



**MEETING MINUTES (REVISION 2)**

**SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING:**

**Seymour Middle School**

**March 19, 2012**

**7:30 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
James Garofolo  
Saundra Gesek  
Kristen Harmeling  
Peter Kubik  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello  
Reba Putorti, Student Representative  
Lukacz Grabowski, Student Representative  
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

**ABSENT:**

Jay Hatfield

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Alex Steinbrick, Student, Seymour M.S.  
Ellen Steinbrick, Seymour resident  
Tony Bunosso, Seymour resident  
Steve Bachelor, Chatfield parent  
Richard Rossik, Seymour resident  
Sandy Valente, Chatfield parent  
Lynn Heintz, Chatfield parent  
Kathy Gardecki, Chatfield parent  
Joseph Perucci, Teacher, SHS  
Michael Stock, Teacher, SHS  
Michael Catanese, teacher, SHS  
Christine Baxter, Chatfield parent  
Maureen Fimbers, Chatfield parent  
Gary & Lori Christiansen, Chatfield parents  
Andy Moyher, Seymour resident

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Oper.  
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Education  
Cathy Goodrich, Principal, SHS  
Jim Fruend, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Bungay School  
Mary Lavoie, Director of Instruction K-8, SPS  
Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology, SPS  
Harvey Catlin, Teacher, Seymour Middle School  
Jeanne Loda, Former BOE member/Seymour Resident  
Virginia Bauer, Candidate for the position of Director of  
Special Education for SPS

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

A. Yashu Putorti, Chairman, called the meeting to with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 P.M.

**II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. "Every Child, Every Day" by Richard Allington and Rachael Gabriel  
Ms. Mascolo gave a brief synopsis of this article. Discussion was held.

**B. Recognitions**

1. The Junior Achievement Business Challenge will be held at Fairfield University on Friday March 16, 2012. Congratulations and good luck to the following high school students who will be attending: Dan Trzepacz, Justin Morrow, Sukhmeet Kohli, and Manraj Chawla
2. The State LifeSmarts Consumer Challenge will be held at Central Connecticut State University on Friday March 16, 2012. Congratulations and good luck to the following high school students who were invited to compete: Ed Companik, Marissa Esposito, Rob Lazzaro, Owaiss Lpizra, Rebecca Martin

## **II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)**

### **B. Recognitions (continued)**

3. On Sunday, March 11, 2012 families from Chatfield and LoPresti attended the Bridgeport Sound Tigers game. This event was sponsored by the PTA. 289 people from Chatfield and LoPresti attended the event – the biggest turnout ever. Over 100 kids who had read 10 or more books during the Winter Reading Challenge attended on a complimentary ticket. Chatfield students read a total of 4,934 books (134 students reading 10 or more books) and LoPresti students read a total of 6,051 books (152 students reading 10 or more books). Congratulations to all of our readers!
4. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Cheerleading team on placing second in the Connecticut state championship and good luck to the team as they travel to Lawrence, Massachusetts to compete in the regional championship on March 17, 2012. Mrs. Magri noted they won first place in their following competition held in Lawrence, MA.
5. Congratulations to Kyle Bennett, Daniel Robinson, Nicholas Lifrieri, Justin Fabozzi, Farian Rabbani, and Corey Marchetti, Middle School students who raised money for Special Olympics by participating in the Penguin Plunge on March 11. Their team name was Kyle's Cougars! Together, the students collected money from neighbors, family, friends, Stop and Shop patrons, Dunkin Donuts patrons and some of their former teachers at Bungay and Lopresti Schools. They spent countless hours raising money for a great cause. The total they raised this year was over \$2500.
6. Congratulations to Bungay School students Samantha Kowal, Alex Ferreira, David Campbell, Patricia Jurkowski, and Mackenzie Caines for being selected to attend the Connecticut Association of Schools Marine Science Day on May 16, 2012.
7. Congratulations to Bungay School First Graders, Ava Argento, Haley Bennett, Brett Calabrese, Engiel Canka, Wyatt Corey, Alyssa Criscuolo, Samantha DaSilva, John Douglass, Sofia Farmer, Lauren Golebieski, Andrew Keeler, Ryan Major, Anthony Marsala, William McKiernan, Alyssa Norton, Jackie Okula, Troy Pernaselci, Kailey Roxo, Jakob Siudryga, Katie Tomasheski, A. Evan Yatri and Madison Zimmerman who participated in the Rosa's Readers reading program, sponsored by Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro. The program is designed to increase interest in reading outside of a formal classroom environment, by encouraging parents, grandparents, and older siblings to take the time to read with the child at home.

### **C. MINUTES**

**10-3621: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to accept the Regular BOE minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting.

### **SO VOTED:**

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

### **D. Correspondence**

1. Letter dated 03/01/12 from Brian Cunnane, IDEA Funds Manager, Bureau of Special Education to Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Services confirming the receipt of the IDEA Program/Fiscal Compliance Review and indicating no further action is required
2. Letter dated 03/12/12 from Elise Wood and Ron Skurat, Registrars of Voters to MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent requesting use of space at the Seymour Middle School on April 24, 2012 for the Presidential Primary Election
3. Letter dated 03/14/12 from MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent to Elise Wood and Ron Skurat, Registrars of Voters in response to their letter of 03/12/12 regarding the use of space in Seymour Middle School for the Primary Presidential Election on April 24, 2012

## II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

### D. Correspondence (continued)

4. Letter of Invitation to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Valley Community Foundation on Monday, March 26, 2012. Chairman Putorti has the information if anyone BOE member is interested in attending.

## III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Richard Rossik, 34 Roberts Street, Seymour, asked if an investigation is going to take place regarding the recent Chlorine spill at Seymour High School. Chairman Putorti informed Mr. Rossik there would be an investigation. Sandy Valente, 11 Evergreen Terrace, Seymour (Chatfield School parent) read a prepared letter to the BOE concerning the change in the start and end time of Chatfield School hours for the 2012-2013 school year. Ms. Valente also expressed her unhappiness and frustration that Chatfield parents were not included in this decision. Chatfield parents Lynn Heintz, 53 Briarwood Drive, Kathy Gardecki, 60 Briarwood Drive, Steve Bachelor, 113 Skokorat Street, also expressed their concerns and frustrations about the change in the Chatfield school hours for the 2012-2013 school year, the fact the children cannot use the sand boxes at Chatfield, and that the front door to Chatfield School is not locked and there is no security guard at the door. Kathy Gardecki noted she has brought all of these issues to Principal Olechna's attention. Mr. Bachelor asked what research has been conducted showing a later start time would benefit the elementary school children. Tony Bunosso, 42 Birchwood Road inquired if the parents of LoPresti have been notified of the new start and end times at Chatfield for the school year 2012-2013. Ms. Mascolo will notify LoPresti parent of this change.

## IV) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

### A. INFORMATION

#### 1. Student Representative Report

##### a. HIGH SCHOOL

- Spring Sports are beginning
- Mr. Seymour has been postponed – new date to be announced
- Assembly on 3/22/12 for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in becoming Link Leaders
- Assembly on 3/23 – Drug and Alcohol Prevention, sponsored by VSAAC (Valley Substance Abuse Action Council)

##### b. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Pi is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi Day is celebrated by math enthusiasts around the world on March 14th. Pi = 3.1415926535... SMS are developing lesson plans for March 14th that are focused on learning about circles and Pi. Pies will be distributed to all staff and students in the afternoon
- Each year all 6th and 7th graders are given the opportunity to enter a design to be used as the agenda cover. This year's contest is underway. Students were given the criteria to be followed and it is also located on our website. Submissions are due by March 16th. All submissions that meet the criteria will be numbered and posted for voting. Voting will take place on March 21st and 22nd. The winning design will become the cover of the 2012 - 2013 student agenda
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the next Student Council Dance called March Mixer. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend
- On March 27<sup>th</sup> Shakesperience Company will be coming to SMS with a production of Hamlet. This event, which is sponsored by our Parent Council, is for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In April the company will be working with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a workshop format
- The Audubon Club is collecting bird seed for the months of February and March. Donations can be sent to Mrs. Lindgren's room. The club is expecting to collect seed that will be used to feed the birds around the school building. Students and staff may donate seed to this cause. The club is planning to build bird houses in the month of March to get ready for the return of many migratory birds to Connecticut

##### c. BUNGAY SCHOOL

None

##### d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS

None

## IV) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

**A. INFORMATION (continued)**

**2. SMS Washington DC Trip – Harvey Catlin**

Mr. Catlin updated the BOE members of activities of the upcoming trip in April 2012: They have an appointment with Senator Blumenthal and will now be staying in at the Arlington Sheraton, which is closer to downtown D.C., allowing them more time for other activities in Washington

**3. Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

- a. Della Volpe, Vincent
  - Assistant Coach
  - Baseball Team
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective March 5, 2012

**4. Staff Resignations – Certified**

- a. Dowdell, Susan
  - Library Media Specialist
  - Bungay Elementary School
  - Effective April 13, 2012
- b. Goodrich, Cathy
  - Principal
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective June 30, 2012

**B. REPORTS**

**1. Revised Minutes**

- a. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2012
- b. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2012

**2. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance Committee Agenda – March 19, 2012
- b. Liaison Committee Agenda – March 19, 2012

**10-3622: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to add to the Agenda for discussion the issue raised by parents of Chatfield School regarding the new start and ending times for the school year 2012-2013.

**SO VOTED:**

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

Discussion was held. Ms. Mascolo, Mr. Belden, and Chairman Putorti explained due to busing issues the start and ending times needed to be adjusted. Mrs. Harmeling stated she would be attending the next SONCCA (Seymour-Oxford Nursery Child Care Association) meeting as a parent and inquire what can be done to accommodate the parents at Chatfield School for next year.

**10-3623: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to add to the Agenda for discussion the issue of security raised by parents of Chatfield School.

**SO VOTED:**

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

Discussion was held.

**IV) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)**  
**B. REPORTS (continued)**

**10-3624: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to direct the Director of Security for the Seymour Public Schools to review the security at Chatfield School and bring a report back to the BOE at their next meeting, April 2, 2012.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Putorti commented he was happy with the \$1.2 million budget increase from the Board of Finance for the next school year. The next town meeting is March 29, 2012 at Seymour Middle School and babysitting services will be provided.

- a. Board Member Comments  
None

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Mascolo distributed her report to BOE members which detailed her meetings, activities and ebasts of the previous two weeks as well as upcoming meetings and activities. Ms. Mascolo handed out an article, *Senate Bill 24: Myths & Facts*, for the BOE member's perusal.

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

◆ **1. Grievance #11-12-04**

The Board of Education, through its Superintendent of Schools, violated can continue to violate the Seymour Education Association (SEA) collective bargaining agreement, including but not limited to: Article 1, Section G, 1; Article IV, Section B, 1; Article XII, Section O, 11, and past practice by prohibiting the SEA from utilizing the district email system of the Seymour Public Schools and by prohibiting the SEA from communicating with bargaining unit members via the district email system (*verbatim*)

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

**VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**10-3625: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to move Item **6. F, Development of Green Technology Grant and e-Commerce/Entrepreneurship Grant** under **Recommendation Actions** up on the agenda due to the lateness of the hour.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**F. Development of Green Technology Grant and e-Commerce/Entrepreneurship Grant**

**10-3626: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to authorize the High School to proceed with the application of two grants; the Development of Green Technology Grant and e-Commerce/Entrepreneurship Grant

Paul Lucke gave an in-depth presentation of both grants assisted by Seymour High School teachers Joseph Perucci, and Michael Stock. Discussion was held and they answered all BOE members' questions.

**VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)**

**F. Development of Green Technology Grant and e-Commerce/Entrepreneurship Grant (cont)**

**SO VOTED:**

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

**A. Upgrade Phone System**

**10-3627: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to waive formal bidding and to award Business Electronics, Cheshire, CT with a three (3) year lease for upgrades at Seymour High School and Seymour Middle School to the Mitel 5000 system at an annual lease amount of \$27,344.67 and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Business Electronics per the proposal

**SO VOTED:**

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

**B. Out of State Field Trip**

**10-3628: MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling, Sec. Mr. Strumello) to approve the request of Fatima Silva and Janet Tropeano to take the High School 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish classes on an out of state field trip to New York City, NY on May 16, 2012

**SO VOTED:**

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

**C. Staff Hiring - Certified**

**10-3629: MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling, sec. Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Virginia Bauer for the position of Director of Special Education, replacing Nancy Snopkowski effective on July 1, 2012

Discussion was held.

**SO VOTED:**

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

**D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

**10-3630: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec Mrs. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Loretta Wieler for the position of High School Clerical Paraprofessional, Step 6 - Paraprofessional Contract, replacing Stephanie Corozza

**SO VOTED:**

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

**VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)**

**E. Monetary Donation**

**10-3631: MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling, sec. Mrs. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a donation of approximately \$1,527 from the Seymour Lions Club to be used to purchase two iPads for use by students with special needs at the elementary level

Discussion was held. Mrs. Snopkowski answered BOE members' questions. Mrs. Harmeling requested thank you letters be sent to the Lions Club for their generous donation.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**G. Non-Renewal of Teachers**

**10-3632:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Melissa Bruhn, Caitlyn Ianucci, Krystal Kinahan, Gia Manilo-Bonaventura, and Richard Palmer 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 Melissa Bruhn, Caitlyn Ianucci, Krystal Kinahan, Gia Manilo-Bonaventura, and Richard Palmer 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

Discussion was held. Ms. Mascolo noted L/T subs were hired for maternity leaves(s) and/or long term illnesses. Mr. Stanek noted any courses eliminated must be brought to the attention of the Curriculum Committee.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**H. Executive Session**

None

**VII) ADJOURNMENT**

**10-3633: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**Submitted,**

**Patricia Gillis, Clerk**