



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2014
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (arrive 7:37)
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew (arrive 7:37)
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Saundra Gesek
Theodora Klarides

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, MS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
Wayne Natzel, Director of Facilities
Joe Carrafiello
Colleen Mcguire
Kathryn Burton

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Connecticut School Bus Safety Poster Contest: Lizzy Lee, Grade 2 (Bungay School) Second Place, Andrew Kressu, Grade 3 (Chatfield-LoPresti School) Second Place, Michaela Roach, Grade 4 (Bungay School) Third Place
2. The students from SHS raced in their third Electrathon car race at Lyme Rock Park last Friday, October 24, 2014. Both cars tied for third place. The students have been creating a web site that shares information about their progress leading up to the race and information about race day. The link is included below. We are proud of the teachers who support the students as advisors and the students who work on this project outside the normal hours of the school day...they are already planning modifications for the spring race.

<http://shselectrathoncar.wix.com/shselectrathoncar#!2014-2015-news/c1cki>

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated October 7, 2014 to Mr. Kenneth Ewaskie from Christine Syriac on behalf of the Board of Education, notifying him that the Chatfield-LoPresti Library Media Center will be named in his honor
2. Letter dated October 7, 2014 to Mr. Joseph Luciano from Yashu Putorti in response to his email dated September 26, 2014

3. Letter dated October 14, 2014 to Mr. Donald Jones, Jr., President of NetTalon Security Systems from First Selectman Kurt Miller confirming our strong interest in proceeding with a partnership between NetTalon and the Town of Seymour to improve the security of our schools
4. Letter dated October 27, 2014 to the BOE from Mr. Joe Carrafiello petitioning the BOE to consider re-naming the Seymour Middle School auditorium to the Paul C. Porter Auditorium.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Carrafiello, 52 Briarwood Drive – Mr. Carrafiello attended the meeting to add some additional thoughts to what he had stated in his letter to the Board regarding his proposal to name the Seymour Middle School auditorium in honor of Mr. Paul Porter. He spoke of Mr. Porter’s involvement in getting the new Seymour Middle School built, how he made sure needy students had meals for the holidays and how he once rented a billboard in Seymour to highlight student artwork. Mr. Putorti said that normally he does not respond to public comment but in this case, he wanted to let Mr. Carrafiello know that this item has been referred to the Facilities Committee for discussion.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – October 6, 2014
2. Special BOE Meeting – October 8, 2014
3. Special BOE Meeting – October 9, 2014
4. Special BOE Meeting – October 20, 2014

B. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Esposito, Tommaso
 - Part Time Custodian
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Ali Ciocca
2. Kaczyski, Nichole
 - Part Time Monitor Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Marie Sparwell
3. Reilly, John
 - Part Time Custodian
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Jake Boncal

D. Staff Appointments – Volunteers

1. Burns, Robert
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach
 - Football Team
 - Seymour High School
2. Jeanette, Christopher
 - Assistant Coach
 - Football Team
 - Seymour High School

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Putorti, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Ms. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

VI. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. REPORTS

1. **Chairman’s Report**
 - a. Chairman’s Report
 - None

- b. **Board Member Comments**
Mr. Strumello stated that he felt criteria should be developed that could be used when trying to determine the naming of a facility. He said the planting of a tree with a plaque is a nice way to honor someone who has passed. Mr. Hatfield commented that the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame dinner was a very nice event. He asked if the events that were listed in this agenda were sent out to news outlets and Mrs. Syriac confirmed that her Administrators reach out constantly to the news reporters with events in the schools and sometimes they are successful in getting things published. Mr. Putorti reminded Mr. Hatfield that this section is for Board member comments not questions. Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Paul Porter who served as principal at Seymour Middle School from 1988 through 2001, for Nina Poeta who was a wonderful young woman in our community and for Mr. John Hummel who was the #2 all time athletic fan for Seymour High School. Mr. Stanek also spoke of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame dinner saying it was well attended. Ms. Harmeling spoke about the first Community Committee meeting saying she enjoyed it very much. She encouraged anyone who has ideas to reach out to the committee and she said they may try to have an additional meeting sometime in December.

2. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac reported that the Town was able to secure more AED's and was giving one to the Board of Education which will be hung in the hallway near the pool. In addition, Mr. Kearns has applied for an AED through a grant and if we are approved we will have an additional one. It will need to be discussed where the additional AED should go. Mrs. Syriac notified the Board that TEAM may be asking for more space and she will keep them informed as time goes on. She reported that we continue having a problem with citizens who use the school facilities during the school day. The School Resource Officer has asked them several times not to be on school grounds during the day but we continue to have a problem. If it continues, the SRO will begin issuing summons. Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that the Small Steps field trip to the United Nations has been postponed until spring due to scheduling conflicts. She distributed a report of all the Veterans Day activities throughout the district.

B. INFORMATION

1. Student Representatives

- a. High School Student Representative Report
None

2. School Activities and Recognitions

- a. Middle School (see attached)
- b. Chatfield-LoPresti School (see attached)
- c. Bungay School (see attached)

3. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee – October 6, 2014
- b. Community Committee – October 14, 2014
- c. Curriculum and Technology Committee Minutes (revised) – September 15, 2014
- d. Transportation Committee Minutes (revised) – September 15, 2014

4. Space Humidity Control, Seymour Middle School – Discussion and possible action

Mr. Natzel gave a brief overview of the Space Humidity Control Report for Seymour Middle School. The proposal cost was \$711,000. He talked about the other option which would be to buy dehumidifiers for use at the school during the high humidity season. He had secured a discount for the purchase of five dehumidifiers but unfortunately that offer expired on October 31. He said he felt the purchase of dehumidifiers is the way to go. They have been using them in the school and they are working well. Mr. Carrafiello, a Seymour Middle School teacher, agreed they make a difference.

Currently the cost is \$2555 per unit although Mr. Natzel felt he may be able to get a discount. He confirmed that they did not need to be purchased right way since they would not be used until May. Mr. Strumello asked if we can hold anyone responsible for the design flaw that is causing the problem. Mr. Natzel said this has been discussed and the answer is the building was built to code at that time and we have no recourse. He also pointed out that this type of problem is not unique to Seymour and many surrounding towns have experienced the same kind of problems. Ms. Harmeling asked if draining the dehumidifiers into the courtyard would cause any problems in the future. Mr. Natzel felt draining into the courtyard is not a problem. Mr. Hatfield asked if this money was budgeted this year and Mr. Natzel said the maintenance line item should be able to accommodate it. He also confirmed we can continue to rent the units.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Mr. Strumello) to give authority to Mr. Natzel to purchase within the current budget year dehumidifiers for use in Seymour Middle School as soon as an acceptable price can be negotiated

SO VOTED

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

Ms. Magri said she felt there was no need for a motion to purchase the dehumidifiers; she trusts that the right thing will be done. Mr. Stanek said he felt we needed to inform the town of the study.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to send a letter to inform the town of Seymour Board of Selectman and Board of Finance that the Space Humidity Control Report has been completed and informing them of the situation

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Strumello said he felt the dehumidifiers should be ordered well before the humidity season so there is no delay in delivery.

5. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

- a. Meagan Krushinski
 - Student Council Advisor (split position)
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Carol Wood
- b. Craig Prasauckas
 - Student Council Advisor (split position)
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Carol Wood
- c. White, Steven
 - Assistant Coach
 - Wrestling Team
 - Seymour High School

6. Staff Resignations – Certified

- a. Williams, Victoria
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective November 24, 2014

7. Staff Retirement – Non Certified

- a. Bonaventura, Elaine
 - Secretary
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective January 23, 2015

8. Staff Resignations – Appendix E

- a. Lennon, Thomas
 - Assistant Coach(split position)
 - Indoor Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective October 10, 2014
- b. Schneider, Brandt
 - Assistant Coach (split position)
 - Indoor Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective October 8, 2014
- c. Williams, Victoria
 - Advisor
 - Best Buddies Program
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective November 24, 2014

Mr. Strumello asked if this should be read out loud so those people in the audience who do not have a copy of the agenda will be informed. We talked about being open to the public. Mr. Hatfield suggested moving this to the consent agenda. Mr. Hatfield suggested we change the format perhaps putting it on a separate piece of paper. Mr. Hatfield said it's confusing and did not understand why it was included in the agenda. There was some discussion on why this information is included on the agenda and why no action is taken on it. Ms. Harmeling reminded the Board that we do not approve appendix e positions when given to a member of the bargaining unit. Mr. Putorti said in the future it would be included under a heading that makes it clearer.

VII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Nutrition Services Financial Report – September, 2014

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

SO VOTED

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

B. Paraprofessionals Contract

Mr. Strumello asked if we will be getting a report from the Liaison Committee saying we said we would be getting a report regarding the negotiations for those Board members who were not on the Liaison Committee. Mr. Putorti and Ms. Magri pointed out that the highlights were included in the agenda. Mr. Hatfield said he believed we would be getting an update on every contract. Ms. Harmeling left the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Hatfield said it was difficult to vote on these contracts because there were so many changes. Mr. Putorti explained that this is an approved contract. Ms. Magri offered to read the report and Mr. Strumello asked that she go over the highlights of the contract. Ms. Magri said the contracts remain consistent across the board with regard to the medical plan. This was a prolonged process with the Paraprofessionals and she feels it is a fair settlement. Mr. Hatfield asked what the cost of offering benefits due to the affordable care act. Ms. Magri said this would be dependent upon who takes the benefit. Ms. Syriac reminded the Board that we are offering single coverage only.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the Seymour Paraprofessional Union contract for the period August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2017 as negotiated by the Liaison Committee of the Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

C. Scholarship Fund

Mr. Stanek reported that he had been in touch with Sharon Closius of the Valley Community Foundation. He said several scholarships are managed through the endowment fund. He suggested further discussion regarding the handling of funds. Payments should go directly to the Valley Community Foundation as they may be tax deductible. He said he would like to see the Valley Community Foundation along with Christine and Rick develop a procedure/brochure that can be referred to when scholarships are suggested.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to forward funds collected for the Paul Porter Memorial Scholarship fund and to utilize the Valley Community Foundation for the administration and investment of the fund as part of the Seymour Board of Education Valley Community Foundation Fund

SO VOTED

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

D. Exterior Bus Camera Agreement

1. Terminate Agreement

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to terminate the agreement with Bus Shield LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana for the provision of exterior bus cameras due to lack of performance of contractual requirements pertaining to conducting of a survey and installation of cameras in the required time period.

SO VOTED

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

2. Enter Agreement

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with Redflex Guardian DBA Student Guardian, Phoenix, Arizona 85085 to provide exterior bus cameras at no cost to the Seymour Board of Education.

SO VOTED

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

E. Out of State Field Trip Request

1. Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the request of Nate Dobas, SMS music teacher, to attend an out of state field trip with the grade 6, 7, & 8 Glee Club to Radio City Music Hall and the Hard Rock Cafe in New York City on December 30, 2014.

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Hatfield asked if he could add to the agenda regarding the naming of the auditorium. Mr. Putorti said this is being sent to the Facilities Committee for discussion and possible action. Mr. Hatfield asked if we can use the same process since we just did it at Chatfield-LoPresti. Mr. Putorti said he felt there was not need to rush. Mr. Stanek agreed; saying we may need to establish some procedure. Naming the playground was essentially moving the LoPresti School playground to Chatfield-LoPresti School. He said criteria may be needed moving forward. Mr. Hatfield asked what should be discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting and Mr. Putorti said do you want to name the gymnasium for Paul Porter? Do you want to develop criteria? He said Jay will need to develop the agenda. Mr. Strumello said part of the criteria should be what the honor is. He reminded everyone how the town was split when there was talk of naming the Seymour Middle School for Dr. Nolan. The Board should be unified with these decisions. If we have criteria it will be an easier process. It will make for a better decision which is not strictly based on emotion.

Mr. Stanek agreed saying he felt it is worthy of discussion. Mr. Hatfield asked how to set up a Facilities Committee meeting and Mrs. Syriac reminded him to send an email to the other members of the committee with two or three dates to see if they are available.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk