



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2014  
Seymour High School  
Cafeteria  
7:30 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Saundra Gesek  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield (arrived 8:03 pm)  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Allison Sobieski-McAndrew  
Theodora Klarides

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the CAPSS Superintendents' Award of Excellence recipients: High School students Julian Falcioni and Justine Inzero and Middle School students James Engmann and Claudia Iacomacci. They will be honored on December 8, 2014 at the Inn of Villa Bianca
2. Mr. Stanek would like to recognize all the students and members of the staff who participated in the Seymour Christmas parade on November 30, 2014.
3. Mr. Stanek would like to recognize and thank the students, staff, and Veterans who took part in the various Veterans Day activities throughout the district.

#### B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated November 13, 2014 to First Selectman Kurt Miller from Rick Belden regarding the report done by Silver Petrucelli and Associates.
2. Letter dated November 13, 2014 to William Sawicki, Chairman of the Board of Finance from Rick Belden regarding the report done by Silver Petrucelli and Associates.
3. Letter dated October 31, 2014 Rick Belden from Sharon Closius regarding the Valley Community Foundation quarterly statement.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting – November 5, 2014
2. Special BOE Meeting – November 17, 2014

**B. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Scheck, Darrell
  - Head Coach
  - Cheerleading
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Replacing Devan LeBaire
2. Tallcouch, Tyler
  - Assistant Coach
  - Boys Swim Team
  - Seymour High School
3. Thompson, Michael
  - Assistant Coach
  - Indoor Track Team
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Tom Lennon and Brandt Schneider

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**VI. REPORTS**

**A. Chairman's Report**

1. Chairman's Report

Mr. Putorti reported that his church participated in the Seymour Christmas Parade and they were located between the Seymour High School Energy Club and the Seymour High School Jazz Band floats. His church was awarded second place while the Seymour High School Jazz Band took third place. Mr. Putorti challenged the school to beat the church in next year's parade. Mr. Putorti reported that several BOE members attended the CABA CAPSS Convention and a lot was learned that will be shared and used. He also reported that the snowmelt system at Chatfield-LoPresti School is not working and the Building Committee is working on the repairs. There will be a meeting at Town Hall regarding this.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Stanek reported on the Monroe Public Schools and what they do before a budget referendum. They hold a district wide expo that features a piece of work from every student in the district. This brings the parents in to see their child's work. While it would be a huge undertaking, he thinks this is something to think about for future budget sessions. Mr. Putorti thought this was a good idea. Mr. Strumello reported that he had attended the first meeting of the Field and Bleachers Committee.

**B. Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac reported that the Teacher of the Year ceremony is tomorrow (12/2) at the Bushnell. Since she is unable to attend, Mrs. Snopkowski will be attending and escorting Mr. Cleveland across the stage to accept his award. Mrs. Syriac reported on the parent conferences saying the highest participation was at the elementary level. Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that it was her plan to post the position of Associate Superintendent during the month of January.

**C. Student Representatives**

Mr. Julian Falcioni reported the following:

1. 10/15 – Redi Step, PSAT/SAT Testing whole school
2. Week of 10/20 – Homecoming Week and Safe Driving Week
  - Pajama Day
  - Tie-dye day
  - Wild Card Day – choose from Twin Day, Favorite Team
  - Color Wars
  - Blue and Gold Day and Town Wide Nina Poeta Day
  - Homecoming Dance
  - Safe Driving – Junior Assembly
  - Safe Driving – Save a Life Tour
3. 10/31 – SHS Nina Poeta Day – Student wore Poeta Strong Shirts and Blue & Gold
4. 11/10 - Junior Ring Ceremony – Commitment to Graduation
5. 10/12 and 10/13 – Parent Conferences

Grade	# of Parents
Grade 9	41
Grade 10	33
Grade 11	20
Grade 12	9

6. 11/15 Connecticut Music Educators Association regional auditions.  
Aidan Vriik, Percussion, and Sharon Yang, Flute, were selected for the Southern Regional Festival Band based on their auditions. Six band students and eight choral students participated in the audition festival. These students are the first band students to be selected in the recent past.
7. 11/18 – Parent Involvement Night – Helping parents support students using instructional strategies.
8. 11/30 – Seymour Holiday Parade, three groups including The Seymour State Championship Softball Team, the Alternative Energy Club, and the Performing Arts Club who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place for their float.

**D. Google Classroom Presentation by High School Students**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to add to the agenda a presentation on Google Classroom by a group Seymour High School students

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Students Austin Fraser, Joseph Adiletta, Matthew Cosciello, and Ruben Caiza did an overview of the use of Google Classroom. Google Classroom shows all the assignments and when they are due. Students can work together on projects through the use of comment boards. If an assignment is submitted before it is due and the student has something he/she wishes to change, they can un-submit it, fix the assignment and resubmit. Mr. Putorti asked if it was difficult to maintain and the students said it is fairly easy to maintain by going in at least once a day to check on things. Ms. Harmeling asked how the project revisions are negotiated. The students said they are collaborating through the use of comment boards, talking in class, texting, etc. Also, the teacher is able to view everything that is going on with the project and is able to see who is contributing and when they are contributing. Mr. Strumello asked if teachers decide to use Google Classroom. Mr. Freund explained that the decision is made mostly based on the access to laptop computers. Since the Social Studies department has the most laptops at this time, Google Classroom is being used mostly by the Social Studies department. He pointed out that some classrooms are trying to be paperless and are working toward virtual textbooks. When Ms. Harmeling asked if kids bring their own laptops, the students responded not so much with laptops but some bring tablets.

## E. Budget Discussion

Mr. Stanek suggested this item for the agenda because he thinks it is a good idea to get input on what our preliminary needs are before Mrs. Syriac puts her budget together. Mrs. Syriac said suggestions can be emailed to her. Mr. Putorti said this was a good idea noting Mr. Stanek's persistence has resulted in a very good Arts program at the high school. Mr. Stanek told our student representatives that they can submit suggestions from the student council. Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that she and Mr. Belden will be meeting with Administrators to discuss their budgets and she is working on staffing and enrollment numbers. She hopes this information will be available to the Board prior to Christmas break. She also reminded the Board that last minute suggestions brought to the January 5 meeting may be able to be included in her budget. Ms. Harmeling stated that she has had lots of input on our current website and how it needs to be updated and wondered what it would take to get a new website. Mr. Freund said they have recently been putting a lot of effort into their school website. Mr. Strumello wondered if it would be feasible to go in with other local Boards of Education on a website that could be shared. Ms. Magri said she felt this would not be feasible based on how the software works. Mrs. Syriac said she can look at some platforms and come back to the Board with the information/proposals. She reminded the Board that in conjunction with changing the platform, there is the question of who can maintain the website. She noted many districts have a person dedicated to doing this. Mr. Hatfield asked if it might be feasible to join forces with the Town who recently updated their website. Ms. Magri said it would be difficult and complicated; basically everything would have to be programmed. Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that there was a decision made to save money and use it for the student information system. She said we can do anything but we will have to pay for it. Ms. Harmeling said she felt that Edline has done nothing to update the website. Mr. Hatfield said maybe we should write a letter to them inquiring about updating the site. Ms. Magri said anything can be done but it's dependent upon on what you are willing to pay. There was a short discussion on involving CAS. The student representatives said they have no concerns with Edline, there is lots of work put into it, that it is easy to use, and they can access what they need.

## VII. INFORMATION

### A. School Activities and Recognitions

1. Middle School (see attached)
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School (see attached)
3. Bungay School (see attached)

### B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee – November 17, 2014  
Revised minutes were distributed to the Board.

### C. Staff Resignations – Certified

1. Sweet, Gina
  - Special Education Teacher
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Effective January 9, 2015

### D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified

1. Petronchak, Michael
  - Part time Custodian
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Effective November 11, 2014

## VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

### A. Nutrition Services Financial Report – October, 2014

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**B. Out of State Field Trip Request**

1. University of Rhode Island

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of John Johnson, Head Coach and Jamie Yakushewich, Assistant Coach, to attend an out of state field trip with the Indoor Track team to University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI

**SO VOTED**

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

**C. One Man Team**

Mr. Strumello noted that the correct term for this action should be "Team of One"

1. **MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director to allow Ansonia High School Students Robert Douglass, Noah Falkowski, and Michael Shortell to participate with the Seymour High School Swim team as a one man team

**SO VOTED**

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

**D. BOE Meeting Schedule – January, 2015 – January, 2016**

Ms. Gesek said she believed the locations should be three meetings for each school because several of our Board members live on the Chatfield-LoPresti side of town. Ms. Harmeling reminded everyone that our little town encompasses 14 square miles. Mr. Hatfield said he felt some of the locations offered better acoustics but when he asked the audience they disagreed. Mr. Strumello said this is not a huge town and it should not be a burden to drive. Mr. Putorti asked if anyone wanted a change to the schedule. Mr. Strumello reminded the Board members that they can make a motion to change it or they can vote no. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see key committees be scheduled also. This would enable the members the ability to add to the agendas if they need to.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the proposed BOE Meeting Schedule for January, 2015- January, 2016

**SO VOTED**

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

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

**E. School Calendar 2015-16**

Mrs. Syriac explained that with the 2015-16 calendar we have some flexibility with regard to the regional calendar but in 2016-17 we will be required to follow the regional calendar. We will be able to set some of our own professional development and parent conferences. There will be two long breaks, Christmas and Spring Break. The first day will be August 27; the last day is flexible since each district chooses the number of school days in the year. Mrs. Syriac said she would be bringing the 2016-17 calendar to the Board in the near future. Ms. Magri said she felt the bigger issue is the fact that we are forced to follow a common calendar. She said she was told that the regional calendar was being developed to save money. She felt this was stupid and of all the things they can be doing to help districts, this is not one of them. Mr. Strumello said we should go back to the legislators and ask them to show us the savings. Mr. Stanek asked what the penalty was for not following the regional calendar and Mrs. Syriac said that has not been shared yet. Mr. Stanek offered to draft a letter saying we do not support the regional calendar. Ms. Harmeling said she was able to attend the Legislative portion of the CAFE convention and she felt this would be a good thing to prepare more for and would be a good place to share concerns. Mr. Hatfield asked if December 23 was a half day. Mrs. Syriac confirmed it was not and has not been for several years. Mr. Stanek said he was the one who requested it be a full day.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Putorti) to approve the 2015-16 School Calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

**SO VOTED**

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

**F. BOE Committee Meeting Schedule**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion on developing a Board of Education Committee Meeting Schedule

**SO VOTED**

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

Ms. Harmeling said she felt that the Policy Committee and the Curriculum & Technology Committees should be scheduled regularly. The Finance Committee is already set since it meets before the Regular BOE meeting each month. Mr. Strumello suggested the Athletic Committee meet in August, October, and March. Mr. Belden said he felt the Transportation Committee should meet in August. Mrs. Syriac suggested she put a schedule of committee meetings together and bring it back to the Board for discussion and approval.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk