



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2013

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Jim Garofolo (7:37 p.m.)
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (7:31 p.m.)
Peter Kubik
Jim Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Kristopher Boyle, Asst. Principal, Bungay School
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, Seymour High School
Jim Freund, Asst. Principal, Seymour High School
Paul Lucke, Asst. Principal, Seymour High School
Tara Petrino
Dawn Adams
Brooke Anderson
Kelly Baker
Elizabeth White
Athanasios Diakomis
Tammy Lifrieri
Bob Magri
Lori Robinson
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Citizens Academy Presentation of Certificates – Christine Syriac
Mrs. Syriac recognized the session 3 Citizens Academy members and noted that she enjoyed it immensely. She thanked each of them for giving up their time to attend the workshops and presented each of them with a certificate of completion. Thank you to Brooke Anderson, A Diakomis, Monica Dimon. Tammy Lifferi, Bob Magri, Lori Robinson, Allison Sobieski McAndrew, and John Stelma.
2. Congratulations to the Wildcat Racing team and the Alternative Energy Club on their win at the Electrathan event on Friday, October 25, 2013
Mrs. Syriac congratulated the Wildcat Racing team and the Alternative Energy Club on their win noting they came in second last year and set a goal of first for this year which they attained.
3. Congratulations to Joe Salemmme, who was named one of the New Haven Register's Athlete of the Week on October 10, 2013
4. Congratulations to The Seymour Middle School Science Olympic Team who placed second out of 40 teams at the event in September at Laurelton Hall in Milford. The team is comprised of 8th graders Madison Brenchak, Abigail Androde, Kaitlyn Esposito, and Rebecca Findley who formed the team last year as 7th graders

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated October 4, 2013 to Christine Syriac from the State Department of Education enclosing a copy of Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements 2012-13
2. Letter dated October 8, 2013 to Christine Syriac from Sharon Bruce, Executive Director of CASBO informing the Seymour Public Schools that Mr. Rick Belden has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials
3. Letter dated October 21, 2013 to Christine Syriac from Ronald Skurat and Elise Wood, Registrar of Voters requesting permission for the use of space in Seymour Middle School and Chatfield-LoPresti School on Election Day, November 5, 2013
4. Letter dated October 23, 2013 from Christine Syriac to Ronald Skurat and Elise Wood, Registrar of Voters approving the use of Seymour Middle School and Chatfield-LoPresti School on Election Day, November 5, 2013
5. Letter dated October 30, 2013 to Mr. Bill Paecht, Chairman – Republican Town Committee to remind them the posting of political signs is prohibited on school grounds – Policy #1341
6. Letter dated October 30, 2013 to Mr. Steve Kulas, Chairman – Democratic Town Committee to remind them the posting of political signs is prohibited on school grounds – Policy #1341

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report

a. Chairman's Report

Mr. Putorti reported that five members of the Board of Education will be attending the CABE Conference next weekend. Mr. Putorti noted he missed introductions at the beginning of the meeting and asked the Board and Administration to do introductions at this time. He then noted that two Board members are outgoing and spoke about what good members they have been and that they will be missed. He asked for a motion to recess all could enjoy cake in their honor.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to recess the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Putorti continued his Chairman Report by noting that the Seymour High School Girls Soccer team had a winning season for the first time in 18 years.

b. **Board Members Comments**

Mr. Garofolo asked if he could reflect on his last eight years on the Board. He said when he first came on the Board he was unsure what to expect in this new experience. He noted being on the Board bears a tremendous responsibility not only for the children of Seymour but for the community as well. He said it has been a delicate balance but the Board has fulfilled the obligation despite sometimes negative backlash from the community. He feels fulfilled that he has shared in the successes. He said our new administrators and Mrs. Syriac are without a doubt moving this district forward. Mr. Lungarini has the right stuff for this community. He thanked Mr. Putorti for his leadership and how he was able to put politics aside to do what was right for our students and our community. He said he was proud to be a member of this Board and that he leaves fully satisfied with what has been accomplished.

Mr. Hatfield said he attended the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame banquet and said it was a nice dinner and the committee had worked very hard to put on a nice program. He also asked for an update on AP courses at the next meeting.

Mr. Stanek recognized Lee-Ann Dauerty for the work she did on the resolution and said each inductee received a nice folder holding the BOE Resolution at the banquet. He said the banquet was a very nice and was enjoyed by all who attended. Mr. Stanek thanked Mr. Kubik and Mr. Garofolo and said it was a pleasure and an honor to serve with both of them. Mr. Hatfield agreed.

Ms. Harmeling talked about doing a presentation on the budget for the community in December. She said she thought it would be a good idea to involve the Citizens Academy members and the PTA. She said she felt it would be a good will gesture for the community.

Mr. Hatfield asked about the LoPresti Sign and Mr. Strumello asked when we might get the information on what was named after people in LoPresti and Chatfield Schools. Mrs. Syriac said it would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

2. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac spoke of Mr. Kubik and Mr. Garofolo and how much she enjoyed working with both of them and how supportive they were of her during her first year as Superintendent. She said she has conducted her first Listen and Learn of the year and met with 22 staff members at Seymour Middle School. She reported the numbers for Parent Visitation noting they the numbers clearly reflect the age of the students. HS – 4 parents, MS – 64 parents, CLS – 305 parents, and BS – 267 parents. She said she attended the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame and said it was a very nice banquet and she was very happy to meet many people and she learned a lot of Seymour history. It was a great evening. She distributed Veterans Day programs from Bungay and Chatfield-LoPresti and said she would do the same at the next meeting for Seymour Middle and Seymour High Schools. She also informed the Board that she would be on vacation November 26-27. Ms. Harmeling asked how many schools are open for Veterans Day. Mr. Stanek said when Seymour made this change; there were 13 schools that were in session on Veterans Day.

3. **Committee Reports**

- a. Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee Minutes - October 16, 2013

B. INFORMATION

1. School Activities and Recognitions

- a. High School Student Representative Report
- b. Middle School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)
- c. Bungay School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)
- d. Chatfield-LoPresti School Activities and Recognitions (see attached)

2. CT Post Article "Trumbull to Audit Milk Deal with Danbury's Marcus Dairy" – Rick Belden

Mr. Belden discussed the article with the Board. He reminded them that Cindy Brooks started this process and we have received a settlement. He said Mr. Wade had contacted him about his belief that Seymour is owed more money. The town of Trumbull is doing a third party audit of their records. Mr. Belden said he recommends we wait and see what Trumbull finds before deciding what to do. Mr. Strumello said he had gotten a call from Mr. Wade also but felt he could not talk to him independently of the Board. Mr. Putorti agreed it would be best to wait and see what happens. Mr. Belden said that he would report any information that comes out.

3. Technology/Landscaping Information

Mr. Putorti said this item was to be discussed by Mr. Miller and he was unable to attend this meeting. Ms. Harmeling asked what this item was about and Mr. Putorti said it had to do with possible consolidation of services in the areas of technology and landscaping.

4. Update on Educator Evaluation and Support Plans (SEED) – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac reviewed the changes and adjustments that have been made on SEED document. The Summative Matrix for assessing administrators and teachers has been updated with the latest information from the state. Experienced Assistant Principals will go from four observations to two observations. The Professional Development Committee has been updated and the State requires the Board be notified of the changes.

5. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

- a. David Willadsen
 - Assistant Coach
 - Seymour High School Boys Basketball
 - Replacing Nick Frosolone

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – September 3, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the corrected minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting on September 3, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

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

2. Regular BOE Meeting – October 7, 2013

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting on October 7, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

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

3. Special BOE Meeting – October 21, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on October 21, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Ms. Harmeling

B. Financial Management Summary

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending October 31, 2013 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, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

C. Transfer of Funds

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to review and recommend to the full Board the transfer of funds from Technology Equipment account to Equipment Lease Rental account for the Cisco Wireless Access Points as presented by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

D. Nutrition Services Financial Report July - September, 2013

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the Nutrition Services Financial Report for July – September 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

E. Intra District Transfer Request

1. Gabriel Sand

Home School: Chatfield-LoPresti School

Transfer School: Bungay School

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sand to send their child, Gabriel Sand to Bungay School for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

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

2. Isabella Sand

Home School: Chatfield-LoPresti School

Transfer School: Bungay School

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sand to send their child, Isabella Sand to Bungay School for the 2013-14 school year

SO VOTED

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

3. **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda the Intra District Transfer Request of Robert Nerone to have his son attend Bungay School

SO VOTED

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

Robert Nerone

Home School: Chatfield-LoPresti School

Transfer School: Bungay School

Mrs. Syriac explained the circumstances behind this request explaining the child is currently attending Branford Public Schools but has moved to Seymour to live with his father. The residence where he currently resides has children who attend Bungay School under an Intra District Waiver and because of transportation and child care concerns, they wish him to attend the same school. Mr. Nerone has registered his child at Chatfield-LoPresti and those records will be transferred if the Board approves this request. Mr. Garofolo noted that Mr. Nerone did not check that he had read the policy and expressed a concern that this may affect the decision of the Board. Mr. Hatfield expressed a concern that the form was not filled out correctly.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Mr. Robert Nerone to have his son, Robert, attend Bungay School for the 2013-14 school year

AMENDED MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the Intra District Transfer Request of Mr. Robert Nerone to have his son, Robert, attend Bungay School for the 2013-14 school year contingent upon his confirmation that he has read policy #5117.1

SO VOTED

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

F. Comprehensive Analysis and Report

MOTION: to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to hire Silver/Petrucelli + Associates to do a comprehensive analysis and report on solutions to eliminate the moisture issue at Seymour Middle School at a cost of \$8,500.00

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) to table item F Comprehensive Analysis and Report until more proposals can be submitted

SO VOTED

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

G. Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee Request

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee to send a letter to the Board of Police Commissioners requesting the following:

1. Put the schools on the beat – meaning there would be a requirement for the "beat officer" to visit the schools x amount of times each day - much like there is for other spots in town (like the fish ladder, skate park, etc.)
2. Officers at arrival and dismissal
3. The schools become a beat unto their own. Having an officer dedicated to patrolling the schools (the officers would know the inside of the schools, but largely monitor the outside) – with the point of providing protection from outside sources (8 hour shift – 2 hours in each school – even 4 hours a day – arrival and dismissal)
4. SRO in addition to one of the previous steps. One SRO, to serve the high school and middle school, selected with the input of the Superintendent. Job duties defined in tandem with the job duties and responsibilities of the Director of Security

Mr. Putorti explained the letter was a result of the Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee meeting that was held on October 16, 2013. Mr. Stanek said the Police Commissioners were invited to attend this meeting and Officer Poplik attended; he was very helpful. Mr. Hatfield asked about who would be responsible for the cost of our request. He also was upset that he did not receive adequate notice of the Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee Meeting on October 16, 2013.

Mr. Garofolo suggested he speak one on one to Mr. Putorti about his concerns. Mr. Stanek said he felt the letter should be delivered by one or more Board Members at the next Police Commissioners meeting which is Thursday, November 14 and BOE members should attend. Mr. Strumello expressed a concern about the number of hours.

Mr. Putorti said the Police Commissioners asked the Board of Education to submit what we want from them and this is the reason for this letter. Mr. Strumello said we want to ask them now but we are not making demands. Ms. Harmeling expressed a concern that the letter was too specific and offered the following changes:

1. Put the schools on the beat – meaning there would be a requirement for the "beat officer" to visit the schools a certain amount of times each day
2. Officers at arrival and dismissal
3. The schools become a beat unto their own. Having an officer dedicated to patrolling the schools 2 hours per day in each school
4. After #3 has been established, we would welcome an SRO. One SRO, to serve the high school and middle school, selected with the input of the Superintendent. Job duties defined in tandem with the job duties and responsibilities of the Director of Security.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec. Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Police Officer Committee to send a letter with the recommended changes to the Board of Police Commissioners

SO VOTED

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

H. Out of State Field Trips

1. Radio City Music Hall

Mr. Putorti asked if the group would be singing at Radio City Music Hall this year and Ms. Hamad said Radio City Music Hall is not doing that this year. The cost of the trip was discussed and Ms. Hamad said whether or not they sing did not reduce the cost of the trip.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an out of state field trip for Grade 8 choir to Radio City Music Hall New York, NY on December 28, 2013

SO VOTED

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

I. Non Union Employee Agreements

1. Supervisor of Accounting Services

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Supervisor of Accounting Services

SO VOTED

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

2. Director of Facilities

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Director of Facilities

SO VOTED

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

3. Systemwide Security Director

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Systemwide Security Director

SO VOTED

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

4. **Districtwide Computer Technicians**

Mr. Hatfield asked if this should be two motions; one for each employee and it was decided to amend the motion to include the word "agreements"

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreements of the Districtwide Computer Technicians

SO VOTED

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

5. **Director of Nutrition Services**

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Director of Nutrition Services

SO VOTED

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

6. **Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent**

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

SO VOTED

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

7. **Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent**

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent

SO VOTED

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

J. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

Mr. Strumello said he sees an improvement in the letters of recommendation.

1. **Rebecca Graham**

- Assistant Coach
- Seymour High School Cheerleading
- Replacing Katie Tylinski

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Rebecca Graham for the position of Seymour High School Cheerleading Assistant Coach

SO VOTED

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

2. **John Johnson**

- Head Coach
- Seymour High School Indoor Track
- Replacing David Willadsen

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire John Johnson for the position of Seymour High School Indoor Track Head Coach

SO VOTED

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

K. Staff Appointments – Volunteer

Ms. Magri wanted to make sure volunteers understood that the same rules apply to them as they apply to the paid coaches with regard to coaching travel teams. Mr. Strumello agreed and Mr. Putorti said the coaches know the rules.

1. Neil Swanchak

- Volunteer Assistant Coach
- Seymour High School Softball Team

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Neil Swanchak as a volunteer assistant coach for the Seymour High School softball team

SO VOTED

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

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

* A. None

* *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., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting ended at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk