



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2013

Seymour High School Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Jim Garofolo
Saundra Gesek
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent
Nancy Snopkowski, Assoc. Super.
Rick Belden, Asst. Super. Fin. & Op
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Robert Dyer, Systemwide Tech. Coord.
Virginia Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Leslie Sojka, Asst. Principal, CLS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, SHS
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Melissa Anelli, Director of Guidance
Anita Cardona
Bruce Deming
Mary Deming
Adrian Argento
Rhonda Geffert
Lori Robinson
Tammy Lifrieri
Ingrid Conlan

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Putorti with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions at 7:00 p.m.

II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information

1. School Improvement Plan, Seymour Middle School – Bernadette Hamad

Mr. Putorti introduced Mrs. Hamad, Principal of Seymour Middle School who reviewed the results from last year's state assessments. She reviewed the cohort results in reading which shows how the same group of students who are at or above goal and at or above proficient in reading, writing, and math are performing. She also shared the state comparisons for each grade level. Student who stay in district perform at a higher level. The results of the student survey were shared. The survey is given to the students in September, January, and June and the categories are "my school is generally clean", "I feel safe in the school lunch room", "I know what behavior is expected of me", and "my school provides guidance and counseling". Mrs. Hamad said she was very proud of the Seymour Middle School students scoring Advanced in reading, writing, and Math on the CMT and spoke about the middle school Evening of Honors in which 50% of the students were recognized. Mrs. Hamad shared the goal for the 2013-2014 school year is "Improve student achievement to meet or exceed the School Performance Index (SPI), including sub group categories, as set by the State of Connecticut by focusing on academics and school climate. She noted that the SPI has not yet been shared by the state. Mrs. Hamad reviewed each subject and shared the strategies and indicators of success. She spoke about the school climate goal which is "to create a climate that ensures every student has the optimal learning environment for high academic achievement". To achieve this they will increase the teaching of the behavior expectations throughout the school year and they will improve communications with the students and parents through emails, eBlasts, and workshops. They will seek parent feedback and the indicator of success will be an increase in positive responses on the Climate surveys. Ms. Magri asked about the sixth grade performance and if their results from grade five was compared to the grade six performances. Was it just this class? Mrs. Hamad responded that there was new curriculum last year and they have put a reading consultant in place to start the Readers Workshop which is a teaching strategy in the elementary schools. The consultant will be teaching the strategies and modeling for the teachers. Ms. Magri asked what was being done in writing. Mrs. Hamad said the students are writing more than ever noting the new curriculum in Social Studies requires extensive reading and writing. Mr. Garofolo asked Mrs. Hamad to explain exactly what "taking a hard look at data meant. She explained that they look at every student's individual data to look for commonality and trends that can be addressed and improved upon. Mr. Garofolo asked what has changed in the building and she responded hiring a consultant and beginning the Readers Workshop which is a change in instruction. Mr. Garofolo also asked if teachers are ever reassigned because they may have skills that are better utilized in another classroom. Mrs. Hamad said this has been done in the past and they monitor those changes. Mr. Kubik asked how the middle school performed against their goals of last year and Mrs. Hamad said the achievements were in math and the disappointments were in writing and to address the situation in writing that have added additional language arts classes in the seventh grade and the sixth grade have a double block in language arts. Mr. Hatfield wanted to know how we measure the effectiveness of the Readers Workshop program. Mrs. Syriac explained that Readers Workshop is an instructional strategy and is used in many school districts. Research has proven it is effective when well implemented. It has been used in the elementary level and we have begun to see writing expand. Mrs. Hamad indicated that assessments will be done throughout the year to show growth. Mr. Strumello asked what the plan was with regard to curriculum. Mrs. Hamad said they will be looking at the assessments and determine what to do in the classroom. Mr. Stanek asked about setting goals and the importance of grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Mrs. Hamad said this is all part of the rubric and Mrs. Syriac said these are addressed through the drafting process and in the classroom final copy it is the expectation that it be accurate. Mrs. Hamad shared with the Board a plaque that was given to Seymour Middle School naming the Best Buddies Program an outstanding chapter for 2012-13.

2. School Improvement Plan, Seymour High School – Glenn Lungarini

Mr. Lungarini thanked the staff and parents who came out this evening. He started his presentation by sharing the percentages of students engaged in Special Interest Opportunities. He noted the new clubs; Alternative Energy Club and the Drama Club which had 30 students attend the initial meeting. He reviewed the Attendance of staff and students and said that over the past three years there has been an increase in attendance at school. Mr. Lungarini reviewed the CAPT performance results and noted a five year high in math saying they will continue to close the gap. Reading was also at a five year high having improved by 7% from last year. There was also a five year high in writing and Seymour performed above the state average. There was an overall increase in the Average SAT Performance. In culture and climate, Seymour High School has enjoyed a 50% drop in discipline incidents. He feels one on one conversations have fostered relationships. Teachers have more insight into where students are struggling. PBIS is significant in the improved behavior. As far as where do we go from here; Mr. Lungarini said they will continue to improve student achievement and exceed the School Performance Index (SPI). He said they are in line to do so; they are just waiting for the data from the State. They will increase student achievement and performance by enhancing the manner in which students are engaged in learning, implement the next phase of PBIS, and increase parent participation through the establishment of the Wildcat Advisory Council (made up of staff, students, parents, and community), and increased school to home communication. Mr. Lungarini said he is happy with the gains but not satisfied with where we are. He appreciates parent feedback and noted that we have a good parent group in extracurricular activities. The next step will be to give students a voice in what is happening in the school. Ms. Magri asked about articulated classes for college credit and is there enough seat space. Mr. Lungarini said there is no issue with enrollment in these classes. Mr. Lucke said there is an expanded list at NVCC and the curriculum may be changing. Students must attain a certain grade and take a test. They are becoming more stringent with who teaches the course. Ms. Magri said she felt we are raising the bar in high school and wanted to know how to include incoming 9th graders. Mr. Lungarini talked about how he is working with Mrs. Hamad so they can provide support to the students and there will be increased collaboration between the teachers of the two schools. The student expectations will be articulated. Mr. Strumello asked about collaboration with other districts and Mr. Lungarini said there is some collaboration between districts but there will be more further down the road. At this time, the collaboration needs to focus on being between the middle school and the high school.

III. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame**

Consideration of and possible action on a resolution honoring the eleven inaugural inductees to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame

Mr. Stanek read the resolution for the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame and asked the Board to adopt it for the inaugural class of inductees. He noted that it has taken several years to establish the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Stanek said he will be attending the banquet and will be presenting the resolution to the inductees and he feels the Board should do more of this type of thing. Mr. Stanek read the attached resolution.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adopt the resolution honoring the inaugural class of inductees of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame.

SO VOTED

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

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

* A. **NON UNION EMPLOYEE AGREEMENTS**

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) move that the board enter Executive Session to for discussion and possible action on the non union employment agreements of the Supervisor of Accounting Services, the Director of Facilities, the Systemwide Security Director, the Districtwide Computer Technicians, the Director of Nutrition Services, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the Executive Session. The Board invites the following individuals into the Executive Session: Mrs. Christine Syriac

SO VOTED

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

Enter Executive Session: 8:15 p.m.

Out of Executive Session: 9:40 p.m.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at: 9:43 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF 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 inaugural class of members to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame on November 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Seymour Board of Education is proud to recognize the athletic accomplishments of the inaugural 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 inaugural class of 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 inaugural class of inductees of The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame, to wit:

Jen D'Amato (1996)
Ed Esson (1981)
Coach Joe Gesek
Coach Dan Heffernan
John "Chick" Henry (1954)
Dennis Rozum (1970)
Ed Shay (1968)
Mark Allen (1970)
Maria Conlon (2000)
Vic Cweklinsky (1962)
Les Dahn (1957)

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut and adopted by the Seymour Board of Education this 21st day of October 2013.

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Frederick D. Stanek, Vice-Chairman
Jay Hatfield, Secretary
James Garofolo
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Edward Strumello

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent -
Finance & Operations