



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2012

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Garofolo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Roberta Pratt, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Glenn Lungarini, Principal, Seymour High School
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Seymour Middle School
Virginia Bauer, Director of Special Services
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition Services
Richard Rossick

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. 21st Century Learning

1. None

B. Recognitions

1. Mrs. Syriac thanked Chris Falcioni for the beautiful job he did repainting the Snack Shack and Press Box at Seymour High School. Mr. Putorti noted that the Press Box now has paw prints on it and the next thing to be painted will be the bleachers.

C. Minutes

1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2012

0904-001 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to accept the Special BOE Meeting minutes of August 7, 2012 as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Hatfield

D. Correspondence

1. None

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Rossik, 34 Robert Street

Mr. Rossik talked about confidence and trust with the Board of Education and stated that he felt the Board of Education should do what the people wanted them to do.

IV. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

1. Student Representative Report

a. None

2. Staff Resignations - Certified

a. Marino, Joy

- Language Arts Consultant
- Seymour Middle School
- Effective August 15, 2012

Mr. Strumello asked if Ms. Marino went to another district and Mrs. Syriac confirmed this. Mr. Hatfield asked if the job had been posted and Mrs. Syriac indicated that it was posted two weeks ago and Mrs. Hamad is in the process of interviewing and a substitute will be in place for the start of school.

3. Staff Resignations – Appendix E

a. Yakushewich, Jill

- Head Coach, JV Softball Team
- Seymour High School
- Effective August 7, 2012

4. Staff Hiring - Certified

a. Driscoll, Amber

- Special Education Teacher
- Seymour High School
- Step 10, Masters
- Replacing Pat Humeniuk

4. **Staff Hiring – Certified (continued)**
 - b. Iannucci, Catlin
 - Computer Teacher
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Step 1, Bachelors
 - Replacing Rosemary Necio
 - c. Stepeck, Carrie
 - Library Media Specialist
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Pending DSAP
 - Replacing Sue Dowdell
5. **Staff Resignations – Non Certified**
 - a. McGill, Tracy
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Step 1, Paraprofessional
 - Replacing Barbara Grudzias
 - b. Rich, Carol
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Step 1, Paraprofessional
 - Replacing Sandy Marino
6. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**
 - a. Monaco, Jennifer
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Brian Cleveland

Mr. Stanek said he felt the board should vote on the Staff Hiring – Appendix E and Volunteers since it had been done in the past. He asked the board to look at our hiring practices. The Policy Committee will discuss this at their next meeting. Ms. Harmeling will work with Mrs. Syriac to set meeting dates and priorities.

0904-002 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add items #IV-6 Staff Hiring – Appendix E and #IV-7 Volunteers to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

0904-003 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director to hire Jennifer Monaco as Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

7. Volunteers

- a. Buckholz, Scott
 - Volunteer
 - Assistant Coach, Boys Soccer
 - Seymour High School
- b. Cheney, Martin
 - Volunteer
 - Assistant Coach, Boys Soccer
 - Seymour High School

0904-004 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director to appoint Scott Buckholz and Martin Cheney as volunteer assistant coaches for boys soccer at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

8. District CMT Results/District Performance Index – Nancy Snopkowski

Mrs. Snopkowski did an overview of the 2012 CMT results for the board. She indicated that the administrators will do a more in-depth presentation at a later date. During the presentation Ms. Harmeling asked if it was possible to compare our cohort data to other districts. Mrs. Snopkowski and Mrs. Syriac said that cohort data from other districts is not available to us. There was a discussion regarding the lack of gains. Mrs. Snopkowski said the District Data Team has been meeting and formulating a plan to analyze the growth areas and see how we can replicate the success in those areas that did not gain. Mrs. Syriac did an overview on the new state accountability system and discussed the timeline for the implementation.

9. Food Services Regulations – Cindy Brooks

Mrs. Brooks did a brief overview of the new meal program regulations and how the changes will affect our program. Some of the changes will be evident when school opens. Calories will be different and we will be offering more fruits and vegetables and whole grains. All students will be offered a full cup of fruits or vegetables but they can choose to take only ½ cup. If they do not take a serving of fruits or vegetables we will not be able to claim reimbursement for the meal. Mrs. Brooks asked the staff to help and support the changes.

Students can still get double lunches if they want to but we can only claim reimbursement for one meal. The changes are reflected in the cost to the Nutrition department but we did not raise prices on our school lunches. a la carte items will still be available for purchase by the students and these items help to subsidize the food services costs. A la carte items cannot be purchased with a meal card, the student must have cash. Mrs. Brooks briefly touched on the fact that sometime in the near future parents will be able to pay online for lunches as well as field trips, book fees, etc. The goal is to get away from cash transactions. Mr. Hatfield thanked Mrs. Brooks and her staff for the fine service they provide to all of our students and acknowledged all their work getting Chatfield-LoPresti up and running.

10. Sikorsky Internship Program – Paul Lucke

The internship program is available to junior and senior high school students, who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Due to the first time and time of year this was proposed (early summer), Mr. Lucke identified and called a dozen students who qualified based on academic criteria in conjunction with their schedules, which had already been set. Mr. Lucke has asked Sikorsky to do this much earlier in the future to allow time to adjust student schedules. Six students from Seymour High School were interested in this opportunity and submitted a letter of interest. All of the students were contacted for an interview, which were conducted by two staff members of Sikorsky Credit Union. The selection committee decided to hire three students: Carissa Wasikowski, Edward Companik, and Michelle Wagmeister. The student interns went through the same week long new hire training and orientation that all new employees at Sikorsky CU experience. The new hire training was conducted by SFCU's Human Resource department and included meeting with their Compliance and Security Officers, as well as other staff members from the credit union. The internship training concluded with the students meeting and observing the Seymour branch staff. Once the students begin working in the high school branch, a Sikorsky CU teller will oversee the high school branch and answer any questions the interns may have. The benefits of the Sikorsky Credit Union High School Internship Program are numerous. This internship program is an educational experience and will allow students to apply what he or she has learned in the classroom to this position. The three interns are able to gain business and practical work experiences-ranging from communications, teamwork, cash handling, human relations, marketing, and more. Also, the interns will gain knowledge of the financial industry and build the foundation to his or her financial education by learning about Sikorsky CU's products and services. Lastly, this is a paid internship which allows students to earn a paycheck while participating in a learning experience. Sikorsky Credit Union is excited about this new aspect of our partnership with Seymour High School.

Mr. Putorti acknowledged Mr. Lucke's outstanding work with this program. Mr. Hatfield asked if the student interns can speak about their experience in this program at a Board of Education meeting in the spring. Mr. Lucke will be happy to set this up.

11. Perkins Grant/Personal Finance 2 Grant – Paul Lucke

As of August 1st for the 2012-2013 fiscal year new grants total \$47,811.

The Personal Finance 2 Grant (\$24,798) will be utilized as follows:

- 2013-2014 school year will offer Personal Finance 2 course (half year course)
- fulfills the remaining standards that are not being met in Personal Finance 1 (half year course)
- purchasing materials for either 3rd or 4th grade with a high school to elementary school component of high school students teaching the concepts at the elementary schools
- over a dozen books on investing (6 copies of each) will be purchased for student book studies
- Curriculum development within the business department aided by a RESC
- Junior Achievement to continue the support our business classes.
- Five day professional development session next summer at the New York Stock Exchange's Teachers Workshop for one teacher
- Textbooks for Personal Finance 2 and Investing will come from this grant
- Funds will be utilized for an all expenses paid one day trip and guided tour for 50 students to New York City on September 26, 2012 including classroom time and assignments at the American Museum of American Finance, tour of the financial district, and the Macy's Marketing and Merchandising tour and a brief visit to Ground Zero and the Fireman's Memorial. There will be a tour guide for the day as well as an additional tour guide from each institution. Meals are not included.

Perkins Grant 2012-2013 (\$23,013) will be utilized as follows:

- Professional development to develop and align curriculum for business and tech ed classes
- Field trips to the construction, youth personal finance conference, and the Bridgeport arenas seminar for successful skills conference
- Equipment to support the new alternative energy vehicle program
- Small flip video cameras to support business and marketing
- Over \$4,000 in new supplies and equipment for culinary classes
- Five new laptops for the business department (parlayed with last year's innovation grant for ecommerce to have eight laptops)
- Laptop cart
- IPADs or IMACs for business department
- Possible Architecture class in the future

Over the past five years we have received over \$282,000 in funds from Perkins, Innovation and NVCC grants (or over \$56,400 a year)

12. Seymour High School Athletic Handbook

The Seymour High School Athletic Handbook was presented to the Board of Education for informational purposes. Mr. Strumello briefly discussed the changes reflected in the revised Athletic Handbook. Mr. Kubik said the goal was to insure uniformity for all sports teams. There was an in depth discussion regarding the revision control. All revisions would be presented to the Athletic Committee to maintain uniformity. Individual team rules are still being worked on. A template was developed for them to use. Mr. Putorti said he felt the full board should approve the handbook based on the recommendation of the Athletic Committee. Mrs. Syriac said we researched past agendas and found that the Athletic Handbook had not been approved by the full board in the past. Mr. Kubik suggested the board defer approval until all sections were finalized. Mr. Hatfield said he felt the document should be entrusted to the administrator and athletic director noting that the board does not approve student handbooks. Ms. Magri voiced her concern regarding the need of the full board to approve the document. She said she felt we have very capable staff and administration and we should let them do their jobs. We don't need to approve every form. Trust them to do the job; Mr. Lungarini can do revision control. Ms. Harmeling said she felt the Athletic Handbook is different from Student Handbooks and the Athletic Committee has already approved the handbook so to bring closure, the full board should approve also. Mr. Strumello indicated that board members may be called upon to settle parent disputes so they should have access to the information in order to make an informed decision. Ms. Magri pointed out that the CIAC is the governing body and they are referenced many times in the handbook.

0904-005 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to add the approval of the Seymour High School Athletic Handbook to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

0904-006 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the 2012-13 Seymour High School Athletic Handbook as recommended by the Athletic Committee

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri

ABSTAINED: Ms. Harmeling

The motion passes.

B. REPORTS

1. Revised Minutes

- a. None

2. Committee Reports

- a. Athletic Committee – August 20, 2012

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Putorti congratulated Mrs. Syriac on the Opening Day Program and said he felt her convocation was great. He said the guest speaker was good. Mr. Putorti also said the board needed to formalize the Superintendent's goals.

a. Board Member Comments

4. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac reported that Mr. Putorti and she would be visiting the schools to greet students on opening day. She said we still have some vacancies to fill and she will present a hiring report at the September 17th meeting. She informed the board that there had been a couple of instances of vandalism at Seymour High School (window) and at the Middle School (metal backdrop on the ball field was cut). In an effort to deter future problems, we will be installing cameras. There will be an executive session on the September 17th agenda to review a summary of Mrs. Syriac's goals. Mrs. Syriac reported that she attended the state Superintendents' Meeting where the main topic was the new teacher evaluation model known as SEED (System for Educator Evaluation and Development). She said the program is extremely intense and that a committee (teachers, administrators, with union representation) will be formed to draft our document and present it to the board in December. We will follow the state model.

Mr. Putorti reported that Chatfield-LoPresti is opening, that it is done and on time and shared that the opening ceremony will take place on October 14, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Harmeling thanked Mr. Stanek for his article in the Valley Independent Sentinel.

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

◆ 1. None

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

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Out of State Field Trip

0904-007 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an out of state field trip request for the Business and Finance classes of Seymour High School to visit Wall Street, the Museum of American Finance, the New York Federal Reserve, Macy's, and Ground Zero in New York City, NY

SO VOTED

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

B. Intra District Transfer Request

0904-008 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Ms. Yesenia Cabezas to have her son attend Bungay School for the 2012-13 school year

SO VOTED

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

C. Homeschooling Notification

Ms. Marianne Barker has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Josiah John Barker, for the 2012-13 school year.

0904-009 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to acknowledge the receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED

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

D. Lease Purchase Agreement – Technology Equipment

See attached resolution.

0904-010 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to adopt a resolution authorizing entrance by the Board of Education into a Funding Agreement with the Town of Seymour related to a lease-purchase agreement of various technology equipment in an amount not to exceed \$226,774.05.

SO VOTED

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

E. Financial Management Summary

0904-011 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the year end 2011-12 Financial Management Summary as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Sub-Committee

SO VOTED

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

F. Year End Close Out Transfer

0904-012 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the year end 2012-12 close out transfers as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations and approved by the Finance Committee.

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Belden noted that \$300.00 will be returned to the town account.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

0904-013 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk