I. CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS
A. Recognitions
B. Correspondence
1. Letter dated September 22, 2014 from Yashu Putorti to First Selectman Kurt Miller regarding the
merging of IT for the Board of Education and the Town of Seymour
2. Letter dated September 26, 2014 from Joseph A. Luciano regarding curriculum content with regard
to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Mrs. Syriac made a recommendation to the Board that they respond to Mr. Luciano’s letter. She
confirmed that we do teach about the ADA in our American Government class but it is not a
requirement to do so. Mr. Putorti confirmed that the Board would send a letter.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION
A. REPORTS
1. Chairman’s Report
a. Chairman’s Report
   None
b. Board Member Comments
   Ms. Harmeling reminded the Board that the first meeting of the Community Committee is
   next Tuesday, October 14, 2014. It will be run like an advisory committee. She has
   committed to organizing the first meeting and asked the Board to send any ideas or
   suggestions that they have to her. Mr. Strumello said he is working with Mr. DiStasi on the
   Mentoring program and would participate with Mr. DiStasi when he gives his presentation.

2. Superintendent’s Report
   As she has done in the past, Mrs. Syriac shared the cost analysis for the hiring that was done for
   the start of this school year. She suggested the $12,000 not be spent for a while. She told all
   Board members to email her or Rick with questions. She also shared a report that she created
   when she was a principal at Seymour Middle School that shows the number of 8th grade students
   who attend Seymour High School. It shows an eleven year history. The 15% shown for this year
   is the lowest since the 2004-05 school year. She shared that this number will not go much lower
   since there will always be students/families who chose vocational schools or private schools. She
   noted that the High School administration has taken an active role when students are considering
   going to high school elsewhere, including a face to face meeting with the parents. All the schools
   have held their Meet the Teachers sessions: BS-601 parents, CLS-466 parents, SMS-331 parents,
   SHS-150 parents. For Parent Visitation, Bungay School had 222 parents visit, Chatfield-LoPresti
   had 236 parents visit and the High School had 8 parents visit. Seymour Middle School will hold
   their parent visitation date on October 9.

B. INFORMATION
1. Student Representatives
a. Student Representative
   MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the
   Seymour High School Student Council to appoint Julian Falconi as the Board of Education
   Student Representative for the 2014-15 school year
   SO VOTED
   AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr.
   Putorti, Mr. Strumello
b. Student Representative (Alternate)
   
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Seymour High School Student Council to appoint Daniel Robinson as the alternate Board of Education Student Representative for the 2014-15 school year
   
   **SO VOTED**

   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

### 2. School Activities and Recognitions

a. High School Student Representative Report
   
   Julian Falcioni reported to the Board for the first time. He reported several school activities:
   
   September 4 – Meet the Teachers Night, approximately 150 parents attended the meeting, following their child’s schedule.
   
   September 12 – Senior Parent Program run by the Guidance Department. Parents of approximately 20 seniors attended this program to learn about preparing their child for life after high school.
   
   September 19 – School picture day organized by Mrs. Keeffe.
   
   September 24 – Freshman Parent Program run by Mrs. Labacz. Many parents attended.
   
   September 26 – Senior Day. Seniors learned how to use Naviance to apply to college. After the training they all reported to the football field for a senior picture. A special picture of a large heart with Nina Poeta in the center was also taken. The Fathers Club provided lunch and after lunch there were team building activities.
   
   Ms. Harmeling complimented Julian on his student report saying he did an excellent job.

b. Middle School (see attached)

c. Chatfield-LoPresti School (see attached)

d. Bungay School (see attached)

### 3. Committee Reports

a. Transportation Committee Minutes – September 2, 2014
   
   Ms. Harmeling asked that the minutes be revised so that comments made under the Chairman’s report are removed since these were made prior to the election of the Chairperson.

b. Facilities Committee Minutes – September 4, 2014
   
   Mr. Hatfield requested a thank you letter be sent to Falcioni Painting for their donation of supplies and time to paint the scoreboard and Snack Shack.
   
   (1) **Letter to Custodians**
   
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to send a letter to all district custodians acknowledging their hard work over the summer months
   
   **SO VOTED**

   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

   (2) **Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School Library Media Center**
   
   Discussion and possible action on the naming of the Chatfield – LoPresti Elementary School Library/Media Center
   
   Mr. Hatfield requested we go out of order on this item until Mr. Stanek arrives so he can participate in the discussion.

   c. Curriculum and Technology Committee Minutes – September 15, 2014
   
   Ms. Harmeling requested revisions.
   
   (1) **New Course Approval**
   
   Mr. Strumello commented that we are very lucky to have Mrs. Dyer on staff. She has great credentials to teach this exciting opportunity. He feels this will give our...
students who are interested in the medical field a great step up. Mr. Freund explained this is the first 1.5 credit offering at Seymour High School and it meets the State of Connecticut requirements. If the student passes the state exam, they will be a certified EMT.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to add a course entitled “Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B)” to the curriculum of Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

d. Athletic Committee Minutes – September 29, 2014

Mr. Strumello reported that the Athletic Committee talked about the Concussion policy and was happy to report our district is well ahead of the mandate. We have started the concussion education programs with our athletes and parents this year and it does not become mandatory until next year. The presentation is mandatory but attendance by the parents is not. Those parents who do not attend will be asked to sign the consent form.

**4. Staff Retirement – Certified**

a. Snopkowski, Nancy
   • Associate Superintendent
   • Effective June 30, 2015

**5. Staff Hiring – Appendix E (Certified Staff)**

a. Cleveland, Brian
   • Head Coach
   • Boys Soccer
   • Middle School

b. Perrucci, Joseph
   • Advisor
   • Alternative Energy Club (Split Position)
   • High School

c. Stock, Michael
   • Advisor
   • Alternative Energy Club (Split Position)
   • High School

d. Lindgren, Roxanne
   • Advisor
   • Audubon Club (Split Position)
   • Seymour Middle School

e. Severino, Jennifer
   • Advisor
   • Audubon Club (Split Position)
   • Seymour Middle School

f. Pagliaro, Christopher
   • Class Advisor
   • Seymour High School
g. Scozzafava, Erin
   • Class Advisor
   • Seymour High School

h. Schneider, Brandt
   • Assistant Advisor
   • Drama Club
   • Seymour High School

i. Cleveland, Brian
   • Advisor
   • Small Steps Club (Split Position)
   • Seymour Middle School

j. Esposito, Deborah
   • Advisor
   • Small Steps Club (Split Position)
   • Seymour Middle School

k. Keeffe, Darlene
   • Advisor
   • Yearbook
   • Seymour High School

6. **Staff Resignations – Appendix E**
   a. Tilki, Steven
      • Head Coach
      • Baseball
      • Seymour Middle School

7. **Technology in the Classroom** – Bungay Grade 5 Teacher Nicole Francisco and Students
   Ms. Francisco, Grade 5 teacher at Bungay School, along with her students Collin Benson, Isabella Sand, Chase Unger, and Talia Voccola did a presentation to the Board on how they use technology in their day to day lives in the classroom. The talked about the use of Google Classroom and Twitter in the classroom and Ms. Francisco said the majority of parents follow the Twitter classroom. Twitter is private and each parent must be accepted by her. Parents who follow Twitter know their child’s assignments and this helps students to be engaged.

8. **NEASC Update** – Jim Freund
   Mr. Freund did a brief update on NEASC. He informed the Board that we are scheduled for a visit in March, 2016 and have been told that we should budget $25,000 for the visit. He said the committees are in place: Steering Committee, Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment of and for Student Learning, School Culture and Leadership, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning. He said there is a lot to do; among them is updating the mission statement and the learning expectations. They will revise the rubrics and eventually will generate a report. Mr. Putorti asked if we are prepared enough to pass and Mr. Freund explained that it is not a pass or fail rather a report of commendations and recommendations. Mrs. Syriac explained that there is not enough time to be prepared so this work will be their professional development for the next year to year and half. Mr. Hatfield commented that attending a NEASC visit is a great opportunity to see everything in the process. Mr. Freund said this is the fourth NEASC visit he has been through with two being in different districts.

9. **Bound for Success Mentoring Program** – Ernie DiStasi
   Mr. DiStasi described the Bound for Success program they are preparing to launch in the district. He has been working with Mr. Strumello who is very excited about this program. Mr. Strumello has past experience with a similar program. He said the goal is to have a mentor start with a student in the fifth grade and follow that student through High School graduation.
He spoke about some previous “success” stories. They would prefer the mentor not be a teacher so the student can speak freely about things that might be going on in school. The mentor must be willing to spend one hour a week with their student. The program will be in house and will probably be around lunchtime so the student is not pulled from any classes. Mentors will be fingerprinted. Mr. Strumello credited Mr. DiStasi with getting the program started. The plan is to start slowly and build from there. There are tremendous benefits for the mentor as well as for the student. He encouraged Board members to use their connections around town to find mentors. This program will make students successful. Mr. Strumello said Norwalk has had a similar program for 25 years and have a scholarship program. He would like to see this down the line. Every child has the promise and potential to be successful and this program gives them the necessary tools. In the beginning, they plan to have one student from each of the grade 5 classes which would be five students from Bungay and four students from Chatfield-LoPresti. The program has five solid mentors so far. We have the support of Kurt Miller. We will continue to recruit and plan to train nine mentors to get the program rolling. Mr. Strumello is certain this program will become an institution in the district.

10. **Asbestos Management 3-Year Re-Inspection** – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac explained that every three years the district must do an Asbestos Management Inspection. Currently, it is due in October, 2014. Mrs. Syriac said we pay for memberships and licenses for Mr. Natzel. She said she did not know that we paid Mr. Natzel to do this inspection in the past. In 2011 we paid him $2000. She is seeking direction from the Board as to whether we should continue to pay him for this service as she felt the Board was not aware either. Mr. Putorti said that since we pay for his license to perform this inspection, we should not expect to have to pay extra for the inspection. Ms. Harmeling said she felt that this is a duty that should be incorporated into his job since we pay for the certification and license. Mr. Stanek said he agreed completely with Mr. Putorti and Ms. Harmeling. Mr. Hatfield asked if this was in the contract and said he felt it should be. Mrs. Syriac said it is not in the contract. We pay for dues, memberships, etc. saying spending $250 on the license saves us $2000 in fees. Mr. Putorti said he felt that there was something in the job description referring to other duties as assigned by the Superintendent. He said go back and tell him to do the inspection. Ms. Harmeling agreed saying professionals are just expected to take direction from their supervisor and do what is asked of them.

Mr. Hatfield asked about the report on the humidity in the schools. Mr. Belden said we are moving out of the high humidity season and a solution is not needed at this time. This subject will be added to the November meeting. Mr. Stanek said he felt the report should be reviewed by the entire Board so they can make a determination of what our long term solution should be. He also said he felt we should share this report with the Board of Selectman.

**Item 3B (2)**

**Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School Library Media Center**

Discussion and possible action on the naming of the Chatfield – LoPresti Elementary School Library/Media Center

Mr. Stanek went over the background of the naming of the LoPresti playground in honor of Vincentena Kobasa and that honor was moved over when Chatfield-LoPresti School opened. The Facilities committee then decided to pursue naming the Chatfield-LoPresti Library Media center in honor of a Chatfield educator. The committee reviewed four people who were nominated and after much discussion decided to put forward to the full Board Mr. Kenneth Ewaskie a long time educator at Chatfield Elementary school. Mr. Stanek said he felt Mr. Ewaskie was deserving of this honor because of Mr. Ewaskie has devoted his life to education. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled at Chatfield-LoPresti in the future.
MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to name the Chatfield-LoPresti School Library Media Center in honor of Mr. Kenneth Ewaskie.

SO VOTED

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA
Mr. Hatfield asked when we decided to do a consent agenda again and was it just for this meeting. Mr. Putorti said we will be including a consent agenda from now on and it is to help move the large amount of business we need to conduct along in a timely fashion. Mr. Hatfield said he thought they had to approve something like this and Mr. Putorti said we are approving the items on the consent agenda, just not individually but rather with one motion. He reminded everyone that if there is something that you would like to discuss it can be taken off the consent agenda and discussed.

A. Approval of Minutes
   1. Regular BOE Meeting – September 2, 2014

B. Finance Committee Meeting – October 6, 2014
   1. Financial Management Summary - ending September 30, 2014

C. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
   1. Del Re, Kim
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Bungay School
      • Replacing Cynthia Brown
   2. Moore, Donald
      • Instructional Paraprofessional (STEM)
      • Middle School
   3. Piscione, Jennifer
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Chatfield-LoPresti School
      • Replacing Davida Munevich
   4. Press, Shane
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Middle School
      • Replacing Roxanne Ewaskie
   5. Volpe, Kathleen
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Middle School
      • Replacing Edna Feliciano

D. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
   1. Bertram, Isabel
      • Advisor
      • Yearbook
      • Seymour Middle School
   2. DiCaprio, Patrick
      • Assistant Coach – Girls Swim Team
      • High School
      • Replacing Tom Jurzynski
3. Manion, Christine  
   • Assistant Coach – Cheerleading Team  
   • High School  
   • Replacing Rebecca Graham  

4. Teodosio, Nicholas  
   • Assistant Coach – Football Team  
   • High School  
   • Replacing Eric DeMarco  

E. Staff Appointments – Volunteer  
1. Ademoski, Selajdin  
   • Volunteer Assistant Coach – Boys Soccer Team  
   • High School  

2. Deptula, Benjamin  
   • Volunteer Assistant Coach – Football Team  
   • High School  

F. Homeschooling Notifications  
1. Susannah Crews  
   Ms. Alicia Crews has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Susannah Crews, for the 2014-2015 school year  

2. Ashton and Nathaniel Murzin  
   Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Murzin have informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school their children, Ashton and Nathaniel Murzin, for the 2014-2015 school year  

3. Chloe Pechinski  
   Ms. June Cardon has informed the Board of Education of her intent to continue to home school her child, Chloe Pechinski, for the 2014-2015 school year  

4. Mei-Li and Jen-Ji Phung  
   Ms. Jeanne Phung has informed the Board of Education of her intent to continue to home school her children, Mei-Li and Jen-Ji Phung, for the 2014-2015 school year  

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) move to approve the consent agenda as presented  
SO VOTED  
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS  
A. Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut (MAC)  
   Mr. Belden gave a brief overview of the proposal.  
   MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to utilize the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut (MAC) consortium, in conjunction with the Town of Seymour, and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a 48 month contract with Constellation Energy for electricity generation services effective October 8, 2014  
SO VOTED  
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  

B. Out of State Field Trip Requests  
1. United Nations, New York, NY  
   MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Mr. Brian Cleveland and Ms. Deborah Esposito to attend an out of state field trip with the Middle School Small Steps Club to visit the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY on October 24, 2014  
SO VOTED  
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Mr. Hatfield expressed his concern and hoped that they can still go on this trip given how close the date is. Mrs. Syriac assured him all the preparations have been made and now with the Board's approval, the permission slips will be sent home. He wondered if the Superintendent can approve field trips since the Board only meets once a month. Mrs. Syriac said she reviewed the policy and found that it states she can approve recurring out of state field trips if they are deemed successful.

2. Washington, DC

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri, sec. Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Mr. Harvey Catlin to attend an out of state field trip with the 8th Grade class to visit Washington, DC on April 29, 2015 through May 1, 2015

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

Mr. Strumello stated he was somewhat concerned with this field trip given the state of the world today and reminded the Board that we cancelled the Washington DC trip after 9/11. He just wants the Board to think about any safety concerns that they may have. Mr. Putorti said a risk assessment would be done before they leave. Mr. Strumello said we need to be vigilant because today’s world is a scary place. Mr. Stanek said we should leave the policy as is and should something happen the Superintendent can use the clause that states the trip can be cancelled. Mr. Hatfield said he felt the policy should be looked at saying he feels we do not need to scrutinize every out of state field trip. Mr. Putorti felt the Board needed some control. Mrs. Syriac said that if an out of state field trip that has not occurred in the past came in, she would bring it to the Board for approval. She assured the Board that she is constantly monitoring situations and if there is a safety concern, field trips can be cancelled.

C. Policy Regulation Revision

6141.328 Bring Your Own Device

Mrs. Syriac explained that this revision was discussed at their last meeting and it contains revisions for some typos and simple revisions. Ms. Harmeling said she felt this was one of our policies that needed to be reviewed often. She thought this policy would be a great way to get the students involved. Mr. Putorti agreed saying he felt the policy should be looked at every six months. Mr. Hatfield encouraged all the Board members to look at policies and make suggestions for revisions. Mrs. Syriac answered Ms. Harmeling’s observation regarding Smartphone use saying the BYOD policy does include Smartphone use but only in grades 9-12.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the regulation for policy #6141.328 – Bring Your Own Device as presented

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

D. Contract Revision

1. Systemwide Technology Coordinator

There was a lengthy discussion on the contract revision because Board members remembered different things from the last Board meeting when this was discussed. Mr. Hatfield said he was confused; does the additional money go to the individual or to the Board of Education. He said he was taken aback because the town is giving the money to the Board of Education for the salary. Ms. Harmeling said she was perfectly clear after the last meeting that the Technology Coordinator would get an increase in his salary for taking on the extra town responsibilities. Mr. Hatfield said he thought the payment by the town of $15,000 was to cover the loss of time to the Board of Education. Mr. Strumello reminded the Board members that they should go through the chairman when they wish to make a point. He said he remembers the same as Ms. Harmeling and Ms. Magri. He said he stated during that meeting that he was concerned about Mr. Dyer being beat up because of the additional duties he was taking on. Ms. Magri asked about including a from/to date in
the contract. Mrs. Syriac explained that dates are not necessary because as she explained in the last meeting, his salary will not be reduced if this arrangement with the town did not work out. Mr. Stanek said the premise was $15,000 was being added to the salary because additional duties were being assigned. He is not in agreement saying it should be renegotiated next June. Mr. Putorti said he is currently grossly underpaid.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to approve the revision of the contract for Robert Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek,

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. Klarides

### VII. Superintendent’s Goals

Mr. Hatfield asked if this should be discussed in Executive Session and Mrs. Syriac said that it did not. Superintendent Goals set by Christine Syriac. Ms. Harmeling said she loved the goals and thanked Mrs. Syriac for doing them. She said this is where I want to see the district going. Mrs. Syriac shared an email from a teacher saying she is more willing to take risks in teaching with Mrs. Syriac as Superintendent. She thanked Mrs. Syriac for the encouragement. Mr. Stanek said that as a non-educator, he was concerned with the use of the word “risk” and wondered if it could be replaced. He suggested possibly the word “initiative”. Mrs. Syriac said she should consider a new term. Mr. Stanek praised Mrs. Syriac’s work in the district saying the Board has seen a cooperative relationship between the Superintendent and the staff that was not there in the past. Mr. Strumello said he felt the Board of Education members should be getting more education. He said the last Superintendent was strong on educating the Board of Education although it did not work out well since it often conflicted with large agendas and business that needed to get done. Mr. Strumello suggested maybe we can meet 3-4 time utilizing the 2nd Board meeting date for educational purposes. He said other Boards do this. Ms. Harmeling said she completely agrees saying she would like to have a better understanding on how to accomplish goals.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm