



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2012
Seymour Middle School
7:30 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/13/12
TIME: 2:48 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Virginia Bauer, Director of Special Services
Roberta Pratt, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Bungay Elementary School
Leslie Sojka, Assistant Principal, Chatfield-LoPresti School
Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Town of Seymour
Meghan Goletz
Lisa Heneghan
Alan Skiparis
Teresa Dunlop
Darlene O'Callaghan
Barbara Eighmie
Katie Riordan
Jara Ciocca
RoseAnne Thornton
Kim Barton
Lori Robinson
Richard Rossik

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. Salute to the Flag

II. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Recognitions**

1. Congratulations to the Class of 2012 whose actions created an environment of dignity at the graduation ceremony on June 19, 2012. Board members commented that the graduation ceremony was very nice.

B. **Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2012
2. Special Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2012

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: discussion and possible action upon prior meeting minutes

0807-001 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the Regular BOE Meeting minutes of June 18, 2012 as presented

SO VOTED

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

0807-002 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the Special BOE Meeting minutes of July 11, 2012 as presented

SO VOTED

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

C. **Correspondence**

1. Letter dated June 20, 2012 from Martin Rose, Information Technology Bureau Chief, giving the Seymour Public Schools official notification that the district Technology Plan for the period 2012-2015 has been approved.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to Agenda Topics)**

Mr. Richard Rossick, 34 Robert Street – Mr. Rossick voiced his disappointment at not being a part of Mrs. Syriac's Transition Plan, Part 1.

Ms. Theresa Dunlop – 13 Highland Street – asked if she could talk about the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Putorti explained that because the meeting was a Special Meeting, public comment was limited to agenda items and encouraged her to bring it up at the next meeting or to call/email Mrs. Syriac or one of the board members.

IV. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

1. Student Representative Report

- a. None

2. CABA /CAPSS Convention – November 16, 2012 to November 17, 2012

Mr. Putorti encouraged board members to attend the CABA/CAPSS Convention because there are many good workshops available. He reminded members that they did not have to attend both days and the Saturday program was a good one. Mrs. Syriac reminded the board that if they register by August 31st, there is a discount on the registration fee.

3. Athletic Report – Spring 2011-12

Ms. Harmeling asked if there is an exit interview for students who drop out of sports programs mid-season. Mr. Lungarini indicated there is an informal discussion and the coach is usually aware of the issue. Mr. Lungarini agreed to look into this further.

4. Staff Transfers – Certified

- a. Frosolone, Nicholas
 - Health Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Megan Krushinski
- b. Krushinski, Megan
 - Physical Education Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Mary Ellen LoGiudice
- c. Sheridan, Allison
 - Technology Integration Teacher K-5
 - Bungay/Chatfield-LoPresti Schools

The board acknowledged the staff transfers of Nicholas Frosolone, Megan Krushinski, and Allison Sheridan.

5. Staff Hiring – Certified

- a. Verchili, Laura
 - World Language Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Step 1, Masters

The board acknowledged the staff hiring of Laura Verchili as the World Language teacher at Seymour High School.

6. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

- a. Markey, Nicole
- Head Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour Middle School

The board acknowledged the staff hiring of Nicole Markey as the Head Coach of the Girls Soccer team at Seymour Middle School.

7. Staff Resignation – Certified

- a. Necio, Rosemary
- Elementary Computer Teacher
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective July 1, 2012

The board acknowledged the staff resignation (retirement) of Rosemary Necio.

8. Superintendent Transition Plan – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac presented her Superintendent Transition Plan – Part 2. She thanked everyone who took the time to meet with her over the past several months. She presented the information that she has gathered from stakeholders. She indicated that the plan is not complete because she still needs to meet with staff before she finalizes the plan. She reviewed how she gathered the information for her presentation and shared some of the thoughts, ideas, and comments from the stakeholders she met with. She also presented three goals that have been established as part of the Transition Plan: Goal 1 – Increase Student Achievement for All Students While Simultaneously Closing the Achievement Gap, Goal 2 – Improve Public Trust, Commitment, and Confidence through Open, Honest Communication to Reduce Obstacles to Improving Student Achievement and District Success, Goal 3 – Establish a Supportive, Positive, and Effective District Climate and Culture Focused on Improving Student Achievement Through Continuous Improvement. Mrs. Syriac also briefly discussed her proposal to establish a Citizen Academy and indicated more information would be forthcoming. Mr. Garofolo asked if we have a curriculum for communication - meaning do we know what to deliver to the public. He was concerned that we can miss the target because we don't know what they want to hear. Ms. Harmeling asked for some more detail regarding the issue of student discipline. She also asked how the morale issue would be addressed. Mr. Strumello said the focus on instructional practices is an evolving thing. Mr. Stanek noted that he found it very interesting that the elementary school students felt their work was not challenging enough. Mr. Strumello praised Mrs. Syriac for a presentation that was well done and Mr. Stanek echoed his sentiment. Mr. Putorti asked board members to email him if they had any other suggestions regarding goals for the Superintendent.

9. Contingency Fund – Rick Belden

Mr. Belden summarized his write up regarding the state statute on Contingency Funds. The statute allows for the establishment of a separate account on the Town books for the Board of Education surplus funds. The funds in the account would be cumulative and could only be spent by the Board of Education with Town approval. Mr. Belden recommended we pursue the establishment of the account with the Board of Finance and indicated he felt it was a good practice to have one. Ms. Harmeling asked how narrowly defined the regulations were and repeated that the Board of Finance gives the authorization to use the funds. Mr. Belden said the regulations were fairly broad and we would need to work with town counsel to establish the procedure and reiterated that the funds could only be spent by the Board of Education. Mr. Belden said that he would seek out the policies of other districts who have established a contingency fund. Mr. Stanek thanked Mr. Belden for the information and said that he was familiar with the statute. His opinion is that this would be good for the public to see that we have saved funds for unexpected expenses. He said he felt that it would be a process and a learning experience but we should try. Mr. Strumello said the Board of Finance could say yes or no to our requests for funds. Mr. Belden said that would be addressed in the procedure we develop with the Board of Finance. He said the implementation language would be important. Ms. Harmeling said that when the town has overages they request additional funds and she wished the town would treat the Board of Education like they do other departments when there is an overage. Mr. Putorti said he felt the political makeup of the board might change access to the funds. Mr. Stanek repeated that he felt it had to do with public perception and that this is a situation where we might gain greater confidence with the public which can only help with the passage of future education budgets.

B. REPORTS

1. Revised Minutes

- a. None

2. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee – June 14, 2012

Ms. Harmeling indicated the Policy Committee minutes of June 14, 2012 were reflective of what was discussed in the meeting.

b. Finance Committee – June 18, 2012

Ms. Harmeling indicated the Finance Committee minutes of June 18, 2012 were reflective of what was discussed in the meeting.

c. Athletic Committee Minutes – July 23, 2012

Mr. Strumello indicated the Athletic Committee minutes of July 23, 2012 were reflective of what was discussed in the meeting. An additional meeting will be scheduled to continue the work regarding consistency of athletic team rules.

3. **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Putorti reported that he had removed himself from the Policy Committee and indicated Mr. Garofolo would replace him.

a. **Board Member Comments**

Ms. Harmeling stated that she felt Board of Education members should take a more active role in school activities by attending them. There was a brief discussion on how they might be able to coordinate their attendance at difference activities such as the open house at each school. She asked that they be informed of upcoming events so they could discuss who might be able to attend.

First Selectman Kurt Miller informed the board that he had been approached by a professional painter who offered to clean and repaint the Snack Shack and the Press Box at the high school. Public Works will clean out around the structures to make it easier for the painter. Work will begin this weekend if the weather holds.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac asked the board how they would like her to report to them. She indicated that she would be emailing them as situations arise but wondered if they would like something more formal. She suggested an email each Friday giving a brief synopsis of the activity for the week. Mr. Strumello requested readings well in advance of the meetings. She said that she would provide the board with reading materials of any upcoming meetings in advance. The board indicated that an email would be fine. Ms. Harmeling felt a Friday update was a good idea.

Mr. Belden provided a brief update on the CISCO Switch project. On Tuesday there will be a meeting to review the status of the project and gain possible approval.

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. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E Fall Coaches**

0807-003 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Athletic Director to hire the following fall coaches:

HS Football:

Tom Lennon, Head Coach

John Johnson, Assistant Coach

Ray Nappi, Assistant Coach

Eric DeMarco, Assistant Coach

Mike Sirowich, Assistant Coach

Jeff Gilbert, Assistant Coach

HS Boys Soccer:	Joe Perucci, Head Coach Aaron Pawluk, Assistant Coach
HS Girls Volleyball:	Cathy Federowicz, Head Coach Heather Yablonski, Assistant Coach
HS Girls Swimming:	Missy Orosz, Head Coach Tom Jurzynski, Assistant Coach
HS Cross County:	Joe Poulsen, Head Coach Brandt Schneider, Assistant Coach
HS Cheerleading:	Ashly Scharn, Head Coach Katie Dombroski, Assistant Coach
HS Dance:	Christina Ortiz, Head Coach
MS Boys Soccer:	Gary Freeman, Head Coach
MS Volleyball:	Steve Tilki, Head Coach
MS Cheerleading:	Marissa Scinto, Head Coach

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

B. Staff Hiring – Volunteers (Fall Coaches)

0807-004 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Gesek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Athletic Director to appoint the following volunteer coaches:

HS Football:	James Yakushevich Jay Hatfield Dennis DeBarber Zach Mihaly Chris Pagliaro Gary Freeman
HS Girls Soccer:	Jennifer Giarratano
HS Girls Volleyball:	Pat DiCaprio
HS Girls Swimming:	Dave Willadsen
HS Cross Country:	

SO VOTED

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

C. Monetary Donation

0807-005 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept from the Seymour Spirit Club a monetary donation in the amount of \$1279.95 to be spent on the purchase of uniform skirts for the Seymour High School cheerleading team

SO VOTED

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

D. Athletic Trainer Hours

Motion for Consideration: to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to utilize the additional savings (\$10,000) from the elimination of the Administrative position to increase the Athletic Trainer hours

Discussion: Mr. Strumello told the board that the Athletic Committee felt this was a big issue for parents. We are currently doing the minimum. It is important to have a trainer especially in regard to concussions. Having a trainer will help parents save money with regard to the diagnosis of concussions. Ms. Magri stated she was not opposed to increasing the athletic trainer hours but asked what \$10,000 would get us. She was also concerned about having the trainer equally allocated to all teams. Mr. Strumello said that was discussed by the committee and felt the high school administration along with the athletic director would make suggestions on how to allocate the hours. Mr. Lungarini said the athletic trainer could cover all athletic games and would like the ability to search for a trainer that holds their own liability insurance. Currently, we have different trainers for different sports and sometimes different trainers at different games. Having the same trainer would be an asset. Ms. Harmeling said it is critical that the student athletes have a relationship and trust the trainer so they will be honest with them. Mr. Belden indicated the current budget was \$9,500 so the additional \$10,000 would be a doubling of hours. Mr. Stanek said he was not opposed to increasing the trainer hours but would prefer it not be done with the \$10,000 in administrator savings. The board asked that the athletic trainer hours be reported as part of the seasonal sports report and Mrs. Syriac indicated that this would be done. She also said she would be reporting on the hiring savings at an upcoming board meeting.

0807-006 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to utilize the additional savings (\$10,000) from the elimination of the Administrative position to increase the Athletic Trainer hours

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

The motion carries.

E. Department Chairs

Motion for Consideration: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following department chairs:

Social Studies Department Chair
Math Department Chair
Science Department Chair

Eric DeMarco
Cathy Federowicz
Erin Scozzafava

Discussion: Mr. Garofolo stated his concern that one or more of the recommended department chairs are currently serving as teacher, coach, and have other commitments and now want to add department chair responsibilities. He is concerned about the ability of one person to do so many jobs and do them well. He asked about the responsibilities of the department chair and if they provided input to the teacher evaluations. Mrs. Syriac said department chairs are not involved in teacher evaluation. Administration would evaluate department chairs and would have to have a conversation with any department chair who was not meeting the expectation of the job. Mr. Lungarini has met with new and existing department chairs to express his expectations of the role of department chair. Mr. Stanek said he shares Mr. Garofolo's concerns and suggested the board have a conversation with the department chairs regarding their priorities. Ms. Harmeling said she felt this was inappropriate. We need to trust that the administration have hired the best and most qualified for the position. Mr. Stanek said he felt the role of the board was to provide oversight and Ms. Harmeling responded that we have no way of knowing what one person is capable of accomplishing during the course of a day. She said she felt it was the role of the supervisor to keep abreast of the department chair's performance. Mr. Strumello said we have to trust the administration's decision that the person is qualified and trust that the administration will oversee the performance of the department chairs. Ms. Syriac was asked why the positions were open and she indicated that Mr. Skiparis (Social Studies Dept. Chair), and Mr. Sirowich (Science Dept. Chair) had resigned their positions after doing a wonderful job for five years. She said that Ms. DiVito (Math Dept. Chair) resigned from the Seymour Public Schools.

0807-007 MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following department chairs:

Social Studies Department Chair	Eric DeMarco
Math Department Chair	Cathy Federowicz
Science Department Chair	Erin Scozzafava

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

The motion carries.

F. Home Schooling Notification

Ms. Kathy Gardecki has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Rachel Gardecki and Samantha Gardecki, for the 2012-2013 school year.

0807-008 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling): to acknowledge the receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED

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

VII. ADJOURMENT

0807-008 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling): to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk