



SPECIAL MEETING

June 17, 2013

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: James Garofolo
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

Board Members Absent: Yashu Putorti, Chairman

Others Present: Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Jim Freund, Asst. Principal, Seymour High School
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, Seymour High School
Melissa Chambal

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Hatfield asked for a moment of silence to remember one of our retired teachers, Mr. Rudy Turchuk, who passed away recently after a long illness. Mr. Turchuk was a Seymour Middle School teacher for many years.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

Mr. Stanek reviewed the following recognitions:

1. **Congratulations to John Murphy, 2009 graduate of Seymour High School**, who was drafted by the New York Yankees in the sixth round of the Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft
2. **Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School Lady Cougars Softball team** who finished the 2013 softball season undefeated. This is their second undefeated season and their second consecutive JNVL Softball Championship.

3. **Other Recognitions**

Mr. Hatfield recognized and thanked the students who did such an amazing job with the Wildcat Cook Off, which was held on June 17, 2013.

Mr. Stanek recognized Seymour graduate Zani Imetovski, who is entering his senior year at the University of New Haven and was recently elected President of the University of New Haven Student Government.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Melissa Chambal, 34 Grand Street – Ms. Chambal spoke of the need for a late bus for the middle school and the high school. She asked the board to support this and indicated that she felt her daughter had missed out in middle school because she could not join in afterschool activities and hoped that it would be different as her daughter moved on to the high school.

IV. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Reports

1. BOE Reports

a. Chairman's Report

Mr. Stanek explained Mr. Putorti was out of town on a business trip and could not attend tonight's meeting. He and Mr. Putorti noted the positive result of the third referendum and thanked all the citizens of Seymour who came out to vote and support the Board of Education budget.

b. Board Members Comments

Mr. Strumello who is the Board representative for ACES reported that many laws have been passed that pertain to education. He discussed the formation of a Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force that will research if a uniform school calendar would be feasible. Mr. Strumello noted that all school boards in the state would have to accept it before it can become a reality. He said he felt it may be a positive thing with regard to the scheduling of sports activities since all students would have common vacations.

2. Superintendent's Report

None

3. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2013

B. Information

1. 2013-14 School Calendar Revision – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac reviewed the changes that have been made to the 2013-14 school calendar which include changing the date of spring parent conferences so they are better aligned with the end of the 3rd marking period. Mr. Garofolo asked if the funding for professional development is included in the 2013-14 budget and what the focus of the professional development will be for the year. Mrs. Syriac responded that the funding is in place and that a large part of the professional development will involve SEED. She also said there will be less "one size fits all" professional development and it will now be tailored to fit the needs of the teachers based on the new evaluation process.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the changes to the 2013-14 school calendar as presented

SO VOTED

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

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2013

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

SO VOTED

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

2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2013

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting on May 30, 2013 as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek

B. 2013-14 Education Budget

Mrs. Syriac asked the Board to support all the new proposals except the STEM teacher at Seymour Middle School. They feel they will not be prepared to start this program in the fall of 2013-14. She spoke of the difficulty of making the decision on what programs to support after the budget cuts. In addition to Mrs. Chambal who spoke during Public Comment tonight, she has received input from many parents asking for a late bus. Mrs. Syriac was pleased at the outcome of the health care enrollment stating that the participation was much higher than anticipated. She asked Mr. Belden to walk through the roadmap of the referendum #3 proposed budget. Mr. Belden highlighted some of the reasons we were able to go forward with the new proposals. He explained that we have moved our GTL (Group Term Life) to Anthem, who offered us a lower cost and an additional 1% discount on health insurance. He noted the calculation correction for the Social Security and Medicare. The Green Products initiative caused him to adjust the amount budgeted for cleaning products and this was based on several years of usage.. The biggest savings came from the outcome of open enrollment for health care. The expected participation rate for the HSA was 10%. The business office did a lot of marketing to make sure the information was in the hands of the teachers. Eight to ten meetings were held in May to explain the program to teachers and also to retirees. As a result of this effort, the participation rate was 66% and this provided a significant savings to our budget. Mr. Belden state this would be a one time savings. Mr. Kubik asked about electricity usage which he thought would be higher due to the geothermal system. Mr. Belden said electricity was up and that it appears that the heating season uses more electricity than the cooling season. He also said that LoPresti School has been turned over to the town and is not factored into the budget at all. Mr. Strumello asked about the ECS money and if there was an increase in transportation money. Mr. Belden said he believed there was no increase but money was taken out and

then restored. The budget amount is the same and the cap is in place. Ms. Harmeling said it does not impact our budget because it goes to the town. Mr. Hatfield asked about the cost for SEED professional development. Mrs. Syriac explained that it is paid out of the professional development line item and Title I grants. Mr. Hatfield also asked about pool safety and anything else that may be a cost to us. Mrs. Syriac said with regard to other items that may cost the district money, she would have to go back and review and can report back to the Board on July 1. She noted that a lifeguard must be present in addition to a coach. Seymour has already been following this practice. The activity would be cancelled if no lifeguard is on duty. Mr. Strumello asked if this was the case for physical education classes also and it was noted that currently we do not instruct swimming. Mr. Hatfield asked why were able to fund the proposed new position/program/adjustments and Mr. Belden again explained the "wild card" was the HSA savings but stressed this would not be the case in the future. Ms. Magri said no one expected a 66% participation and confirmed it took many meetings to get the approval of the proposal from the teachers. Ms. Harmeling asked about the class size of the incoming 6th grade class and Ms. Syriac and Ms. Hamad stated they were unsure of the size but Ms. Hamad said it was a slightly smaller class. Ms. Harmeling asked the Board to definitely commit to the STEM teacher next year. Mr. Stanek asked if anyone on the Board had any revisions and there were none.

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the budget adjustment of \$109,501 to the 2013-14 Board of Education for a total of \$30,942,984 as presented

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Stanek thanked Mrs. Syriac, Mr. Belden, and the Administration for all the work they have done on the budget.

VI. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ASTERISKED ITEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

◆ 1. Superintendent's Performance Evaluation

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to postpone the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation until the July 1, 2013 meeting

SO VOTED

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

◆ *It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session*

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk