



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2014
Seymour Middle School
7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Theodora Klarides
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield
Theodora Klarides

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
Meagan Krushinski

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to high school students Victoria Babson, Julian Falcioni, Jennifer Fusco, and Rose Washbrook who performed at the Advanced Level on the CAPT Mathematics, Reading, Writing, and Science subtests

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated November 29, 2013 from Kathy Kudish, State of CT Dept. of Public Health to Joan Rinkewith regarding vaccination coverage in the Seymour Public Schools
2. Letter dated December 7, 2013 from Blum, Shapiro & Company to Christine Syriac regarding the final copy of the ED001 Report
3. Letter dated December 14, 2013 from the Cweklinsky Family to Christine Syriac and Fred Stanek thanking them for their attendance and support of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame banquet
4. Letter dated December 19, 2013 from Rich Kearns to Christine Syriac informing her of the grant received from the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report

- a. Chairman's Report

Mr. Putorti reported that he will be traveling in China for the next two weeks and will not be attending the BOE meetings.

- b. Board Members Comments
Mr. Strumello asked if we do any further recognition of the students who achieve the Advanced Level on the CAPT tests. Mr. Lungarini said a breakfast in their honor is done right before the CAPT testing is done. Mr. Strumello thought something more should be done to honor and recognize this academic achievement. He said we honor sports achievements but do nothing permanent to honor academics. These achievements should not become a distant memory he said. Mr. Lungarini noted that when posting honor roll they recognize the top 20% of the class for seniors, juniors, and sophomores and said they could highlight the CAPT scholars as well. Ms. Magri agreed with Mr. Strumello that we need to do a better job of recognizing our academically successful students. Mr. Strumello informed the board that he will be relinquishing his role as the ACES representative after the next meeting which will be next week. The person who replaces him must be available during the day. Ms. Harmeling spoke about the Bungay 5th grade program "Coding": which Mr. Boyle said 54 students have parental consent to participate and they meet twice a week.

2. Superintendent's Report

None

B. INFORMATION

1. School Activities and Recognitions

- a. High School Student Representative Report
No report
- b. Middle School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)
- c. Chatfield-LoPresti School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)

2. Staff Retirement

a. Certified Staff

(1) Donna Forte

- English Teacher, Seymour High School
- Effective 06/13/14

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Magri) to acknowledge the retirement of Donna Forte with great appreciation

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

(2) Alan Skiparis

- Social Studies Teacher, Seymour High School
- Effective 06/13/14

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Magri) to acknowledge the retirement of Alan Skiparis with great appreciation

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

b. Non Certified Staff

(1) Larry Kisson

- Head Custodian, Seymour Middle School
- Effective 05/30/14

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Magri) to acknowledge the retirement of Larry Kisson with great appreciation

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

3. **Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel or devices affecting public security** (Update on 12/12/13 Police Commissioners Meeting) – Fred Stanek
Mr. Stanek attended the Police Commissioners meeting on December 12, 2013 and said it was an interesting session. The Chief of Police said he was in favor of a School Resource Officer (SRO). Mr. Stanek said while he is appreciative of their support of an SRO, he was concerned that we would not be getting what we asked for which is a well trained officer who will patrol all of our schools. Mrs. Syriac said she sat in on the interviews and her understanding is we will have an SRO in the near future and we will have some flexibility with regard to his/her schedule and school assignments. She said the interviews included questions regarding the officer's ability to be flexible with the schedule. Mr. Stanek stated that he is appreciative of the SRO plan but just wants some assurances that the Board will have some control to conduct things such as random patrols of all the schools, perimeter searches, etc. He wants people to remember this is all in response to what happened in Newtown and we don't want to forget that.

4. **Ad Hoc Budget Committee Meeting on January 2, 2014** – Kristen Harmeling
This meeting has been rescheduled for January 7, 2014 at 7:00 in the CLS gym.

5. **Substitutes Update** – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac provided the Board with additional information regarding her request to possibly increase the pay of our substitutes in order to attract more for our substitute pool. In their research they have found some districts have a tier program and this is what they would like to do in Seymour next year. She distributed information on how this would impact the budget. Mr. Putorti asked if we were having problems attracting substitute teachers this year and Mrs. Syriac said yes. Mr. Putorti indicated that we should make the change this year instead. Mr. Putorti then polled the Board on their opinion. Mr. Stanek disqualified himself from the discussion. Ms. Gesek – agree, Mr. Putorti – agree, Ms. Harmeling – agree, Mr. Strumello – agree, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew – agree, Ms. Magri – agree

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the increase in pay to \$85.00 per day for substitute teachers who work for the district more than 40 days within a school year effective for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Strumello

RECUSE: Mr. Stanek

6. **BOE Committee Appointments** – Yashu Putorti

Mr. Putorti indicated that he felt he was able to give everyone what they requested with regard to Board Committees assignments. Mr. Strumello asked if the Board needed to approve this per the bylaws and Mrs. Syriac confirmed that it does not need to be approved by the Board.

7. **2014-2015 BOE Meeting Schedule** – Yashu Putorti

Mr. Putorti explained that the schedule was based on the bylaws that require two meetings per month. Meetings can be cancelled. He reminded everyone that the Policy Committee will be reviewing the bylaws and this may be one that can be changed. He encouraged all Board members to save the date of the scheduled Board meetings as we can fill that time with Special meetings and Committee meetings. Mr. Putorti asked Ms. Syriac about the second meeting of January and she responded we would not know until after the budget workshop if it can be cancelled.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to empower the Chairman of the Board of Education to cancel the second scheduled meeting of the month as necessary

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

8. **AP Course Performance Results – Glenn Lungarini**
Mr. Lungarini distributed a packet of information for the AP Course Performance Results. He explained each page of the handout. UCONN and Articulated College Classes are not included; this information is based on the AP Test results. Mr. Putorti asked if they were the same courses and Mr. Lungarini said it depended on the course. He shared the percent totals of AP students with scores of 3+ with a comparison to Connecticut and the global population. 109 students took the AP test in 2013. Mr. Strumello asked if we can find out why the state and global scores are consistent and Seymour High school is up and down. Mr. Lungarini said he felt some of this issue has to do with letting any student who wants to, take an AP class. It could be that we might be sacrificing scores due to our “open enrollment” policy. He continued through the handout sharing information on the 5 year score summary, reports by gender, the fee reduction report, the comparable summary report and finally, the colleges and universities receiving AP scores. Ms. Harmeling said we are trending below and wondered if the grade 11 and 12 scores could be isolated. She also asked Mr. Lungarini his opinion of letting 10th graders take AP classes. Mr. Lungarini said we can look at the scores by grade level but it doesn't really change things. He feels the sophomores who are taking AP courses are ready to take those classes. He said these students took extra classes as freshmen so they would be able to take AP Classes as sophomores. They are high performers.

9. **SEA Request to Participate in CEA Educator for a Day - Meagan Krushinski**
Ms. Krushinski asked the Board to support the CEA Educator for a Day program which will encourage our local legislators (Theresa Conroy, Rob Kane, and Kevin Kelly) to participate in the shadowing of a Seymour teacher for a day. The goal is to gain support from them to change the new evaluation system which has placed an added burden on the teachers of Connecticut. Ms. Krushinski said they will seek volunteers for the legislators to shadow and she is hoping that a elementary, middle, and high school teacher will volunteer. Mr. Strumello asked if they would stay with the same teacher all day and she said that was the plan so they can see what a teacher does from the moment they arrive at school until they leave. She emphasized this is not a media event but a real attempt to gain support for much needed changes to the evaluation system. Mr. Stanek said he would not want teachers lobbying against the system. He wanted assurances that they would just show what a typical day for them is. Ms. Krushinski agreed. Ms. Magri suggested expanding this program to include the First Selectman.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec. Mr. Strumello) to approve the SEA Request to Participate in the CEA Educator for a Day program

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

V. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Minutes**

1. **Regular BOE Meeting – December 2, 2013**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting on December 2, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. **Special Organizational BOE Meeting – December 2, 2013**

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on December 2, 2013 as presented

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the minutes of the Special Organizational Board of Education meeting on December 2, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

B. Financial Management Summary

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report - November, 2013

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the Nutrition Services Financial Report for November, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

D. Out of State Field Trip

1. Boardwalk Hall Cheerleading Competition

MOTION:(Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an out of state field trip for the High School Cheerleaders to attend a Cheerleading Competition in Atlantic City, NJ on January 31 through February 2, 2014

Ms. Magri stated her concerns about this competition and their use of spring floors. She said she thought it might be a violation of CIAC rules. Mr. Lungarini explained that they can compete because it is not a CIAC event and would not affect CIAC eligibility. However, Mr. Lungarini said due to safety reasons because the cheer team is not trained on a spring floor, he would not allow them to compete. After this discussion, Mr. Stanek withdrew his second of the motion.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an out of state field trip for the high School Cheerleaders to attend a Cheerleading Competition provided they do not compete on a spring floor on January 31 - February 2, 2014.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Windham High School Overnight Trip

MOTION:(Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an overnight trip for the High School Wrestling Team to attend a state competition at Windham High School on February 21-22, 2014

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

E. Team of One/Team of Two

1. Emmett O'Brien Technical High School

a. Wrestling Team

MOTION:(Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director to approve a team of one for Emmett O'Brien students Jacob Henry-Parks and Jake Wronski to wrestle with the Seymour High School Wrestling team

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Ansonia High School

a. Boys Swim Team

MOTION:(Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director to approve a team of one for Ansonia High students Michael Shortell and Noah Falkowski to swim with the Seymour High School Boys Swim team

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Mr. Strumello expressed a concern on the timing of these requests and wondered if these athletes are participating already without Board approval since practices have started for wrestling and swimming. The Board directed the Superintendent to discuss the timing of requests with the Athletic Director.

F. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Jamie Yakushewich

- Assistant Coach, Indoor Track Team
- High School
- Replacing John Johnson

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the hiring of Jamie Yakushewich as an Assistant Coach for the Indoor Track Team at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

*** G. Discussion of School Security Grant**

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) 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. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the Executive Session. The Board invites the following individuals into the Executive Session: Mrs. Christine Syriac, Mrs. Nancy Snopkowski, Mr. Rick Belden, and Mr. Rob Dyer

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

*** H. Salary Re-Opener for the 2014-2015 School Year ***

MOTION:(Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss and take action on salary increases for the 2014-15 contract year for the Superintendent of Schools, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Systemwide Technology Coordinator and Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the Executive Session. The Board invites the following individuals into the Executive Session: Mrs. Christine Syriac

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

*** *It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded***

In Executive Session: 9:10

Out Executive Session: 10:22 p.m.

Ms. Gesek left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve a General Wage Increase (GWI) for the following employees: Rick Belden, Nancy Snopkowski, Robert Dyer, Catherine Hinckley in the amount of 1.33% of their current salary, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve a salary increase of 2.33% for the Superintendent of Schools, Christine Syriac, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve that the amount to be deferred into an elective tax sheltered annuity remain unchanged for the Superintendent, Associate and Assistant Superintendents of Schools for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk