



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2012

Seymour Middle School

7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Jim Garofolo (7:37 p.m.)
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
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
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Services
Roberta Pratt, Systemwide Technology Coordinator
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Polly Putorti
Stephan Machnicz
Richard Rossik
Harvey Catlin, Jr.
Michael Oberdick
Tammy Lifrieri
Lori Robinson
Rhonda Geffert
Raeanne Geffert

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. 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

Ms. Mascolo indicated that Jara Ciocca, Anna Scribano, and Kim Barton were scheduled to present but were unable to due to an unforeseen conflict. It will be rescheduled.

Mr. Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal of Seymour High School invited the Board of Education members to the 1st Annual Seymour High School Student Cook-off Challenge on June 4th. This year will prepare the students for the NVCC Iron Chef Competition next year.

B. RECOGNITIONS

1. Congratulations to Rich Kearns on hosting another very successful "Take a Stand Day". Our 8th annual event was held on April 27, 2012 and attended by students from Seymour and Oxford High School
2. Congratulations to Rich Kearns on his continuing effort to educate tens about the dangers of smoking by having the 23012 spring tour of "Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids" do a presentation at Seymour High School. Students had the opportunity to interact with several X-Games pros and medal winners and hear several important messages about the dangers of tobacco use.
3. Thank you to Nancy Staab for the amazing job she did organizing and overseeing the Bungay School Annual Career Speakers Day. The students enjoyed hearing about various careers/occupations. Thank you to the speakers who attended this event: Anthony Abate, Paige Bennett, Rebecca Bennett, Frank Calabro, Erica E'Eramo, Monica Diaz, Ernie DiStasi, Edmund Farmer, Michelle Gaudreau, Angela Gramolini, Doreen Harmon, Kristen Harmeling, Jason Karpovich, Themis Klarides, Kurt Miller, Andrea Ortega, John Pollman, Jaime Rotatori, Joseph Sadick, Ed Strumello, Jerry Sudimick, Ann Szaley, and Lisa Webb.
4. Thank you to Seymour Middle School Ambassadors who visited Bungay School students on April 30, 2012: David Brezina (Gr. 6), Madison Brenchak (Gr. 6), Ed Han (Gr. 7), Shari Minalga (Gr. 7), Tyler Sirowich (Gr. 8), Marcelin Garcia-DaCunha (Gr. 8).
5. Congratulations to Mr. Michael Milia, 5th Grade teacher at Bungay Elementary School, who has been selected as the 2012-13 Seymour Teacher of the Year.
6. Congratulations to Seymour Middle School students Kameron Matthews and Cassandra Rossetti. Kameron and Cassandra will attend a banquet in their honor at the Aqua Turf in June. The criteria for this award are: distinguished himself/herself in scholarship and leadership in school and community, cumulative middle school average of at least a "B", active participation in school, participation in community organizations, citizenship, positive influence in school climate, dependability, responsibility, and character and integrity.
7. Congratulations to the seventh grade Science Olympian Team for placing second at the Science Olympics held on May 12, 2012. Team members are: Brianna Gee, Megan Meyer, Brooke Seymour, and Brittany LaChance.

8. Congratulations to LoPresti 5th grade students Andrew Barna, Sierra Cripps, Ashley Dwy, Joshua Magri, Stephen Phillips, Nina Rosario, and Luke Venier. These students will be honored for academic achievement at the Presidential Academic Awards Luncheon on June 4, 2012.
9. Congratulations to Chatfield 5th grade students Kylee Biga, Mackenzie Foreman, Tyler Ganim, Shane Gregory, Grace Manente, John Panda, Alexander Waite, Tyler Fauci, and Samantha Winkel. These students will be honored for academic achievement at the Presidential Academic Awards Luncheon on June 4, 2012.
10. Congratulations to Bungay Elementary School students Molly Adamo, Taylor Andrzejewski, Connor Benson, Andrew Bernhardt, Daniel Bouzolin, Anthony Bruno, Madeline Coco, Aleksej, James Engman, Sophia Fioretti, Cyrus Gagaza, Jenna Geffert, Peyton Iott, Amia Jain, Mahad Khan, Emily Lia, Rachel Moon, Tyler Ouellette, Jennifer Popik, Christopher Rossetti, Logan Seymour, Sukhman Singh, Vadym Sokhan, and Sierra Williams. These students will be honored for academic achievement at the Presidential Academic Awards Luncheon on June 4, 2012.
11. A moment of silence was observed for Mr. Joseph F. O'Brien, who recently passed away. Mr. O'Brien was very active in local politics, serving first on the board of tax assessors and later as a town selectman. He served a record number of years on the board of education, many as chairman, and was honored upon his retirement with the naming of the school on Skokorat Street, the "Joseph F. O'Brien Learning Center" at Chatfield School."

C. MINUTES

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2012

1112-052101 MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2012 Board of Education meeting with the following changes: Section 4 #2 Barbara Grudzias should be retirement instead of resignation. Motion #1112-050707 should show Sandra Gesek as abstaining from the vote.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Sandra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2012

1112-052102 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2012 Special Board of Education meeting as presented.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Sandra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

D. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter dated April 23, 2012 from Seymour Chief of Police Michael Metzler to Rich Kearns thanking him for the assistance he provided to do a presentation to the young women at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, CT.

D. CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

2. Mr. Strumello shared he had received correspondence from Yale Hospital seeking donations

III. PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Richard Rossik, 34 Robert Street – Mr. Rossik indicated he had read the DEEP report and was not pleased with it but will accept it. He also presented Mr. Putorti with an FOI Request asking for proof of certifications for teachers.

Ms. Mascolo noted that we as a district are unable to hire uncertified teachers by state law so all teachers in the district are certified.

IV. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

1. Washington DC Trip – Harvey Catlin, Seymour Middle School and students Abby Adamo, Cassie Rossetti, Raeanne Geffert, Bethany Catlin, Anna Cupic Jenna Stepleman, Megan Machnicz, Janet Collins, Brianna Mattingly, Kameron Matthews, and Dan Robinson.

Before introducing the students, Mr. Catlin thanked the Board of Education members for approving the trip and the chaperones who travelled with the students. He said he was very proud of the 223 kids who were perfect, listened, and made us proud showing great respect for the veterans they encountered on the trip. He also thanked Senator Blumenthal's office who was able to make the Hall of Records tour happen even though the students were delayed in Beltway traffic.

The students did a very nice presentation on the sites in Washington DC they were able to visit.

2. Student Representative Report
Reba Putorti reported on the following events at Seymour High School

a. HIGH SCHOOL

- High School Band and Chorus Concert – May 16, 2012
- Honors Breakfast – May 17, 2012
- The Student Art Show at Greenwich Workshop – May 19, 2012
- Class meetings will be held for 9,10,11 grade students to hear campaign speeches for class offices – May 22, 2012
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – May 23, 2012
- Senior Awards Assembly – May 31, 2012
- Senior Picnic at Holiday Hill – June 1, 2012
- 8th grade students will be visiting the high school – June 1, 2012

b. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- School Spirit Week - Students enjoyed the week and let their let your Cougar Pride shine! Monday-Hat Day, Tuesday-Team Color Day, Wednesday-Sports Team Shirt Day, Thursday-Pajama Bottom Day, and Friday- SMS Pride Day - May 7 through May 11, 2012

b. MIDDLE SCHOOL (continued)

- Cougar Spirit Dance - the 6th graders attended their first dance at SMS. The Cougar Spirit Dance has become a tradition at the end of the year to help introduce the 6th graders to the school dance program. This dance is open to all 6th and 7th graders – May 11, 2012
- Spring Concert - May 22 and 23, 2012
- Hot Tamales Fundraiser - May 30, 2012
- Book Fair - May 29, 2012 – June 1, 2012
- Grade 8 Dance – June 8, 2012
- Colonial Tavern - June 14, 2012
- Field Day - June 14, 2012
- Promotion and Last day of School - June 19, 2012

c. BUNGAY SCHOOL

- Multicultural Fair – May 1, 2012
The students enjoyed learning about different countries and cultures. The participants included: Matt Thompson (South America), Nancy Kick (Germany), Gwen Tan (Malaysia), Chen Li (China), Athushe Canka (Albania), Pratibha Goswami (India), Stojand and Kosovka Cupic (Serbia), Doris Aguilar (Mexico), Gina Volpacchio (Italy)
- Grade 2 Maritime Aquarium visit – May 9, 2012
- Grade 5 Seymour Middle School visit – May 9, 2012
- PTA Plant Sale – May 10, 2012
- Grade 1 Mother's Day Tea – May 11, 2012
- Grade 3 Flander's Nature Center visit – May 14, 2012
- U.S. Naval Bank Northeast performance – May 15, 2012
- Grade 4 Yale Art Gallery visit – May 16, 2012
- Disney Day in support of Cancer Walk – May 18, 2012
- PTA Book Fair – May 21-22, 2012
- Grade 5 Science Fair – May 22, 2012
- Grade 5 Yale University Visit – May 24, 2012 (2 classes) and May 25, 2012 (3 classes)
- Grade 1 Beardsley Zoo visit – May 29, 2012
- PTA Field Day – May 30, 2012

d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS

- LoPresti and Chatfield 4th grades visit Pen Pals and Smart Living Center - May 18 and 25, 2012
- LoPresti Kindergarten Patriotic Assembly- May 25, 2012
- LoPresti and Chatfield Grade 1 Combined Field Trip to Flanders Nature Center - May 30, 2012
- LoPresti and Chatfield Kindergarten Combined Field trip to Ansonia Nature Center - June 05, 2012
- LoPresti 1st and 2nd graders present "BUGZ" , the Musical - June 6, 2012
- Field Day at Chatfield Park - June 8, 2012
- LoPresti Grade 4 field trip to Eli Whitney Museum - June 11, 2012
- LoPresti Talent Show - June 12, 2012

- d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS (continued)
 - LoPresti Grade 5 Class Day ceremony - June 15, 2012
 - Chatfield 5th Grade Class Day – June 18, 2012
3. Staff Retirement – Non Certified
 - a. Uhelsky, Jean
 - School Nurse
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective August 31, 2012
4. Staff Resignation – Non Certified
 - a. Gillis, Patricia
 - School Secretary and BOE Clerk
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective May 17, 2012
5. State of Connecticut CRE/SMI Review – Nutrition Services

Mr. Strumello noted that when reading over the review it was indicated that a monetary award was available and asked if we had applied for it. Mr. Belden committed to following up to see if we can apply.
6. Responsive Actions – SHS Chemical Incident

DEEP report came in a couple of weeks ago and was presented to the Board of Selectman. The report indicated that the DEEP was satisfied without our actions. It was noted that there was no spill just some spillage coming out of a cap. Corrective actions have been put in place. Mr. Stanek asked who was responsible for receiving the chemical and Mr. Putorti responded that on the day of the incident, there was a “perfect storm” of actions. The schools were on a delayed opening due to snow, there was a temporary deliveryman who was not familiar with the schools; he went to the front office that sent him to the custodians’ office. No custodians were in the office (they were off doing other duties); the delivery person left the delivery in the office without getting a signature from a custodian. All of these things contributed to the incident. Now custodians must sign for deliveries and they will attend a refresher course on chemical handling. Mr. Stanek thought it was not a good idea for the custodian to be out of the building during the day, he felt this was a safety issue and asked that this be reviewed. Mr. Garofolo asked if there is a protocol between the school and the supplier regarding the deliveries. Mr. Belden indicated that this is one of the corrective actions; custodians will now schedule the deliveries and a signature by the custodian is required at the time of the delivery. Mr. Hatfield questioned the type of training the custodians would be receiving and Mr. Belden committed to emailing this information to the board members.

It was noted that there is a plan in place to drain the pool and do repairs. As part of this repair, the chemical system will be changed. There will be an automated chemical disposition system in place. This will enable us to store a larger amount of pool chemicals in a storage tank (delivered similarly to the way oil is delivered).

B. REPORTS

1. Revised Minutes
 - a. Regular BOE Minutes – March 19, 2012
2. Special BOE Minutes – April 16, 2012
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Curriculum and Technology Committee – May 10, 2012
4. Chairman's Report
 - a. Board Member Comments

Mr. Strumello asked that we look at our relationship with ACES to investigate if we are getting all that we pay for. Are we required to join ACES? Mrs. Syriac indicated that there is no membership fee to join ACES

Mr. Putorti spoke briefly about the budget and that he felt we would need to hold a special meeting to deal with the reduction. Mr. Belden informed the board that the ECS amount has been increased which may cause the Board of Finance to reduce us even further. Ms. Harmeling said she felt certain that our legislators in Hartford did not increase the ECS amount in order for towns to reduce their education budgets.

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

A. NONE

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. TEXTBOOK – *"Foundations of Kinesiology"*

1112-052103 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology Committee to adopt the "Foundations of Kinesiology" textbook for the Body Systems class at Seymour House School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

B. TEXTBOOK – *"Developing Child"*

After a brief discussion on electronic books versus textbooks in which Mr. Freund indicated that you have to buy the textbooks in order to get the electronic versions, the motion was made.

1112-052104 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology Committee to adopt the "Foundations of Kinesiology" textbook for the Body Systems class at Seymour House School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

C. PERSONAL FINANCE 2 CLASS

Mr. Strumello and Mr. Garofolo congratulated Mr. Lucke on his presentation to the Curriculum and Technology Committee. They felt his presentation was very well done and he was very prepared to answer questions.

1112-052105 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology Committee to approve the Personal Finance 2 class for Seymour High School as presented contingent upon receipt of the CT State Department of Education, Career and Technical Education (CTE) 2012-13 Competitive Application for State Funds to Provide for Investing and Personal Finance Education Programs in the Public Secondary Schools grant.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

D. NUTRITION SERVICES FINANCIAL REPORT – March, 2012

1112-052106 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the March, 2012 Nutrition Services Financial Report as submitted.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

E. HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

1112-052107 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to participate in the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification program for the 2012-13 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

F. TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Mrs. Syriac explained that the State requires the Technology Plan be submitted every three years. Our plan was reviewed by our RESC who had some feedback. Ms. Harmeling noted that there is a requirement to have parents represented in the plan. Mrs. Syriac indicated she knew this was so and committed to having parent representatives the next time the plan is submitted. Ms. Harmeling also voiced her concern regarding equitable access to whiteboards, noting that she feels Bungay does not have equitable access and she has concerns as a board member and as a parent. Mrs. Syriac said she felt we are moving to equitable access and feels we are in a good place. Bungay School may be opening with interactive whiteboards but noted the goal is for equitable access by September 1, 2014. Mr. Garofolo noted we have been adding whiteboards over the years and asked about teacher training on them. Mrs. Syriac said that during the initial roll out, teachers went to training. After that, professional development has been offered to them.

F. TECHNOLOGY PLAN (continued)

For example, on the Election Day professional development, the elementary teachers were offered whiteboard training. For those teachers who have been trained but do not have a Whiteboard in their classroom, the program can be downloaded to their computer so they can practice what they have learned. In addition, whiteboard training is being offered during this summer.

Mr. Hatfield asked if there had been any conversation about eBooks and Mrs. Syriac said there is an ongoing conversation. eBooks are available but most of the conversation involves what type of reader should be used. She said the only school with an IPAD cart right now is LoPresti School and they are purchasing eBooks. Mr. Hatfield asked if we collaborate with the public library. Mrs. Syriac said she thought there was training at the public library. Ms. Harmeling asked if every school in the state submitted a Technology Plan and Mrs. Syriac said yes. Mr. Belden said the state eRate requires a Technology Plan. Mr. Garofolo asked about how we assess the Whiteboard use by the teachers. Mrs. Syriac said there is not an assessment per se but should be addressed by their administrator during their evaluation. Ms. Gesek asked what you have to do to be considered computer literate. A survey was done in the past but we found that teachers either overrated or underrated their computer abilities. Being computer literate means they have the ability to implement technology into their curriculum. All teachers have the ability to input their grades, use the email system at 100%. Ms. Gesek also questioned the K-5 Technology Integration teacher. Mrs. Syriac indicated there was a projected goal of June, 2015 to have this in place. Mr. Strumello asked who from the state would police us if the projections are not met. Mrs. Syriac said she did not know but the students would be the ones who would suffer.

1112-052108 MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2013-2015 Technology Plan as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

G. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUMMARY – April, 2012

1112-052109 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) move to table the Financial Management Summary and move it to the June 20, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

H. NON RENEWAL OF TEACHERS Sarah Miller

- LT Substitute, Bungay Elementary School
- Substitute for Susan Dowdell

1112-052110 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of Sarah Miller at the end of the 2011-2012 school year as recommended by the Superintendent

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Sarah Miller and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

I. GRADUATION

Mr. Stanek explained that there was a discussion last year to invite the First Selectman and it was done but there was criticism was that it was a political move. Mr. Stanek feels it is important for them to participate by walking and sitting on the platform. He also thought we should consider inviting the State Representative also. He said that no political affiliation will enter into the invitation. Mr. Strumello agreed that the First Selectman should be invited but questioned if we should go any further than that.

1112-052111 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to adopt as a practice the issuance of an invitation to the First Selectman of the Town of Seymour to walk and be on the stand for the high school graduation

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

1112-052112 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda Item K discussion and possible action on the wearing of robes by Board of Education members at the high school graduation ceremony

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

A discussion was held by the board members on the wearing of robes by Board of Education members. Mr. Hatfield felt it should be done. Ms. Magri felt that it was unnecessary because graduation is about the students. Ms. Harmeling felt that if you are sitting on the stand then robes should be worn, but that Board members should have the ability to choose not to sit on the stand. Mr. Hatfield felt that you would stand out more on the stand if you did not wear a robe and volunteered to order the robes for the board members. Mr. Strumello asked about the cost of the robes and who would be required to pay. Ms. Mascolo felt the robes should not be worn by Board members and that instead thought maybe a dress code would be in order.

1112-052113 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to have the members of the Board of Education wear robes to the Seymour High School graduation ceremony

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jay Hatfield, Kristen Harmeling, Yashu Putorti, Saundra Gesek

OPPOSED: Jim Garofolo, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

MOTION DEFEATED

1112-052112 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda Item L discussion and possible action on the establishment of a dress code for those Board of Education members who sit on the stand during the high school graduation ceremony

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

A brief discussion was held regarding the establishment of a dress code. Ms. Harmeling felt a dress code was not necessary; all are professional and should know how to dress for the occasion. Mr. Stanek felt this was a formal event and we should use good judgment and dress appropriately. We require the students to dress for the occasion and so should the board members.

Mr. Putorti asked for a motion and none was made.

H. EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. Putorti said we do not have an approved budget at this point and we would have to wait for the Board of Finance to decide what our budget will be. Where the cuts will come from will probably have to be discussed at a Special Board of Education meeting. He noted that if we do not have an approved budget by July 1st, we will continue voting. This is different than in the past. The next vote will be on May 30, 2012. Mr. Hatfield asked if the new plan will be publicized. Ms. Mascolo reminded him that they will make recommendations to the board and those recommendations cannot be publicized until they are approved by the Board of Education. Mr. Putorti said we are short and there will be cuts. We have serious work to do. Ms. Harmeling wondered if we should share documentation on the savings since the first budget. She said there were comments on the Valley Independent Sentinel like "Hey, BOE, where are you?" She implored the board members to do something. Mr. Hatfield asked if the public are seeing the impact of the cuts. Due to the complexity of our budget, it is difficult to illustrate the impact. Mr. Strumello asked if we can do a combined letter from the Board of Education and the town; something that has been done in the past. Mr. Putorti said this will be done in a press release or press conference. Ms. Harmeling suggested a press conference because even if no one shows up, we could still have a video record of it to share with the public. Mr. Putorti indicated that the Board of Finance will be producing a document that will show each voter what the personal impact will be to each voter. Some people will see that their taxes will actually go down or stay the same. This document will probably be posted on the town website. It was suggested that we concentrate on the Education Budget on the June 4, 2012 agenda.

1112-052113 MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Jim Garofolo, Saundra Gesek, Kristen Harmeling, Jay Hatfield, Peter Kubik, Jennifer Magri, Yashu Putorti, Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty