



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2012

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Jim Garofolo  
Saundra Gesek  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Peter Kubik  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek (8:17 p.m.)  
Ed Strumello

Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools  
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Roberta Pratt, Systemwide Technology Coordinator  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School  
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay Elementary School  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Bungay Elementary School  
Leslie Sojka, Assistant Principal, Chatfield LoPresti School  
Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Town of Seymour  
Bruce Baker  
Richard Rossik  
Andy Moyher  
Ingrid Conlan  
Cindy Dion  
Theresa Dunlop  
Alissa Scheck  
Darrell Scheck  
Missy Orosz  
Elizabeth White  
Alison Brett  
Meagan Krushinski

**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. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

1. None

**B. Recognitions**

1. Thank you to Rich Kearns who met with officials from FEMA and was able to obtain 750 Family Emergency Backpacks complete with flashlights with batteries, whistles, and emergency blankets at no cost to the district. In addition, Mr. Kearns brought the "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim" program for all 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in our district. This program was founded by Kim and Stew Leonard, Jr., and it teaches children and parents the importance of water safety, and the "Athletes Who Say No" anti-substance abuse program to Seymour Middle School on Monday, June 11, 2012. This program is part of our ongoing effort to educate teens in the dangers of substance abuse by giving them the information they need to make the right choices
2. Mr. Hatfield recognized Seymour High School graduate, Michael Gardella, who is a New York City Firefighter and recipient of the 2012 Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal. Firefighter Gardella was among the firefighters who saved a woman from a burning building in the Allerton section of the Bronx. .
3. Mr. Hatfield also thanked Dennis Rozum and the member of Public Works who put up the Wildcat Way sign and painted paw prints on the driveway at the high school.
4. Mr. Putorti noted that this is the final BOE meeting for our Superintendent MaryAnne Mascolo and recognized her achievements. Mr. Putorti wanted to take a minute to recognize Ms. Mascolo's achievements and her decade long service to our community. He said she has worked tirelessly to move our district forward. Looking back, we know she feels one of her proudest accomplishments was the addition of full time kindergarten. She has enjoyed her contact with the students in many ways including advisory at the high school, observing classroom instruction at the middle school or reading to the elementary students. Her ongoing relationship with our students is evidenced by the many students who have a rubber duck collection. Although the road has been bumpy at times, she has continued educational progress and excellence in education in the district. It is our hope that as she looks to the future; she finds her life as challenging and fulfilling as her time with us. MaryAnne has requested that in lieu of gifts, people can donate to the newly established Seymour Superintendent Scholarship through the Valley Community Foundation. He asked to recess the meeting so that everyone could enjoy cake and congratulate her.

Recess: 7:35 p.m.

Reconvene: 7:46 p.m.

C. Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2012

**0618-001 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the Regular BOE Meeting minutes of June 4, 2012 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

D. Correspondence

1. None

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Richard Rossik, 34 Robert Street**

Mr. Rossik once again requested under FOI, the actual certificates for all teachers in regard to Special Education. He acknowledged receipt of the letters that Ms. Mascolo sent in response to his previous FOI but reiterated that he wants copies of the actual certificates, not a letter from her. He voiced his frustration and submitted another verbal FOI request this time to Chairman Yashu Putorti. He also voiced his dissatisfaction with the decision of Mr. Belden to remove the chemical plan of action from the budget and put the kids lives in danger and said that he would report this action to DCF and the State of Connecticut and have them come in and make you do it.

**Andrew Moyer, 225 Mountain Road**

Mr. Moyer did not appreciate the comment that if we eliminate an administrator it won't help. He feels that we are top heavy with regard to administrators. He said the town wants the Board of Education to deal with it. He feels we pay our administrators more than surrounding towns. He has been told that new courses will be taught by existing teachers, this, he feels, means we have more teachers than we need. He wants to give nothing to the teachers; everything should go to the students. He feels until the Board of Education starts cutting the townspeople will not vote for you.

**Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive**

Ms. Dion acknowledged that a big decision needed to be made tonight. She worked hard to get the budget passed, made homemade signs with the kids. She asked of the Board why you are here? She was horrified and disgusted to see that a board member leaked a confidential email to the New Haven Register. She said she was asked to trust the Board of Education, to put our faith in you for our children. She asks how can we trust you if you cannot trust yourselves? In conclusion she said that if Board members are not here to support the education of our students, then you need to resign.

**Bruce Baker, 68 Greenwood Circle**

Mr. Baker acknowledged the budget passed with only 24 votes but noted that 7500 voters stayed home and did not vote. He said they stayed home and said absolutely nothing and this is a disgrace. He pointed out that the Board of Selectman unanimously approved the naming of the high school driveway as Wildcat Way and painted paw prints on the driveway. They did not show the same enthusiasm for the budget. He feels this is stupid! He asked did we see them come out and support the budget, we did not. He feels Wildcat Way does nothing for students. He said once again the town has disappointed the heck out of him.

**Alison Brett, 10 Stanley Drive**

Ms. Brett, a special education teacher in our district wanted to acknowledge the work with the students of LoPresti School. Due to the efforts of the LoPresti teachers, this school went from AYP, to Safe Harbor, to the top 50% of elementary schools. She looked at the cuts and it baffles her to see some of them. We need to move our schools forward for the children. She personally feels we need everything. Feels our teachers are very computer savvy and we can do our job to educate these children with technology. Feels we need to take a look at the resources within our schools and we, the teachers, take on the responsibility to move our children forward with technology. When given the choice between an elementary integration technology teacher and a reading or math teacher, I would choose the reading or math teacher. Reading and math are concerns.

**Ingrid Conlan, 73 Brookfield Road**

Ms. Conlan voiced her concern about a guidance counselor being let go and replaced with an elementary school counselor. The guidance counselor at the high school is excellent and she worries about an elementary school counselor having the proper training to deal with high school students. She felt this is not good for the kids. She said we were asked in a survey why we send our students to other schools, and she said here is your answer wrapped in a box with a bow.

**IV. INFORMATION AND REPORTS****A. INFORMATION****1. Student Representative Report**

a. None

**2. Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant for E-Commerce/Entrepreneurship – Paul Lucke**

Mr. Lucke was happy to report that we have received \$15, 444 in Perkins Grant money. This money will enable the high school to offer a new course in the 2013-14 school year and provide the DECA Club with funds to start a new business within the school. Sikorsky will support the banking of this business and students of marketing, business, and accounting will participate. The new business will produce tee shirts and window clings. We will order special printers, cutters, heat presses, and four high end laptops for this program.

**3. Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant for the Development of Green Technology Project – Paul Lucke**

Seymour High School received \$37,432 from the Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant for the Development of Green Technology Project. This will enable the school to offer a third Alternative Energy class and develop a new club that will build a car and race at Lime Rock Park. This year the car will be in the form of

a kit but in the future, we hope to design and build our own car. The money will also be used for field trips to such places as Naugatuck Valley Community College, Summers High School, UCONN, and the Connecticut Science Center. It will finance professional development at Wesleyan, and help Sikorsky to start and support the IGNITE (Inspiring Girls Now In Technology Evolution) program.

Mr. Lucke also reviewed the grants that he has received due to the structure of administration at Seymour High School. The current structure allows for time to acquire grants. Mrs. Goodrich, Mr. Freund and I cover for each other so there is time to pursue things such as grants.

Ms. Harmeling noted that it was an extraordinary amount of money raised through grants and inquired as to where Seymour falls in comparison to other schools. Mr. Lucke reiterated that he is able to raise funds through grants only because of the structure of administration at Seymour High School. He did not have any information on comparison to other schools, saying he is solely focused on Seymour only. Mr. Strumello commented that he felt these other clubs were a great way to get kids who are not involved in sports active in extracurricular activities.

Mr. Putorti asked about the size of the car that would be built and Mr. Lucke responded that it is a three wheeled vehicle with tires about the size of a bicycle, it is battery driven and would be built from a kit this year. The students will complete in ELECTRATHON. The objectives of the competition are:

- To drive an electric powered vehicle as far as possible on a closed circuit course for one hour, using a limited electrical supply.
- To provide a forum where skill and ingenuity may be displayed.
- To provide public awareness and understanding of efficient electrical vehicles

4. **Seymour School Calendar 2012-2013 (revised)** – Christine Syriac

5. **Staff Resignation – Appendix E**

- a. Cleveland, Brian
- Assistant Coach
  - Girls Soccer
  - Seymour High School

Mr. Strumello asked about the status of hiring of a head coach for the Girls Soccer team at Seymour High School. Mrs. Syriac indicated that the high school has recommended a candidate for this position.

**B. REPORTS**

1. **Revised Minutes**

- a. None

2. **Committee Reports**

- a. Finance Committee – June 18, 2012

3. **Chairman's Report**

- a. Board Member Comments

Mr. Putorti reported that the budget had passed and he felt the press conference that was held was very successful and went really well. He thanked Mr. Miller for suggesting it. He acknowledged that we need to do a better job of selling the budget and informing the public of money savings such as the presentation Mr. Lucke did tonight.

Mr. Putorti also suggested that print media does not seem to be working and that in the future we will need to do a better job of getting the information out through social media sites.

Mr. Strumello asked the members of the press who were present to report the positive information, not just the negatives they hear.

Mr. Putorti shared the bylaws and policies of the Board of Education and asked that the members read them and abide by them. He said the board has three responsibilities: 1) Adopt an annual budget, 2) adopt policies, and 3) evaluate the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Garofolo talked about how upset he was with one of his colleagues who took a confidential email which was meant for the board members to consider and respond to, and gave it to the press. This action only served to pit the Board of Education against the people. We are a board and we are here to work together for the benefit of the students. He asked the individual if this Board of Education is not pro-community. He asked the individual to identify himself and waited for a response. With no response, Mr. Garofolo commented so much for courage. If this individual feels our board is against the community, the person should resign. We are for the education of our children. This action created an additional problem, and this person clearly has a different agenda.

Ms. Harmeling agreed with Mr. Garofolo and thanked him for his opinion. The document was for us as a board to think about and sharing it with the press was a violation of trust. She spoke about marketing our budget and how frustrated she is with the low voter turnout. She suggested we form a committee that will include board members, school employees, and members of the community. She will make a recommendation after she gives it more thought.

Mr. Strumello also agreed with Mr. Garofolo regarding the board member who shared confidential information with the press.

Ms. Gesek said she has heard that the number of grade level transfers for LoPresti teachers is disproportionate to the Chatfield teachers.

#### **4. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Mascolo reminded Mr. Putorti that she is an agent of the Board of Education and if he receives any FOI requests, it should be forwarded to her. She reminded him that FOI Requests must be in writing. Ms. Mascolo also took time to explain again that teacher certificates are not available and under FOI rules, we are not required to turn over information that we do not have. Mr. Rossick has received a copy of the letter from the State of Connecticut that confirms we are in compliance and that all the teachers on staff are certified.

Mr. Belden also responded to the statement that the Chemical Action plan, specifically the autofill chemical system had been removed from the budget. The boiler work and the autofill system are

in the budget and is moving forward. The pool work estimated to cost approximate \$39,000 which includes draining and resurfacing has been put on hold after the item was removed from the 2012-2013 budget.

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. Regulation #6154(a) – Homework

**0618-002 MOTION** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve Regulation #6154(a) – Homework with revisions from the June 4, 2012 Board of Education meeting

**SO VOTED**

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

B. Regulation 2000.1(a-d) – Board/Superintendent Relations

**Motion for Consideration:** to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve Regulation #2000.1 (a-d) Board/Superintendent Relations

**Tabled to the July 2, 2012 Board of Education meeting**

C. Policy #5114 – Student Discipline

**0618-003 MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve Policy #5114 – Student Discipline

**SO VOTED**

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

D. Home Schooling Notification

Ms. Kelly DaCruz has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Nikol DaCruz and Nathan DaCruz, for the 2012-2013 school year

**0618-004 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) 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. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**E. Financial Management Summary, May, 2012**

**0618-005 MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Management Summary, May, 2012 as presented

**SO VOTED**

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

**F. Intra District Transfers**

Ms. Mascolo confirmed that the AYP is over and those students can continue at their chosen schools but no transportation will be provided.

**0618-006 MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for approvals/denials of intra district transfer request for the 2012-2013 school year

**SO VOTED**

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

**G. Bidding Process Waiver**

Mr. Hatfield asked Mr. Belden if we are getting the best price for the services. Mr. Belden explained that we can put out Request for Proposals for the services but reminded them in the case of legal services, we are just starting teacher negotiations and is concerned about making a change at this time. Mr. Garofolo said he felt that we have done this as a matter of course and thought that it might be a good idea to put some of the services out for bid. Mr. Belden explained that some of the services were single source and reminded the Board that we do go out for bid from time to time. Mr. Stanek said he felt that we might be able to negotiate a better price for some of the non specialized legal services such as expulsion hearings and that it would be a good thing to review. Mr. Garofolo asked if we have a contract for legal services. Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Belden said we did not have a contract with Siegel O'Connor but might have one with Shipman & Goodwin.

Ms. Mascolo said our legal team are experts and have a good knowledge of our history. She said she would not recommend a change since we are going into negotiations. She acknowledged Mr. Stanek's point and said other less specialized legal services can possibly be looked at.

The board directed the Superintendent to find out more about the contract we might have with Shipman & Goodwin and Mr. Putorti asked if we can get some quotes on legal services.

**0618-007 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) per Board policy #3320 (attached) the Board of Education waives formal bidding for goods or services in excess of \$25,000 for the 2012-13 fiscal year per the reasons stated in policy, including but not limited to: legal services (Siegel, O'Connor, Shipman, & Goodwin); third party maintenance (Siemens, Johnson Controls, Environmental Services Corporation, A&B Mechanical); heating oil, diesel fuel, and natural gas (East River



Energy, Yankee Gas); Indoor Air Quality Testing (Fuss & O'Neill), Custodial and maintenance supplies (Dumouchel, Benman, Grainger); Instructional materials and office materials (School Specialties, WB Mason); Technology Equipment (RnB Enterprises, Dell, CDWG)

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

#### **H. Substitute Teacher Pay**

**0618-008 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the rate of pay for substitute teachers at \$75.00 per day for the 2012-2013 school year

**SO VOTED**

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

**0618-009 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/Ms. Magri) to add to the agenda the possible action to authorize the superintendent to open bank accounts

**SO VOTED**

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

Mr. Belden explained the town has requested a move of our bank accounts effective as of July 1, 2012. They wanted to use a local bank for the student activity funds so those accounts will be moved to Naugatuck Valley Savings Bank. Ms. Harmeling asked for an explanation of what a student activity fund was. Mr. Belden explained that the funds from a student activity fund are used to fund field trips, athletic events, clubs, and activities. The accounts are audited and two signatures are required, monthly statements are submitted and the accounts are reconciled. The student activity funds will be moving into our financial accounting system.

**0618-010 MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to authorize the Superintendent to open bank accounts effective July 7, 2012 at Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan for the High School Student Activity Account, Middle School Student Activity Account, Bungay School Student Activity Account, and Chatfield LoPresti School Student Activity Account.

**SO VOTED**

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

**0618-011 MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add teachers at LoPresti and grade level changes to the agenda

**SO VOTED**

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

Ms. Harmeling explained that she wanted to add this item to the agenda because members of the community come to them as Board members and they need the information in order to respond properly.

There was a concern that the number of grade level changes for LoPresti Teachers was disproportionate as compared to Chatfield teachers.

Mrs. Syriac explained that decisions are made in the best interest of the children. Chatfield teachers made many changes last year. These decisions are based on enrollment needs. She also explained that administrators provide support to teachers when there is a change. The Common Core Standards also impact these decisions. She assured the Board that administrators are very thoughtful when making these decisions and in this case did their best to inform the teachers as soon as possible by the end of April. The assignment of teachers is the responsibility of Administrators and they send out a Notification of Tentative Assignment.

Mr. Putorti directed Mrs. Syriac to communicate this type of information to the Board.

## **I. Education Budget**

Mr. Putorti opened the discussion on the Education Budget by saying we must come up with a budget \$603,224 over last year's budget was approved by the latest referendum for a total budget of \$30,398,026. We need to make cuts and the Administration has proposed two options. Mr. Putorti said we need to finalize the budget tonight and will not be leaving until it is done. He encouraged the Board members to get everything on the table that he wanted no "elephants" in the room.

Mrs. Syriac reviewed Option 1 and Option 2 and compared the changes. Mr. Garofolo asked about the changes in Special Education and wondered if there would be an increased caseload for the current teachers and what would we do if we had an increase in Special Education students during the year. Mrs. Syriac explained that it is based on current enrollment and they feel the current teachers will be able to manage the caseloads. She acknowledged that we could have an increase in Special Education students at any point in the school year and we would address those by increasing the Instructional Paraprofessional support. Mr. Garofolo asked if we can defer Technology to save a teacher and Mrs. Syriac said that approximately \$60,000 would need to be saved. Mr. Belden explained that the line item for Technology is deferred; we spend what we need and then no more until spring. We have to address the needs and the equity issues in the elementary schools so we would like to keep the line item intact. When asked if there was anything left, he explained that all those funds have been expended per the technology plan.

Ms. Harmeling asked about the Language Arts Consultant and wondered if Title I Tutors can increase the class time. Ms. Hamad has not had time to develop a plan as of yet. Tutors may be used for student time. Administrators coordinate tutor's schedules.

Mr. Strumello voiced his concern regarding SRBI. Have we trained tutors to do these interventions? Meaning no disrespect to tutors, he asked if they were highly qualified to do SRBI and stated that it makes him nervous.

Ms. Harmeling also voiced concern that maybe there is too much loss in Special Education and is worried about increased workloads for current teachers. She asked if students don't get SRBI do we run the risk of having them go into Special Education. Ms. Syriac reminded them that we are losing one Special Education teacher but there have been no reductions in tutors or paraprofessionals and if students don't get SRBI we do run the risk of them going into Special Education.

Mr. Garofolo asked if there was any savings to be had in the Liability/Property insurance line item. Mr. Belden indicated that the town and Board are on the same insurance and the insurance is based on history.

Ms. Harmeling asked to talk about the elementary level Technology Integration teacher and if we can change that plan to possibly fund Special Education and maybe SRBI. Ms. Syriac said she has concerns if a Technology Integration Teacher is not available at the elementary level; there is a fear that our current technology will be under utilized. Our students need to be able to read digital text and respond digitally. Test scores could go down when the tests are taken online if the students have not been properly exposed to digital material. Ms. Mascolo talked about the fact that Chatfield LoPresti School is a state of the art school and we need to support the technology we have. Teachers want support and we want to provide that support through professional development. A Technology Integration teacher literally affects every student across the district. Mr. Putorti then asked, do we keep or lose the Technology Integration Teacher? Mr. Garofolo said he defers to the Superintendent. Mr. Putorti and Mr. Kubik agreed.

Ms. Harmeling brought up the possibility of pay for participation for sports and other extracurricular activities and clubs. She has found that this is not an uncommon practice in other districts and proposes a modest sum. She estimates we could bring in about \$35,000 to the district. Mr. Putorti said her personally disagrees with this concept. Mr. Garofolo said that while students who play sports may be willing to pay, other students in extracurricular activities and clubs might decide to not participate instead of paying a fee. Mr. Stanek said he did not support pay for participation and felt it would not work in this town.

There was a discussion regarding the open secretarial position at the Middle School and whether there was a secretary from another school or Central Office that could be transferred to this position. The Board could make a recommendation to eliminate a secretarial position but Mrs. Syriac said she would not support it based on the current workloads of secretaries. Mr. Belden was asked if we could combine some Central Office positions with the town and he responded that we could but it would not reduce the number of people doing the job. Mr. Belden was asked to give the Board the number of secretaries and clerical paraprofessionals in the district. He responded:

HS – 3 full time paras, 4 secretaries  
MS – 4 full time paras, 2 secretaries  
BS – 2 full time paras, 3 part time paras, 2 secretaries  
CS – 2 full time paras, 1 part time para, 2 secretaries  
SpEd – 1 full time para, 1 secretary  
CO – 1 full time para, 2 secretaries  
All full time paras are ten month positions.

There was discussion of cutting a secretarial position at the high school but there was agreement not to do it.

The next discussion had to do with the possibility of cutting an administrator. Ms. Harmeling pointed out that if we cut an administrator at the high school things like writing grants similar to what Mr. Lucke presented earlier would not happen. Mr. Putorti and Ms. Harmeling said they would not support cutting an administrator and agreed that we need to publicize and do a better job of how our administrators contribute to the district. Mr. Garofolo reminded us that when an administrator position is eliminated, due to contractual obligations they are able to keep their salary for one year so there would be no saving in this budget.

Mr. Stanek asked if there were any non-student positions that can be eliminated and asked if eliminating the Director of Facilities position might be an option. He explained this position was created in 1998 and prior to that the facilities operations were supervised by administrators and Central Office. Mr. Hatfield said doing this would place more responsibility on administrators and custodians. Ms. Magri asked if we can combine this function with the town in the future and Mr. Putorti suggested not eliminating the position but working toward consolidation with the town for future budgets. Mr. Putorti emphasized that things will change and we will do things differently next year. We will not be on the same path next year.

There was more discussion on any positions that might be able to be cut:

2 assistant principals at the high school – no

Associate Superintendent – contract provides for three years of pay

Director of Special Education – cannot due to State requirements

Curriculum Director - savings not there, with Common Core Standards coming, not wise to eliminate now. We should look at this again after the standards are in place.

Mr. Garofolo suggested we look for savings during the upcoming negotiations. While it will not affect the current budget, it might produce savings in future budgets.

Mr. Hatfield asked about the possibility of eliminating the Inclusion Facilitator. Mrs. Syriac said that this position is funded by a grant and in order to eliminate the position we would have to change the grant and she is not sure that this can be done. She would also be concerned about eliminating this position since the Director of Special Education could not possibly do it all and it would come back to us as due process. Ms. Mascolo said we have 217 special education students in the district right now and more that are out placed and the Inclusion Facilitator meets a need and since it is funded by the IDEA grant, it doesn't cost the district anything.

There was some discussion about the math teacher at the high school and the split Library Media position and if there are any NEASC implications. Mrs. Syriac said this is not the ideal situation but it is done in other schools and we have until 2015 to reinstate before next NEASC reevaluation. A question was asked if the Director of Curriculum could pick up some Language Arts work at the Middle School. Mrs. Syriac said she felt the current workload of the Director of Curriculum would not allow this.

Mr. Stanek made a motion to adjourn the meeting until Thursday at 7:30 due to the lateness of the hour. There was no second. Mr. Stanek withdrew his motion. Ms. Harmeling indicated that she was ready to vote for Option 2.

Mr. Putorti asked if there were any other issues to be discussed. He then asked about eliminating the Director of Security position. Ms. Harmeling objected strongly because of the many contributions Mr. Kearns makes to the district and felt it would just be wrong to eliminate a person who has been nationally recognized for his work.

Mr. Putorti asked again if there were any other questions or issues. He stated that he was in favor of Option 2 and again emphasized that next year would be different; that we would follow a new road starting in July, 2012. We will not be going down this path again.

Mr. Putorti asked again if there was any discussion. Mr. Hatfield asked if a position becomes vacant, can the Board of Education be notified and have the opportunity to review before the position is filled. Mr. Putorti directed the Superintendent to notify the Board of any administrator or individual contract vacancies before they are filled.

**0618-012 MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to move forward with Option 2 as the 2012-2013 Education Budget

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield

The motion passes

**0618-013 MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Magri) 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 adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty