



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2014

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Saundra Gesek  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Jennifer Magri  
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew  
Fred Stanek  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

**Board Members Absent:** Theodora Klarides  
Ed Strumello

**Others in Attendance:** Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Wayne Natzel, Director of Facilities  
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator  
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS  
Jim Freund, Asst. Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Kris Boyle, Asst. Principal, BS  
Lori Robinson  
Daniel Robinson  
Kyle Bennett  
Shelly Bennett

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

Mrs. Syriac recognized the following:

1. Congratulations to high school students Clara Behnen (Baritone), Aidan Vrlík (Percussion), Justin Fabozzi (Trumpet) and Megan Meyer (flute) on being selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "1<sup>st</sup> Chair" Invitational High school Band Festival which occurred on February 22, 2014
2. Chatfield-LoPresti is proud to recognize their senior mentors, George Bashura, Ed Bukoski, Irene Dziadik, Barbara Grudzias, Mike Kearney, John Maiorino, Don Reidy, Joan Wieler and George Wityak. Every Tuesday throughout the school year our senior mentors spend an hour with our first graders, reading to them, listening to them read, and helping our students improve their literacy skills. These mentors will be honored by The Connecticut Association of Schools, at the Volunteer Recognition Banquet on March 11, 2014
3. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School students who participated in the Math Counts competition at Yale University: Dante Criscio, Grade 7, (SMS overall winner), James Engmann, Grade 7, Akshay Reddy, Grade 8, Dan Bouzolin, Grade 7, Connor Benson, Grade 7, Josh Norton, Grade 8, Sukhman Singh, Grade 7, and Christopher Rossetti, Grade 7

4. Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Paul Pawluk, Sr. who died at age 96 last week. He was a public servant serving on the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman. He was a graduate of Seymour High School. We honor his long distinguished history of service to our town.
5. Mr. Hatfield noted that Bill Davis, a former softball coach at Seymour High School was inducted into the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame. Mr. Davis was the coach of the Seymour High School softball team from 1988-2004.

**B. Correspondence**

1. Letter dated 01/29/14 from Patrick Charmel, President and CEO of Griffin Hospital to Christine Syriac sending congratulations on her election as a Corporator of Griffin Health Services Corporation

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seymour High School sophomores, Daniel Robinson, Chapter President of Best Buddies and Kyle Bennett, Vice President of Best Buddies, spoke to the Board about National "Spread the Word to end the Word" on Wednesday. They came today to ask the Board to sign the pledge to refrain from using the "R" word and then they will take it to the schools. Everyone on the Board signed the pledge. This is the first time our chapter of Best Buddies has participated in this program.

**IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

**A. REPORTS**

**1. Chairman's Report**

**a. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Putorti reminded the Board Members that the Board Members Comments section of the agenda is for comments only and asked that if they have questions they tell Central Office so they can be added to the agenda for discussion. We have been talking about sub committees and possibly changing them. Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we will have Finance Committee meetings to present the BOE budget to the public. We are looking for more positive votes this year. Ms. Harmeling and Mr. Putorti are also working with the Valley Independent to do a web presentation for people to access online.

**b. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Hatfield talked about the CABE survey about participation with CABE. We have a close working relationship with our State Representative and we have the mother of another State Representative sitting on this Board so we have a unique opportunity to look into what we are doing to further those relationships. He would like to include this topic on the next agenda for discussion. He also discussed an article published in the CABE newsletter indicating 20% of Board members are retired educators. Mr. Stanek said he couldn't help but notice that the video equipment in Town Hall is not being used. He said this would be an excellent way to get the word out on the budgets and finds it very disappointing that it is not being used. It was acquired with grant funds. He spoke with two selectmen to check into using it when budgets are being presented. We all need to push the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman to use the equipment as a way to get the word out on the budgets. Ms. Harmeling said there is still a week before the budget presentations and she continues to tweak the presentation. If anyone has input on the presentation, please email her. The restructuring of committees came out of the CABE Convention. There are some other committees that might be worth exploring.

**2. Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac spent time along with other administrators reading to the students for Dr. Seuss' birthday. The First Selectman will be presenting his budget to the Board of Finance on Wednesday instead of tonight.

**B. INFORMATION**

**1. School Activities and Recognitions**

**a. High School Student Representative Report**

Mr. Jonathan Han reported:

- 1) Winter athletics has drawn to a close with only cheerleading, wrestling and boys swimming still competing. Girls' basketball, boys' basketball, indoor track and dance have successfully completed their season. Spring sports will begin the week of March 17.
- 2) Seymour High School students will perform Seussical under the direction of Music Teacher Brandt Schneider on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. and March 15 at 2:00p.m. Both performances will take place in the high school auditorium.
- 3) Congratulations to Julia Maturo for earning the SCASA Memorial Scholarship! Senior students continue to be informed and encouraged through our guidance department to apply for the numerous scholarship opportunities available.  
Miss Izabella Guzzo reported:
- 4) State standardized testing will take place from March 19 through April 4.
- 5) DECA competed at the state competition. Gurman Singh placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Principals of Business Management category and the team of Ethan Iott and Riley Cronin placed in the top 6 performers in the Business Ethics category.
- 6) The NVL held its annual weight-lifting competition at Seymour High School on March 1, 2014. Seymour came in first place; winning by 70lbs. Zack Sirowich and Julian Falcioni were named to the All Naugatuck Valley League team. Also placing and earning medals were Christian Thurmond, Dan Hink, Joey Salemme and Chris Abate.
- 7) Several students participated in the Special Olympics event held over the weekend. Dan Franzese received a Gold medal and a Silver medal. Also, Kyle Bennett received a silver medal.

Mr. Hatfield asked the Student Representatives to report to the Board after the standardized testing with their feedback on the changes. Mr. Stanek asked how tickets to Seussical can be purchased; they are available at the high school for \$5.00 now and will also be sold at the door.

- b. Middle School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)**
- c. Bungay School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)**
- d. Chatfield-LoPresti School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)**

**2. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2014**
- b. Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2014**
- c. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2014**
- d. Awards Committee Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2014**
- e. Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2014**

**3. Staff Retirement - Certified**

- a. Mary Deming**
  - Teacher
  - Biology
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective end of 2013-14 School year

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to acknowledge the retirement of Mrs. Mary Deming with sincere appreciation

SO VOTED

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

4. **Appendix E Resignation**

- a. Chris Hebert
- Assistant Coach
  - JV Baseball
  - Seymour High School

5. **Appendix E – Coaching (Spring)**

1. **Head Coach**

a. **High School**

- (1) Bob Kelo - Baseball
- (2) Ken Pereiras – Softball
- (3) Missy Orosz – Girls Tennis
- (4) Tom Lennon – Track Team

a. **Middle School**

- (1) Steve Tilki - Baseball
- (2) Harvey Catlin – Softball

2. **Assistant Coach**

a. **High School**

- (1) Jamie Yakushewich – Softball (split position)
- (2) Nicole Markey – Softball (split position)
- (3) Chris Pagliaro – Track Team
- (4) John Johnson – Track Team
- (5) David Willadsen – Track Team
- (6) Mike Sirowich – Track Team

6. **Volunteers (Spring)**

1. **High School**

a. **Volunteer Assistant Coach**

- (1) Steven Reilly - Baseball
- (2) Jeff Gilbert - Baseball
- (3) Brandt Schneider – Track Team
- (5) Brian Cleveland – Track Team
- (6) Joe Poulson – Track Team

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add the name of Neil Swanchak, Volunteer Softball coach, Seymour High school to the list of returning volunteer assistant coaches.

**SO VOTED**

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

2. **Middle School**

- (1) George Adams - Softball

7. **Technology Grant** – Nancy Snopkowski, Rick Belden, Rob Dyer

Mrs. Syriac explained that we were reintroducing the Technology Grant proposal with the Board's input in mind and asked Mr. Belden to review it. Mr. Belden said this plan is a result of looking to see if there is a way to purchase more devices. The plan now includes only purchasing laptops at Seymour Middle School and purchasing more Chromebooks for the elementary schools. Mr. Dyer explained that this plan will move the district toward the goal of standardized equipment/devices. Ms. Magri asked about 1:1 and Mr. Dyer said we are moving toward it at the elementary school level but are not there yet. Mr. Hatfield asked when we would achieve 1:1 and Mr. Dyer said we are headed in that direction. There was a discussion concerning the students being able to take devices home and it was reported that we are not there yet. Mr. Hatfield asked if technology has a goal that is written out.

Mrs. Syriac said we have a technology committee who looks at these issues. This particular grant money is for the purchase of devices for the purpose of using them for assessment. Chromebooks are new to us and we don't know the durability/longevity of these devices yet. We are working on a refresh plan which will look at our devices at the end of each year and determine the age of the devices and when to replace.

V. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Minutes**

1. **Special BOE Meeting – February 4, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on February 4, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

B. **Financial Management Summary**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending January 31, 2014 as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Sub-Committee

**SO VOTED**

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

C. **Nutrition Services Financial Report - January, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Nutrition Services Financial Report for January, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

D. **Volunteer Appointment**

1. **Chris Hebert**

- Volunteer Assistant Coach
- Seymour High School
- Baseball

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Chris Hebert as volunteer assistant coach of the baseball team at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

E. **Staff Hiring – Two Assistant Baseball Coaches**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda the hiring of two assistant baseball coaches

**SO VOTED**

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

1. **Stanley Osiecki**

- Assistant Baseball Coach
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Zach Mihaley

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of Superintendent to hire Stanley Osiecki as an Assistant Baseball Coach for Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

2. **Kyle Georgia**
  - Assistant Baseball Coach
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Chris Hebert

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of Superintendent to hire Kyle Georgia as an Assistant Baseball Coach for Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**F. Intra District Transfer Request**

1. **Ayden Frey (Kindergarten)**

Home School: Chatfield-LoPresti School  
Transfer School: Bungay School

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Ms. Christine Frey to send her child, Ayden Frey, to Bungay School for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year

**SO VOTED**

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

2. **Colin Frey (Grade 3)**

Home School: Chatfield-LoPresti School  
Transfer School: Bungay School

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Ms. Christine Frey to send her child, Colin Frey, to Bungay School for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year

**SO VOTED**

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

**G. ACES Representative**

**Discussion and possible action on the appointment of a new ACES Representative**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to postpone this item to the next BOE meeting.

**SO VOTED**

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

**H. Non Renewals**

1. **Non Renewal of Long Term Substitutes who covered extended leaves of absences for certified teachers**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew two non-tenured teachers, Allison Beardsworth and Kaitlin Wasko, at the end of the 2013-14 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

**SO VOTED**

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

**I. BOE Policy Changes**

1. **Policy #6141.322 Bring Your Own Device (New)**

Mr. Stanek said he did not like the term "BYOD" because it is too close to "BYOB". He said he felt the draft is vague and wondered why the Acceptable Use student and staff policies were not sufficient. Ms. Harmeling said this has to do with access to WIFI. The Acceptable Use policies apply to our equipment; this policy deals with students' and staff devices. Mr. Dyer said it was left simple in order to leave room to grow and that this policy came from CABE.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec. Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to implement Policy #6141.322 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Stanek

2. **Policy #4111 Recruitment and Selection (Revision)**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to change Policy #4111 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

3. **Policy #4112.4 Physical Examinations (Revision)**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to change Policy #4112.4 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

4. **Policy #6130 Organizational Plan (Revision)**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec; Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to change Policy #6130 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

5. **Bylaw #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings (Revision)**

Mr. Stanek said the second section is contrary to the FOI Statute. He also pointed out that the sentence having to do with handicap access will prevent any meetings from being held in Central Office. He recommended striking these sections from the policy.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to change Bylaw #9321 as amended by the Board

**SO VOTED**

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

J. **Changes to Teacher Evaluation Document**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to keep the 2013-2014 Educator Evaluation document as is

**SO VOTED**

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

K. **Proposal for Mechanical Engineering Review**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept the October 25, 2013 proposal of Silver Petrucelli and Associates in the amount of a fixed fee of \$8,500 to perform mechanical engineering services at Seymour Middle School

**SO VOTED**

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

**L. Integrated Energy Opportunity – SBEA/CEEF Utility Program**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a Letter of Agreement with Yankee Gas for \$22,778 in CEEF energy efficiency measure incentives and with CL&P for \$587,647 in CEEF energy efficiency measure incentives

**M. Dedication Plaques in LoPresti School**

When asked where in Chatfield-LoPresti School these plaques will be displayed, Mr. Natzel indicated he was thinking about the empty brick wall located near the gym entrance.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to remove all dedication plaques in LoPresti School and move them to a display area at Chatfield-LoPresti School so the history of dedications can be preserved

**SO VOTED**

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

**N. Naming of Playground and Library Media Center at Chatfield-LoPresti School**

Mr. Hatfield said a new plaque would need to be purchased since we have given the old one to the family. After some discussion it was decided to name the inside playground in Mrs. Kobasa's honor. The naming of the Library Media Center process and how to gather names for this honor was discussed. It was decided this should go back to the Facilities Committee to decide upon who should receive this honor and then bring it back to the Board for approval.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to name the inside playground at Chatfield-LoPresti School in honor of Mrs. Kobasa

**SO VOTED**

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

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to adjourn the meeting

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk