



## SPECIAL BOE MEETING

### MINUTES

March 28, 2012

Teachers Lounge

Chatfield Elementary School

6:45 P.M.

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Magri  
Peter Kubik  
Jim Garofolo  
Saundra Gesek  
Yashu Putorti  
Jay Hatfield  
Ed Strumello

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Anne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Rick Belden  
Josh Magri

1. Receipt of and action upon recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools concerning the institution of teacher non renewals pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Mascolo explained the reason for the Special meeting of the Board of Education. She explained that the State Statute deadline changed for the non-renewals of teachers from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. The teachers' contract still designates the April 1 date. Ms. Mascolo had been working with the teachers' union to extend their April 1 contractual date for non-renewals to May 1 which the union was amenable.

The rationale for changing the non renewals date was based on the fact that in the past the referendum vote was held around April 24, 25, and 26. When Ms. Mascolo became aware that the referendum date was set for May 3rd, two days after the deadline, the discussion with the union and extension of the SEA contractual deadline for non renewal was a moot point.

Ms. Gesek and Mr. Hatfield both questioned why we did not hand out more lay off slips to non-tenured teachers. Both Ms. Gesek and Mr. Hatfield were concerned about the possibility of incurring legal fees when teacher are not non renewed by the stated deadline.

Mr. Mascolo explained that in the past the Board had received much criticism when blanket lay off slips were given to all non-tenured teachers. Ms. Mascolo also explained that in the past a larger number of layoff notices were given based on receiving two zero increases in a row and receiving less than half of their requested increase last year. Ms. Mascolo stated she did not want to upset these teachers as they had a job to do and it was not necessary at this point in time. Ms. Gesek felt that layoff notices should have been given. Ms. Gesek shared that she had received a layoff notice ten years in a row.

Ms. Gesek felt that we should not eliminate an elementary position; we should possibly remove the STEM teacher. Ms. Mascolo clarified that Ms. Gesek had received the projected class sizes for next year and explained that most elementary class sizes are around 22 students or below. Ms. Mascolo continued that there were a few classes that have 23 or 24 students. Therefore, it is appropriate to eliminate the elementary position. Ms. Mascolo added the reason for the STEM teacher at the middle school is because Unified Arts classes are too large at 30 students.

**MOTION** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Strumello) move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Joanne Chenkus, Heather Cinicola, and Nina Inzero 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 Joanne Chenkus, Heather Cinicola, and Nina Inzero 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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** (Mrs. Magri, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello)

Mr. Putorti shared with the board members that 21 staff members participated in the 2:30 High School Principal focus group meeting and 4 parents were at the evening High School Principal focus group meeting, two additional parents came in at 7:00. There were more Board of Education members and staff present at the evening meeting than parents.

Ed Strumello asked if there were any similarities between the comments made at the focus groups. Mr. Putorti said he did not have his notebook present but felt a main theme was that the candidate should be able to make connections with students, parents, and staff. Mr. Garofolo asked if anyone inquired about the Educational program and Mr. Putorti said yes.

Mr. Putorti notified the board members that he was canceling the April 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting in lieu of offering parents and the community a budget presentation from the Board of Education. Mr. Putorti added that there were as only four business days between the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting due to Spring Break.

Mr. Hatfield felt that a Board of Education meeting should still be held to discuss educational issues and questioned if a meeting could be held prior to the budget presentation. Ms. Mascolo explained that the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Education meeting had a short agenda and that there would be time to discuss the Strategic School Profile.

Mr. Putorti said that he hoped present board members could be at the April 16<sup>th</sup> budget presentation and that they make a positive statement at the town public hearing regarding the Board budget.

**2. Chairman's Report**

None

**3. Superintendent's Report**

None

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to adjourn the meeting.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** (Mrs. Magri, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:  
MaryAnne Mascolo