



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2014
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Roxanne Melaragno, Assistant Principal, CLS
Rich Kearns, Director of Security

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

Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Richard Cole who passed away last week and several years ago served as a Seymour Board of Education member.

A. Recognitions - Mrs. Syriac

1. Congratulations to Cindy Brooks on her appointment to the 2014-15 Board of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT)

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated August 25, 2014 from the Seymour Board of Education to Representative Theresa Conroy thanking her for her assistance in obtaining the state grant to upgrade the main field at Seymour High School

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. **REPORTS**

1. **Chairman's Report**

- a. Chairman's Report
Mr. Putorti had nothing to report.
- b. Board Member Comments
Mr. Stanek reported that recently he did a real estate closing for the Franklin O'Brien Homestead. While cleaning out the house, Mr. O'Brien's son found a football signed by the Seymour High School championship team of 1993-94 and asked Mr. Stanek to donate the ball to the school district. Ms. Gesek said she attended the ALS challenge at the high school and noted the kids in attendance were very well behaved. Mr. Freund added that there was no way he could let the Derby Red Raiders show up Seymour High School.

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac reported that the opening of schools went very smoothly this year. She said she got quite a bit of positive feedback regarding opening day convocation. Many said they left feeling positive and inspired. She and Mr. Putorti were at each school on opening day and she has visited each school at least two times. School Improvement plans will be presented in the near future. The school improvement plans will not be the same as in the past. She is currently planning for October 20 and November 17. When these dates are firm we will set up the meetings. Currently we have two people signed up for the Citizens Academy, if we end up with less than five people enrolled, it will be cancelled. Those who have been enrolled will be the first to be enrolled in the spring session. She reminded the Board that the Meet the Teachers nights start tomorrow at the middle school. Last year, teachers indicated they wanted the Meet the Teachers to occur earlier in the year and this is in response to that feedback. They also felt Parent Visitation days should be earlier in the year, so those dates were also moved up. Mr. Harmeling noted that all of these dates have been posted on the district web site calendar.

B. **INFORMATION**

1. **Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

- a. Ewaskie, Roxanne
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective September 5, 2014

2. **Staff Hiring – Certified**

- a. Daly, Jan
 - Elementary Teacher, Grade 5
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - replacing Kim Barton
- b. Mucci, Carolyn
 - Language Arts Consultant
 - Bungay School
 - replacing Andrea Lund-Teixiera
- c. Perille, Jessica
 - Language Arts Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - replacing Jeff Gilbert

3. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

- a. Hirth, Shannon
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Lois Cacchillo
- b. Vetro, Cristina
 - Clerical Paraprofessional (P/T)
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Kelly Reilly

4. Staff Appointment – Volunteer

- a. Manion, Christine
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach
 - Cheerleading
 - Seymour High School

5. AED's in the Schools – Rich Kearns

Mr. Kearns attended this meeting to give a brief overview of the AEDs in the schools at the request of Mr. Hatfield. Mr. Kearns said there are five AEDs in the schools. Each one is in a central location at each school. Chatfield-LoPresti has two due to the configuration of the school. All AEDs were donated by Griffin Hospital. Mr. Putorti asked about who is trained to use them. Mr. Kearns said training is conducted periodically and all coaches, some administrators, and some teachers are trained. Mr. Strumello asked if they are available during recreation activities at the schools. Mr. Kearns said they are located centrally within each school and are available should they be needed during activities at the school. Mr. Hatfield asked about the availability of AEDs on the football field during games. He has a concern since the building is closed. Mr. Kearns said an ambulance is on standby at our home games and access to the building is available during our events. No interior doors are locked so access to the AED in the main hallway would be possible. Mr. Hatfield asked what the cost of an AED was to purchase one. Mr. Kearns said the cost is between \$1300 - \$1800 and there are costs to maintain them. Mr. Hatfield asked about purchasing one for use on the field. Mr. Strumello suggested maybe the booster clubs could purchase AEDs. Mr. Hatfield asked Mr. Kearns if he could secure a grant to purchase one and Mr. Kearns said he felt he could obtain an AED but then the question would be who would get it; what school or team? Mr. Hatfield said if we can get one, why would we turn it away?

6. Attorney Fees – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac distributed a report on attorney fees paid by surrounding districts. This was in response to a request by the Board to see the comparison for what we were paying and what surrounding districts were paying for legal fees. Mr. Hatfield said he found it interesting the difference in pricing from district to district. Mrs. Syriac explained again that we use the same attorneys who know our district, our history, and know what we are doing in the district. We have a good relationship with them. Ms. Harmeling said she felt it was important for the attorney to know us; we can't just bring someone in just to have them here. They need to know the district. Mr. Stanek explained that the named partners do not do the work. First and second year attorneys are "cheaper", they will do the work at a lesser rate. Mr. Hatfield said for things like policy we should be conscious of who we use and maybe we should use first and second year attorneys for some of the work.

V. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Minutes**

1. **Regular BOE Meeting – August 18, 2014**

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting on August 18, 2014 as presented

Mrs. Syriac noted that there was a mistake in the minutes on Page 4 – Blending Technology. The minutes say Mr. Dyer will be an employee of the Town and it should say the Board of Education. This change has already been made.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Hatfield,

B. **Custodian Collective Bargaining Agreement**

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the Custodian Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of September 1, 2013 to August 30, 2017 as negotiated and approved by the Board of Education Liaison Committee

Mr. Strumello asked for clarification on section 3.5 - what does it mean? Ms. Magri said it means the custodian misses his turn at overtime. Mr. Hatfield asked about when a part time employee becomes a full time employee if an opening is available. Ms. Magri said this is not in the contract. Mr. Putorti said open positions are posted. Mr. Hatfield questioned the dates on the contract and Ms. Magri explained we were in negotiations for one year and the custodians worked without a contract. Mrs. Syriac said we tried for a four year contract. Mr. Hatfield asked about the tentative agreement verses the working agreement. Mr. Belden explained the tentative agreement shows the changes, the working agreement is the contract. Non certified contracts are different from certified contracts. It will be retroactive and this has been factored into the budget.

SO VOTED

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

C. **Home Schooling Notification**

1. Ms. Cynthia Kostick has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Marya Kostick and John Kostick for the 2014-2015 school year

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to acknowledge the receipt of this form from Ms. Cynthia Kostick for her children, Marya Kostick and John Kostick and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

SO VOTED

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

D. **Seymour Sports Hall of Fame**

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Gesek) to approve a resolution stating:

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

HONORING THE

CLASS OF 2014 INDUCTEES OF

THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

WHEREAS, The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame has been established to recognize outstanding athletes and coaches who have graduated from Seymour High School or coached Seymour High School athletes; and

WHEREAS, The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame is inducting its Class of 2014 members on November 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Seymour Board of Education is proud to recognize the athletic accomplishments of the Class of 2014 inductees to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame; and
WHEREAS, the Members of the Seymour Board of Education wish to join in recognizing and honoring the Class of 2014 inductees to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame.
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Members of the Seymour Board of Education hereby offer our sincerest congratulations and extend our very best wishes on this memorable occasion to the Class of 2014 inductees of The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame, to wit:
Walt Stousy (1955), Dick Dahn (1955), Jack Sledjeski (1957), Tom Heffernan (1980), K.C. Sirowich (1987), Sean LoPresti (1990), Jay Perez (1999), Tracey Garofalo (1998)
Dated at Seymour, Connecticut and adopted by the Seymour Board of Education on this 2nd day of September 2, 2014.

SO VOTED

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

E. Pay Increases

1. Nutrition Services Workers

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve a 2% increase in wages for Nutrition Services workers for the 2014-15 fiscal year

SO VOTED

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

2. Part Time Custodians

MOTION: (Mr. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve a \$0.50 per hour increase in wages for Part Time Custodians for the 2014-15 fiscal year as presented

SO VOTED

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

F. Combining of Town and BOE Technology Position

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to merge the Board of Education Technology Director position into a combined position with the Town of Seymour in accordance with the recommendation and proposal of the First Selectmen for the period of 10/1/14 through 6/30/15 inclusive, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Approval by the Board of Selectman;
- b. Payment of the sum of \$15,000.00 from the Town of Seymour to the Board of Education for said period;
- c. Review of the combined position by the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen during the month of May, 2015; and
- d. The right of either the Board of Education or the Board of Selectmen to terminate the combined Technology Director position as of June 30, 2015 by providing notice to the other Board on or before June 15, 2015

Mr. Putorti said that Mr. Miller said the Board of Selectmen does not need to approve this and recommended striking it from the motion. Mr. Stanek said we should act on the motion as Mr. Hatfield read it. Mr. Strumello asked how we would communicate this to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Putorti said he will communicate with them. Mr. Strumello was concerned about being locked in until June 15; what if it is catastrophic to the Board of Education? Mr. Stanek said we can include an escape clause. Mrs. Syriac said she and Mr. Dyer will not let that happen. Mr. Dyer will not get beaten into the ground. Mrs. Syriac will monitor the situation very carefully. Mr. Stanek said he did not want the Board of Selectmen to come back and say they did not get their money's worth. Mr. Strumello said he was just leery of this type of agreement. Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that is a trial. Mr. Stanek said he shares Mr. Strumello's concerns. He said that if the Superintendent doesn't want to continue, he will support her. He is concerned.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to amend the motion

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to merge the Board of Education Technology Director position into a combined position with the Town of Seymour in accordance with the recommendation and proposal of the First Selectmen presented to the Board of Education on August 18, 2014 for the period of 10/1/14 through 6/30/15 inclusive, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Approval by the Board of Selectman;
- b. Payment of the sum of \$15,000.00 from the Town of Seymour to the Board of Education for said period;
- c. Review of the combined position by the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen during the month of May, 2015; and
- d. The right of either the Board of Education or the Board of Selectmen to terminate the combined Technology Director position as of June 30, 2015 by providing notice to the other Board on or before June 15, 2015

SO VOTED

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

G. Community Committee

Mr. Strumello resigned from the Community Committee. He told the Board because of this there is a vacancy on this committee and asked if any other Board member would be interested in filling the vacancy.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to appoint Mr. Hatfield to the Community Committee to replace Mr. Strumello

SO VOTED

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

H. *Assistant Principal – Seymour High School

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss the hiring of the candidate recommended by the Superintendent for the Assistant Principal of Seymour High School. The Board invites Christine Syriac, Jim Freund, and the candidate into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

Into Executive Session: 8:24 pm

Out of Executive Session: 8:47 pm

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Tara Yusko as the Assistant Principal at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at: 8:49 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk