplishments in softball.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Baker

B. Request for Out of State Field Trip – Ms. Alcutt, Ms. Dorosh, and Miss Turner request approval for
LoPresti School 5th Grade classes to attend a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA on May 6, 2010.

10-2968 MOTION- (Mrs. Loda, Sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the request for LoPresti 5th grade classes to attend a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA on May 6, 2010.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker

C. Discussion and possible action on high school parking fees

10-2969 MOTION (Mr. Stanek, Sec., Mrs. Flood) to rescind the prior action the Board of Education which imposed a prorated $180 per year parking fee for the high school.

Discussion: Mr. Baker has no objection to rescinding the fee but opposes the way the rescinding of the fee has been presented, making some of the Board members now feel stuck and made to be the bad guys if they should oppose.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker

10-2970 MOTION (Mrs. Loda) to make the 2010-2011 high school parking fee $100.
There was no second to the motion.

10-2971 MOTION (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to make the 2010-2011 high school parking fee $50.
Discussion: Mr. Baker wanted to know how the figure of $50 was decided upon. Mrs. Flood believed that the prior year’s fee was $20 dollars and felt that $50 is an adequate fee. Mr. Baker found that Mrs. Flood, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Roy, and the Student Council all have the figure of $50 dollars and is wondering why this is so. Mr. Roy commented that he had come up with this figure out of common sense, from the perspective of a parent and with no formal formula. Mr. Stanek commented that he would like to bring the fee back to $20 because it was the long standing amount for many years but is willing to compromise with $50 because he feels that $180 is totally unreasonable and takes exception to a comment that Mr. Baker made that the student council was involved in this cause. They had nothing to do with this cause and the student group that was present at the meeting this evening was not part of the student council. Mr. Baker asked Mr. Stanek if they should make the fee $0. Mr Stanek said he was fine with that but always thought the $20 was reasonable and covered the administrative cost of the parking stickers. Mr. Stanek also commented that he and Mr. Roy had not discussed a $50 dollar fee. Mr. Strumello asked the Board to review the handout provided by Mr. Kearns regarding parking fees for all the surrounding valley schools.

10-2972 MOTION (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to amend the motion to reduce the student parking fee from $50 to $20.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti
OPPOSED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Baker
ABSTAINED: Mr. Kubik

D. Discussion and possible action on 2010-2011 education budget

10-2973 MOTION – (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to table this discussion until the next Board meeting after the 2010-2011 budget has been voted on.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker

10-2973 MOTION (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Loda) to waive formal bidding and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Integrated Financial Systems for the SyAM power management software at the Option II cost of $48,262.00. Further to authorize the superintendent to enter into an Energy Efficiency Fund, for a payment incentive of 40% of the software cost up to a maximum of $21,235.28.

Discussion: Mr. Kubik asked if the 40% incentive is guaranteed. Mr. Belden answered that it is. Mr. Kubik reassured the Board that even though the savings cannot estimate to the exact amount that there will in fact be savings. Mrs. Flood asked how this expense will be indicated in the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Belden explained the process. This is a one year one time payment for this software, unless we decide later to add the technical services option, which Mr. Belden firmly believes the district will not need. Mr. Putorti reiterated that this expense will come out of the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Garofolo would like to suggest that the Board create an Energy Conservation Incentive Program. Each school would participate and the school with the most reduction in energy use would receive a reward. Rick suggested that the students could get involved and tie it in the curriculum. Mr. Strumello suggested that we also do this for recycling as well. Mr. Stanek asked if Mr. Belden had received any additional data to justify the purchase of this system and the savings that are promised. He also wanted to know if there was an effort by the school staff to turn off the computers and what was the result of that. Mr. Belden commented that there has not been additional data reviewed and that the staff responsibility of turning off the computer had not been effective.

10-2974 MOTION-(Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Flood) to rescind the prior action by the Board to not approve the purchase of the SyAM software management system.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker
OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

10-2975 MOTION (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Putorti) to waive formal bidding and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Integrated Financial Systems for the SyAM power management software at the Option II cost of $48,262.00. Further to authorize the superintendent to enter into an Energy Efficiency Fund, for a payment incentive of 40% of the software cost up to a maximum of $21,235.28.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Baker
OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

IX ADJOURNMENT

10-2948 MOTION (Mrs. Loda, Sec., Mrs. Flood) to adjourn Board meeting.

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek
Board meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM

Submitted by
April Judd, Clerk