



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (revised)

August 18, 2014
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 pm

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Kurt Miller, First Selectman
Roxanne Melaragno
Jason Melaragno

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 pm.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Mr. Fred Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Carol Cadoret who was a long time secretary at Seymour High School.
2. Ms. Kristen Harmeling stated that the U14 Mud Cats Amateur Baseball team won the World Series. Several Seymour students are on this team.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. REPORTS

1. **Chairman's Report**

a. Chairman's Report
None

b. Board Member Comments

Ms. Magri said that after the meeting adjourns she has some contract negotiations updates to share with the Board. Mr. Strumello said he felt that the Board had not officially or unofficially thanked Representative Conroy for her work to get the funding for the turf field and bleachers. He also said he was impressed with the quality of the people the Superintendent has hired this summer. He said he would give a grade of 90 on the reference letters. Mr. Stanek said he felt people should not start a letter of intent with "my name is..." Ms. Harmeling said she will be sharing a letter to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance to extend an invitation and to talk about the Community Committee. She noted that the letter may need tweaks and also a date change. Mr. Putorti said this is on the agenda.

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac reported that she is going to make another attempt to get the Let's Talk initiative off the ground. We are having postcards printed that will be distributed to all the school offices, and around town. We want to give one more strong push to get the community to use this form of communication. Mr. Putorti suggested we put a link on the town website and Mr. Miller confirmed that this could be done. Mrs. Syriac said we will be sending out the Citizens Academy brochure to the entire Seymour community. She informed the Board that Lee-Ann Dauerty and Rob Dyer have worked together to make it possible to access the agenda backup paperwork through links in the agenda. This will be user friendly. However, this feature will only be available when our computers are used. It will be available on the 9/2/14 agenda. She informed the Board that we are undergoing a "freshening up" in Central Office. We will be redoing floor plans, moving people and furniture, replacing the flooring due to safety issues and due to the damage caused by the recent plumbing flood.

B. INFORMATION

1. **Staff Resignations - Certified**

a. Blain, Kelly

- English Teacher
- Seymour High School
- Effective July 24, 2014

b. Lund-Teixeira, Andrea

- Language Arts Consultant
- Bungay School
- Effective July 25, 2014

2. **Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

a. Munevich, Davida

- Instructional Paraprofessional
- Chatfield-LoPresti School
- Effective July 24, 2014

3. Staff Resignations – Appendix E

- a. Freeman, Gary
 - Head Coach
 - Boys Soccer
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective July 8, 2014
- b. Graham, Rebecca
 - Assistant Coach
 - Cheerleading
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective August 5, 2014
- c. LaBaire, Devan
 - Head Coach
 - Cheerleading
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective July 1, 2014

4. Staff Hiring - Certified

- a. Dyer, Danielle
 - Science Biology Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Mary Deming
- b. Giannettino, Barbara
 - Kindergarten Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Sarah Smith (Leave of Absence)
- c. Lekas, Candice
 - Science Biology Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Bruce Deming
- d. Rangel, Christine
 - Special Education Teacher (Part time)
 - Bungay School
- e. Sponheimer, Deirdre
 - Language Arts Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
- f. Toscano, Samantha
 - Art Teacher
 - Seymour High School

5. Administrator Transfer

- a. Freund, James
 - Principal
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Glenn Lungarini

Mr. Putorti commented that Mr. Freund had a “Meet the Principal” meeting on August 12. He had a good turnout of about 40-50 people. Mr. Putorti said Mr. Freund “hit a home run”. Mr. Strumello said he felt Mr. Freund will be a great leader for Seymour High School.

6. **Staff Hiring – Non Certified**
 - a. Palumbo, Renee
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - b. Szabo, Katherine
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Michelle Martelli

7. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

- a. Young, Jessica
 - Head Coach
 - Cheerleading
 - Seymour High School

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

First Selectman Kurt Miller shared his vision for the blending of the town and Board of Education technology departments. The full cost of \$87,000 will be a Board of Education responsibility. Mr. Miller explained that the town will be contributing \$15,000 for the period of 10/1/14 to 6/30/15 through billing by the Board of Education. The technology person would continue to be an employee of the Board of Education. The town would continue their relationship with their technology consulting firm, Cassanelli Associates to handle all repair and service needs. The expectations of the plan phase for the period of 10/1/14 to 6/30/15 will be the creation of a municipal side of a potential new town wide technology department. This would entail the development of needs and goals both short term and long term, determine appropriate staffing levels, create actionable steps to bring town side into one department, and create a budget. In addition, the establishment of controls over cross department functions to develop an action plan and to identify cost saving options across all town technology functions. Mr. Miller said the basic idea is for this person to come in and build a department. He said the Superintendent is comfortable with the plan. Mr. Putorti said this might enable us to meld the two budgets together. Mr. Miller said this would be a goal. The focus is to improve efficiency and save money. The joint technology department would benefit the municipality. Mr. Strumello expressed concerns about having one budget saying that would involve a charter change. Mr. Miller explained that it would be just the technology budget. Combining the town and education budgets would be nice but is probably 10 years down the road. Ms. Gesek asked about the \$65,000 technology line item and Mrs. Harmeling said the transfers would go from the Board of Education to the town. She wanted assurances that Rob Dyer would get a \$15,000 raise. We want to show the town that we want to work together. She wants a clear showing of the numbers. She said she sees this as Rob Dyer being a consultant to the town, not a person who will fix things like broken computers. Rob will be able to evaluate the needs in the future. She said again, that Rob will be an employee of the Board of Education. Mr. Strumello asked about the ending date of 6/30/15 and what would happen after that date. Mrs. Syriac explained that the Director of Technology is underpaid. The number she recommended was \$20,000. The blending of the Board of Education and Town technology departments was shared with Rob during his interview. The amount is \$15,000 for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year, it may be \$20,000 if they want him for a full year. Down the road, if the town decides they no longer need his services, we should not take money away from him. The Board of Education would have to absorb this amount in our budget. Ms. Harmeling asked if the Board of Finance is supportive of this plan. Mr. Miller said he felt the Board of Finance understands the needs for technology. He said he feels the town will saving at least \$15,000 by this plan. Mr. Dyer said he had walked through down town and identified some areas where things can be improved. Several areas were identified. Ms. Magri stated she was terrified that Mr. Dyer will be utilized to solve software problems and training down town not to only look at infrastructures and equipment. Mrs. Syriac

said that is not the role of the Director of Technology, training comes from the software company. Mr. Miller reminded them that they will be keeping their consultants under contract. Mr. Strumello questioned the 7-8 hours per week Mr. Dyer would be spending down town and said he assumed the Superintendent has had a conversation with him regarding priorities. It is important that he does an effective job for the Board of Education. Mr. Miller said he knows the 7-8 hours will be flexible and that number was what they would be essentially paying for. Mrs. Syriac said Mr. Dyer is responsible for reporting back to the Board of Education what is realistic and she understands that there may be an impact to the Board of Education initially. Mr. Stanek was concerned about adding 7-8 hours to Mr. Dyer's work week or is it that we would be losing his services for 7-8 hours a week? Mr. Miller said we will be keeping an eye on his work week and said they will not be demanding. Mr. Stanek said he just wants to make sure this person knows what they are getting into. He also asked if the Police Department would be included. Mr. Miller said no. Ms. Magri said there is a workshop on this topic at the CAFE CAPSS convention and she is attending but it might be good for others to attend. Mr. Miller said he did not expect a decision tonight and it was decided to wait until the 9/2/14 meeting to take action. Mr. Miller asked if they agreed that grounds maintenance should be the next step and Mr. Putorti said he thought so.

9. **AED Report** – Rich Kearns

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Magri) to table the AED Report

SO VOTED

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

10. **Regulations Bring your Own Device** – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac distributed a draft form to support the policy. At the 9/2/14 Board of Education meeting, she plans to revisit the policy based on feedback from the Administrators at the retreat. She hopes to implement the policy in early October. Based on feedback from parent concerns regarding cell phone use at the elementary level, we will only be permitting cell phones for educational purposes in grades 9-12. The elementary level uses Chromebooks and cell phone use at the middle school level is not necessary at this time saying it would potentially become more of a disciplinary issue at the middle school. Guests who sign into our networks will find very limited access due to our accessibility restrictions. Mrs. Syriac discussed the legal issue at region 14 saying this problem will not be an issue in our district.

V. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Minutes**

1. **Regular BOE Meeting** – July 7, 2014

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting on July 7, 2014 as presented

Mr. Strumello expressed concerned on the lack of proper spacing on some of the policies. Mrs. Syriac said she felt this was an issue with the printer that was used.

SO VOTED

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

B. **Finance Committee Meeting** – August 18, 2014

1. **Financial Management Summary**

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending June 30, 2014 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. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Transfers

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the transfers totaling \$542,091 for the year ending 2013-2014 as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Sub Committee

Mr. Stanek said he felt we should be billing continuously to plan for the future. Ms. Hamad said she commends Mr. Belden and the Administration for keeping transfers to a minimum.

SO VOTED

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

C. Intra District Transfers

1. Intra District Waiver Requests – students currently attending waiver school

a. Ayden and Colin Frey

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2014-2015 intra district transfer requests for students Ayden Frey and Colin Frey, who currently attend Bungay School under an intra district waiver and therefore, have no impact to class size.

SO VOTED

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

D. Home Schooling Notification

1. Ms. Kathy Gardecki has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Rachel Gardecki, Samantha Gardecki, and Nicole Gardecki for the 2014-2015 school year

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to acknowledge the receipt of this form from Ms. Kathy Gardecki for her children, Rachel, Samantha, and Nicole Gardecki, and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

Ms. Gesek asked about the annual portfolio review indicated on the form. Ms. Syriac said we have no control over what form a parent submits and confirmed that we do not do annual reviews.

SO VOTED

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

2. Ms. Faith Yarosh has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Kira Yarosh for the 2014-2015 school year

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to acknowledge the receipt of this form from Ms. Faith Yarosh for her child, Kira Yarosh, and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

SO VOTED

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

E. BOE Policy Changes

1. Policy #5131.6 - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to adopt the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #5131.6 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco that was approved on July 7, 2014

SO VOTED

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

2. Policy #4118.231/4218.231 - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Gesek) to adopt the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #4118.231/4218.231 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco that was approved on July 7, 2014

SO VOTED

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

3. Policy #6172.3 – Homeschooling

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to adopt the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #6172.3 – Homeschooling that was approved on July 7, 2014

SO VOTED

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

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

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to adopt the recommendation of the Policy Committee to accept the addition of Policy #5145 – Section 504 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities that was approved on July 7, 2014

SO VOTED

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

F. **Teachers and Administrators Evaluation Plan Recent Changes** – Nancy Snopkowski

Mrs. Snopkowski explained that she is looking for the Board of Education to support the changes to the Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development plan. She met with the Professional Development Committee and several changes were decided. Mr. Strumello asked if the state supported the changes. Mrs. Syriac said the changes were recommended by the state. She reminded the Board that they will be given the opportunity to tweak the plan each year. Ms. Harmeling said she felt the plan was much clearer with regard to observations.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the changes to the Teachers and Administrators Evaluation Plan as presented

SO VOTED

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

G. **Community Outreach Advisory Committee**

Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that we approved the creation of this committee and that it was recommended that three Board members be appointed to serve on the committee. As Ms. Harmeling said earlier a letter will be sent to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the appointment of three Board members, Kristen Harmeling, Allison Sobieski-McAndrew, and Ed Strumello to serve on the Community Outreach Advisory Committee for the 2014-2015 school year

SO VOTED

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

H. **Recognition for Representative Conroy**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda the recognition of Representative Conroy for her work in securing funding for the turf field at the high school.

Mr. Strumello asked that a letter be sent to Rep. Conroy thanking her for her work with the turf field saying it was a “home run”.

SO VOTED

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

I. ***Assistant Principal – Chatfield-LoPresti School**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Gesek) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss the hiring of the candidate recommended by the Superintendent for the Assistant Principal of Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School. The Board invites Christine Syriac, David Olechna, and the candidate into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

Entered Executive Session: 8:56 pm

Exited Executive Session: 9:05 pm

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Roxanne Melaragno as the Assistant Principal at Chatfield-LoPresti School

SO VOTED

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

J. *Personnel Matter

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board invites Christine Syriac into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

Enter Executive Session: 9:09 pm

Exited Executive Session: 9:44

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at: 9:44 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk