



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (REVISED)

July 7, 2014

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Saundra Gesek  
Jay Hatfield  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling  
Theodora Klarides  
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Virginia Tagliatela, Director of Special Services  
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS  
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Matthew Bradshaw  
Nicholas Kubik  
Angela Polney  
Gary Freeman

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Hatfield asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Jody Willis and Mr. Joe Deptula.

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Katherine Petroski for being named as one of the 2013-14 NVL Athletes of the Year
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School softball team on their Class MState Championship win on June 14, 2014.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Bradshaw, 23 Swan Avenue – Attending the meeting to observe as part of his scout project.

### IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

#### A. REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report
  - a. Chairman's Report  
None

- b. Board Member Comments  
Mr. Hatfield asked about the availability of the AED machine during athletic events. Mr. Belden said he felt they are made available for use during athletic events held outside the building but wanted to check with Mr. Kearns to be sure. A report will be given at the next BOE meeting.

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac reported that there was an intrusion at the Seymour Middle School on Sunday afternoon. They forced their way into the school and were able to gain access. Police have made an arrest. Mrs. Syriac said she hoped the cameras will help prevent this kind of situation.

**B. INFORMATION**

1. **Committee Reports**

a. **Minutes**

- 1) Finance Committee Meeting – June 2, 2014
- 2) Policy Committee Meeting – June 12, 2014

2. **Staff Resignations - Certified**

a. Leslie Sojka

- Assistant Principal
- Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
- Effective end of 2013-14 school year

b. Richard Priolo

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to add the resignation of Richard Priolo, Library Media Specialist at Seymour Middle School to the agenda.

**SO VOTED**

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

3. **Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

a. Michael Oberdick

- Yearbook Advisor
- Seymour Middle School
- Effective end of 2013-14 school year

b. Carol Wood

- Student Council Advisor
- Seymour Middle School
- Effective end of 2013-14 school year

c. Tom Jurzynski

- Assistant Coach, Girls Swim Team
- Seymour High School
- Effective end of 2013-14 school year

d. Eric DeMarco

- Assistant Coach, Football Team
- Seymour High School
- Effective June 30, 2014

4. **Blending Town and BOE Technology Departments – Kurt Miller**

Mr. Putorti said Mr. Miller was unable to attend the meeting tonight. There was a brief discussion regarding this topic with Mr. Stanek wondering if the transition should take place over the summer.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to table this agenda item.

**SO VOTED**

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

5. **Policy 6145.211 – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics**

- a. Discussion and possible action on Policy #6145.211 Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics. Mrs. Syriac explained that currently this policy states no sports on State or Federal holidays that are observed and the NVL League wanted to schedule games on Memorial Day. Mr. Putorti said it was a matter of either maintaining the current policy or revising it. Mr. Hatfield said he felt this discussion should be referred to the Athletic Committee or the Policy Committee. Mr. Stanek said he disagreed and felt the Board should discuss this and make a decision before another holiday occurs. Mr. Stanek said he felt Memorial Day is a somber holiday and games should not be played on this holiday but there are other holidays that it may be ok to play. The discussion then turned to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Ms. Magri pointed out the policy that states Thanksgiving games must be played by the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Mr. Hatfield said if the policy is modified it could potentially have a financial impact. Mr. Putorti said it would be difficult to pick/choose the holidays where games can be played. Mr. Hatfield said he felt Mr. Rostowsky should be part of this discussion and Mrs. Syriac said he was invited to the meeting. There was more discussion regarding the Veterans Day Holiday and the fact that our students attend school, however, many other schools are not open. After the discussion Mr. Putorti called for a motion, hearing none he said we should move on to the next agenda item. Mr. Hatfield asked if we should write a letter to the NVL league. Mr. Stanek said Mr. Rostowsky indicated the league is well aware of the policy and may get push back.

6. **Possible Reallocation of Teaching Position – Christine Syriac**

With the transfer of Mr. Michael Oberdick to a Social Studies teaching position, she would like to reallocate the position of Technology Integration teacher (HS/MS) to create a SRBI Math Teacher at the elementary level. While the HS/MS Technology Integration teacher was initially utilized by teachers, we have seen that the teacher is no longer being utilized enough to support the position.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to add the position of SRBI Elementary Math Teacher which will be split between Bungay and Chatfield-LoPresti Schools.

**SO VOTED**

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

Mrs. Syriac indicated that Mr. Richard Priolo, Library Media Specialist at Seymour Middle School has resigned. To cover the duties of the middle school library media specialist with the creation of a instructional paraprofessional position. In addition, she would like to create an additional instructional paraprofessional position for the STEM classes at Seymour Middle School. Mr. Putorti asked about the management of the library. Mrs. Syriac said the classroom teacher helps with book selection. She said administration has not seen a huge value added with a full time library media specialist at the middle school. She said in the future she envisions a split library media position for the middle school. Ms. Magri questioned if the library media specialist teaches classes which are included in the block schedule. Mrs. Syriac explained that the library media specialist was not included in the schedule so that students could attend STEM classes. Mrs. Syriac said she remains committed to finding ways to reallocate funds to add positions.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to create two new instructional paraprofessional positions: 1) for the middle school library media center and 2) for STEM classrooms at the middle school.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

The motion passes.

7. **DCF and Seymour Families – Nancy Snopkowski**

Mrs. Snopkowski informed the Board that Connecticut DCF has approached the district to create a partnership that focuses on placing Seymour students in need with Seymour families. To take a child in on a temporary basis, the family will not have to be licensed. We plan on asking Kurt Miller to post the information on the town website. We would show support for the program by giving them space to conduct their awareness meetings. When asked how DCF would use our resources Mrs. Snopkowski said they would contact her as the DCF liaison to try and find a placement for the student in need within our community. It is best for the student to stay in Seymour so they can continue at their school and we can potentially save transportation money. Mrs. Syriac said this is an awareness campaign. DCF would promote the program and they would be doing the work. The program has been created because they need more foster parents.

V. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Minutes**

1. **Regular BOE Meeting – June 2, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on June 2, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

2. **Regular BOE Meeting – June 16, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on June 16, 2014.

**SO VOTED**

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

3. **Special BOE Meeting #1 – June 4, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting #1 on June 4, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Stanek

4. **Special BOE Meeting #2 – June 4, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting #2 on June 4, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Stanek

5. **Special BOE Meeting – June 30, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on June 30, 2014 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

B. **Staff Hiring - Certified**

1. **Kerry Dest**

- STEM Teacher
- Seymour Middle School

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the administration and the Superintendent to hire Kerry Dest as the STEM teacher in Seymour Middle School.

**SO VOTED**

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

Mr. Hatfield questioned the need for approvals of hiring since Mrs. Syriac has the power to hire in the summer months. Mrs. Syriac explained that while it is true that she can hire during the summer months; the past practice has been the start of this would be after the first meeting in July.

2. **Allison Summer**

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Central Office
- Replacing Katherine Hinckley

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the administration and the Superintendent to hire Allison Summer as the Board Certified Behavior Analyst for the district

**SO VOTED**

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

3. **Rebecca Bennett**

- School Nurse
- Bungay School
- Replacing Mary Ellen Coppola

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the administration and the Superintendent to hire Rebecca Bennett as the school nurse for Bungay Elementary School

**SO VOTED**

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

Ms. Gesek asked about the salary information on these hires; Mrs. Syriac responded: The nurse is the same as all nurses, the Behavior Analyst is being paid the same as Katherine Hinckley, and the STEM teacher is Step 1 Masters.

C. **Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

1. **Nicholas Kubik**

- Night Custodian
- Seymour Middle School
- Replacing Larry Kisson

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Director of Facilities and the Superintendent to hire Nicholas Kubik as night custodian in Seymour Middle School.

**SO VOTED**

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

D. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. **Gary Freeman**

- Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Jennifer Monaco

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director and the Superintendent to hire Gary Freeman as the Assistant Coach for Girls Soccer in Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

E. **Intra District Transfers**

1. **Intra District Waiver Request – Students currently attending Waiver School**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2014-2015 intra district transfer request for students Emma Cushing, Dylan Damiani, Giuliana Damiani, Chandler Elliott, Richard Hurley, Gianna Revere, Gabriel Sand, Isabella Sand, and Daniel Villanueva who currently attend school under an intra district waiver and therefore, have no impact to class size.

**SO VOTED**

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

2. New Intra District Waiver Request  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2014-2015 intra district transfer request for Caitlin Marazzi to attend Bungay Elementary School.  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
3. **MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda the intra district transfer request of Grace Donovan  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
- MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2014-2015 intra district transfer request for Grace Donovan to attend Chatfield-LoPresti School  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
- F. **Donation**  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to accept the donation to the Seymour Schools of playground equipment such as balls, chalk, hula hoops, etc., (approximate value \$100) from the Seymour Lions Club to be used at the discretion of the Superintendent  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
- G. **Bus Cameras**  
Mr. Belden explained this involves the installation of external cameras to record traffic violations involving our school buses. The camera will take a picture, contact the driver and issue a citation. Seymour waited a while to do this so we could see how the law panned out. Permission has been given by All Star. Board of Selectman would receive the 12% of proceeds from the citation fine. 88% would go to Bus Shield. It is hoped tht this will deter people from running the lights on our buses.  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Bus Shield for external cameras for all Star Transportation buses  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
- H. **Seymour Middle School Phone System**  
We have partnered with Intel to upgrade the phone system in Seymour Middle School. This was originally planned for last year but due to the budget situation, no funds were available and had to be postponed. The phone system in Seymour Middle School is the same one that was installed when the school opened in 2001.  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Fair Market Value (FMV) lease agreement with US Bank in the amount of \$1,001.52 per month for sixty (60) months for the upgrade to the Seymour Middle School telephone system  
**SO VOTED**
- AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek
- I. **BOE Policy Changes**
1. **Bylaw #9132 – Permanent Board Committees**  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Bylaw #9132 – Permanent Board Committees as presented.  
Mr. Putorti commended the members of the Policy Committee on the work they did on this bylaw. He said he doesn't feel it is necessary but he is ok with it. Mr. Stanek said he was not in favor of changing the committees because they are working fine as they are. He admits the Residency Committee may not be as necessary as it once was because of the changes we have experienced in the district and probably should not be a stand-alone committee any longer. He said he is not

being critical of the policy committee and he likes the idea of advisory committees. He is not in favor of changing the committees but feels the policy committee has done a good job. Ms. Magri said "if it's not broken why fix it?" After this discussion, Mr. Putorti called for a motion and no motion was made.

Mr. Hatfield rescinded his previous motion

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Gesek) to postpone item I1 – Bylaw #9132

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Gesek

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

The motion failed.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Bylaw #9132 – Permanent Board Committees as presented.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Hatfield

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

The motion failed.

2. **Bylaw #9325.2 – Order of Business**

Mrs. Syriac pointed out that since the revision to Bylaw #9132 did not pass, there is no need to change this policy.

No motion was made.

3. **Policy #5131.6 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #5131.6 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

**SO VOTED**

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

4. **Policy #4118.231/4218.231 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #4118.231/4218.231 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

**SO VOTED**

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

5. **Policy #6172.3 - Homeschooling**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #6172.3 Homeschooling

**SO VOTED**

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

6. **Policy #5145 – Section 504 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to accept the addition of Policy #5145 – Section 504 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

**SO VOTED**

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

7. **Executive Session**

1. **\*Superintendent's Performance Evaluation**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) move that the board enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's performance evaluation and to discuss a personnel matter

**SO VOTED**

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

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

Entered into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk