



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2014

Seymour Middle School

Library Media Center

7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Izabella Guzzo, Student Representative
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield
Theodora Klarides

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent (8:18 p.m.)
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Rich Kearns, Director of Security
Officer Meredith Shook, Seymour Police Department
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Wayne Natzel, Director of Facilities
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS (8:18 p.m.)
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Leslie Sojka, Assistant Principal, CLS
Melissa Prendiss
John Carbone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Recognitions**

1. Congratulations to middle schools students, Grace Brangwynne and Joshua Norton who have been selected as the 2014 Scholar Leaders for Seymour Middle School. Grace and Josh demonstrate leadership both in school and outside of school while maintaining excellent grades. They will be honored on June 8, 2014 at the Aqua Turf.
2. Congratulations go to MercedeTer, a third grader at Chatfield-LoPresti School. She was awarded second place in the Ear – Are You Listening? Art Contest sponsored by Triarco Arts & Crafts. There were nearly 2,700 entries in the contest. Her artwork will be published in the next Triarco catalog.
3. Congratulations to Wayne Natzel on his appointment as a Board Member of the National School Plant Management Association (NSPMA) for a three year term beginning in 2014.
4. Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Raymond Widziewicz, who passed away on April 10, 2014. He taught at Seymour High School for 35 years.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. **REPORTS**

1. **Chairman's Report**

a. **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Putorti reported that he along with other members of the Board of Education attended the Board of Finance meeting tonight. He said the BOE realized an additional savings of \$108,000 from Anthem Insurance and this is the amount that would now be cut from the BOE budget. He said he left before deliberations but that this was the recommendation of the First Selectman. Mrs. Syriac said that Mrs. Snopkowski stayed at the Board of Finance and would report to the Board of Education when the Board of Finance meeting was over.

b. **Board Member Comments** None

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac reported that May 5 through May 9 is Teacher Appreciation week and said many of the PTA/PTO organizations along with our Administrators have done many nice things to honor our teaching staff. She also reported that May 7, 2014 is School Nurse Day. On May 8, 2014 six 6th graders will participate in the Healthy Food Challenge and the winner of this challenge will go on to compete with Valley Schools at Molto Bene Restaurant.

B. **INFORMATION**

1. **School Activities and Recognitions**

a. **High School Student Representative Report**

1. Mr. Seymour Update
2. AP Test Update
3. Athletics Update
4. Prom/Post Prom – May 17
5. Care Club Race – Upcoming
6. Seussical to attend Halo Awards
7. Expressions Student Art Show – May 10
8. Valley Arts Festival – Choir and Art Work
9. Spring Concerts

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. **Minutes**
 - 1) Nutrition, Health, & Safety Committee Meeting – April 21, 2014
3. **Staff Resignations - Certified**
 - a. Lauren DiCenzo
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective end of 2013-14 School year
 - b. Catherine Hinckley
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Central Office
 - Effective end of 2013-14 School year

Mr. Strumello asked if we will be replacing this position and Mrs. Syriac confirmed that we will be posting it after this meeting.
4. **Introduction of Officer Shook** – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac introduced Officer Meredith Shook who has been on the job in our schools for three weeks. She continues to keep Mrs. Syriac updated weekly on her activities. Mrs. Syriac said she has only heard wonderful reports and she is doing a good job building relationships with students, staff and parents. Mr. Stanek said the Board and the district are very happy to have her on board. Mr. Strumello asked when she would be receiving her SRO training and Officer Shook said it would take place during this summer.
5. **All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan** – Nancy Snopkowski, Rich Kearns

Mrs. Syriac briefly spoke about the mandated All Hazards School Security and Safety Plan that is supposed to be in place by July 1, 2014. She pointed out that we are ahead of many districts because of the work that Mr. Kearns has done in his capacity as Director of Security. This program involves a tremendous amount of work. She introduced Mr. Kearns who briefly described the program which requires the standardization of emergency response across the country. He said it contains different plans for different scenarios. He reported that our plan is up to date. All staff will be required to take a NIMS course which will be available online. All staff is required to take three hours of training which will be done during the summer months. Mr. Kearns also spoke about the requirement that each school have their own plan and have a safety committee in each school. This has already been done. Mrs. Syriac said the actual plan will be brought forward to the Board to vote on at the June BOE meeting. She said there is a price tag associated with the implementation of the program due to the extensive training required. There is a requirement to have security assessments every two years. Ms. Magri asked if there would be ongoing education and Mr. Kearns said there was not requirement for it as of yet. Mr. Strumello voiced a concern for offsite sporting events and asked if coaches would be trained. Mr. Kearns confirmed anyone employed by the district would be required to take the training, including volunteer and substitutes.
6. **College Readiness Day** – Glenn Lungarini

Mr. Lungarini spoke about the possibility of having a College Readiness Day where the SAT would be offered to our seniors. He spoke about having SAT school day testing which would lower the cost for students to take the test. Substantial savings can be realized. In addition, he said he felt it might open the door to more students taking the test. He said it might encourage more students to continue their education. Currently grade 9 students take Read Step on that day, and grade 10 and grade 11 students take the PSAT.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – April 21, 2014

MOTION: (Ms. McAndrew-Sobieski/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on April 21, 2014 as with the suggested corrections

SO VOTED

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

B. Financial Management Summary

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec. Mr. Strumello) to table the motion to approve the Financial Management Summary ending March 31, 2014 as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Sub-Committee to the next regularly schedule BOE meeting

SO VOTED

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

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report - March, 2014

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

A SO VOTED

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

D. K-5 Math Curriculum

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the K-5 Math Curriculum

SO VOTED

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

E. Textbook Request

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the textbook selection request for Grade 1-5 *“Math Expressions”* – Common Core, 2013 Edition

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Strumello expressed his extreme satisfaction with the completeness and detail of the Textbook Request.

F. Power Point Energy Proposal

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/ sec. Ms. Magri) to accept the proposal of Power Point Energy to perform energy efficient upgrades under the terms and conditions of the Small Business Energy Advantage Program, with no out of pocket cost incurred by the Seymour Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

G. Awards Advisory Committee Awards

MOTION: (Mr. Putorti/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the report and recommendations of the Advisory Awards Committee regarding the 2014 recipients of the David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award, the John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award, the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award

SO VOTED

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

The recipients are: Peter Kubik (David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award)
Jamie Yakushewicz (John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award)
Bruce Deming (Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award)
Sam Bradshaw (Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award)

H. **BOE Policy Changes**

1. **Policy #1220 Citizens' Advisory Committees**

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec. Ms. McAndrew-Sobieski) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #1220 Citizens Advisory Committees as presented

SO VOTED

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

I. **Community Committee**

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to create a Community Committee per policy #1220 Citizens' Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

Everyone felt this committee was a good idea. After a discussion regarding this Committee, the following changes to the original proposal were suggested:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee shall concern itself with developing and implementing communication programs to facilitate meaningful and relevant communication between the Board and community members, leading to greater collaboration, open discussion, and transparency in the District.

Committee makeup:

- Three board members (3),
- One parent representative from each school (4), with the PTA/PTO from any school that has such an organization nominating that individual and any school that does not have such organization having a parent representative appointed by the school administration.
- The most recently appointed teacher of the year or ~~their~~ **his or her** designee (1).
- One community member at large (1), recommended by the ~~Superintendent or Board of Education~~ **Board of Selectman**
- Two members of the Seymour Schools administration (2), recommended by the Superintendent
- **Member of the Board of Selectman** (addition)
- **Member of the Board of Finance** (addition)

13 MEMBERS

The Chairman of the Committee will be a Board member, elected by the full Committee. Recommendations shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval in the month of September. The Committee shall meet no fewer than four times each year, with additional or regular meeting schedules established as the Committee sees fit.

J. Middle School Audit

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda a discussion on the Middle School Audit

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Belden briefly went through the process that occurs during a building process saying an estimate is submitted, the building committee is formed, the plan is closed and then an audit is done to be certain the estimate was correct. He said no bonding is necessary because it is only \$10,000 and the project is closed. The funds go to the town. He said it is not unusual to find small things. There was not a negative impact on the grant. This does not impact the taxpayers. He also noted that the High School building project is being audited now. Mrs. Syriac pointed out that this was outstanding on the town side and the person who deserves the credit is Mr. Belden who assisted the town above and beyond the scope of his normal job. Mr. Belden said by working through the Middle school audit he is better prepared for the next audit.

K. 2014-15 Education Budget

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion on the 2014-15 Education Budget

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Putorti asked Mrs. Snopkowski to report to the Board what happened at the Board of Finance meeting. Mrs. Snopkowski said there was no vote taken but the consensus was the education budget would be cut by \$108,000 which is the amount of additional savings found by Anthem Insurance due to a good claims experience. She said she believed all but one member of the Board of Finance agreed with this number.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec. Ms. McAndrew-Sobieski) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** in Seymour High School.