



**MEETING MINUTES**

**SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING:**

**Seymour Middle School**

**March 5, 2012  
7:30 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, New Haven Register  
Trisha Hazzard, School Counselor, SMS  
Jennifer Severino, School, Counselor, SMS  
Nancy Staab, School Counselor, Bungay  
Jessica Strumello, Sch. Counselor, Chatfield  
Kim Leoni, School Counselor, LoPresti  
Cathy Guerrera, Secretary, SMS  
Gina Wendland, Teacher, Chatfield  
Allison Cunningham, Teacher, Chatfield  
Mary Deming, Teacher, SHS  
Barbara Eighmie, Seymour resident  
Andy Moyher, Seymour resident  
Richard Rossik, Seymour resident  
Dale Bruckhart, Advanced Corp. Network

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 Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Bungay School  
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coord., SPS  
Melissa Anelli, Guidance Coordinator, SHS  
Anita Cardona, School Counselor, SHS  
Nina Inzero, School Counselor, SHS  
Sandra Labacz, School Counselor, SHS  
Rich Kearns, Director of Security, SPS

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Yashu Putorti, Chairman, called the meeting to with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 P.M.

**II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- 1. Guidance Department Programs Presentation  
The Guidance Department School Counselors from all five Seymour schools gave an informative presentation accompanied by a slide show of the programs at all schools. They answered all BOE members' questions.

**10-3606: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to add to the agenda at this time a presentation by Rick Kearns, Director of Security, Seymour Public Schools.

**SO VOTED:**

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

Rich Kearns, Director of Security, Seymour Public Schools, gave an in-depth slide show presentation on the following programs currently available in the community and schools: Take a Stand Day, Making the Right Choices, A Teen Safe Driving Program Think Again, Pedal Cart Program, Toyota Discovery Education Educator Challenge, Community Safe Driving Center, and Wildcat Teen

## II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

### B. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Rich Kearns, Director of Security on establishing a teen driving center in Seymour High School. Mr. Kearns secured grants to meet this goal
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Girls Basketball team who were featured on WNBC's "High Five" show on February 16, 2012
3. Congratulations to James Engmann, Grade 5, Bungay School, and Farian Rabbani, Grade 8, Seymour Middle School, who have advanced to the state level of the National Geographic Bee. The state bee will be held on Friday, March 30, 2012 at Central Connecticut State University
4. Congratulations to the students at LoPresti School who have read 5,065 books as of February 24<sup>th</sup> and the Chatfield Students who have read 3,860 as of last week in the Winter Reading Challenge which will wind up on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
5. Congratulations to Katie Petroski, Seymour High School Track Team, who finished third in the 600 at the State Class S meet and fifth at the State Open meet. She qualified to compete in the New England Regionals
6. Congratulations to the following Seymour High School cheerleaders who made the Class S All State Cheerleading Team: Allyson Satkowski, Jessica Buker, Alisha Cusano, Morgan Scinto, Casey Hayden, Karin Gittings
7. The SMS Cheerleaders took first place in a competition held Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at Central Connecticut State University. The cheerleaders competed against DePaulo Middle School and Our Lady Mount Carmel Middle School of Waterbury.
8. Bungay Elementary School takes great pleasure in recognizing four outstanding individuals who assist us in establishing a positive school culture for students, staff and families. The recipients will be recognized on March 13, 2012 at Aqua Turf in Southington. Congratulations to the following volunteers: **Mrs. Aimee Cronin**, whose efforts have gone well beyond the call of duty in her role as the Welcome Wagon Chairperson welcoming all new incoming kindergarten students and their families to our school. She also dedicates her time to fundraisers and collects books, box tops and food labels for our school, **Mrs. Rita Brenchak** and **Mrs. Denise Bastek** are to be commended for initiating a staff appreciation monthly program that recognizes our staff on a monthly basis with special treats, decorates our staff lounge with a specific theme, and with their own personal touch recognizing staff members with little notes throughout the school year, **Mrs. Maria Keeler** assists with special events that bring families together as the chairperson of our Bingo nights and helps to support literacy in the home as chairperson of the school-wide Read-a-Thon

### C. MINUTES

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2012
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2012
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2012
4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2012
5. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2012

## II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

### C. MINUTES (continued)

**10-3607: MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling, sec. Mr. Strumello) moved to accept the minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting on February 6, 2012, and the minutes of the Special BOE Meetings on January 23, 2012,

January 24, 2012, February 7, 2012, and February 13, 2012 with the following changes: In the February 6, 2012 minutes under Chairman's Report, page 5, second paragraph, remove the word "hand" and insert the word "a" before valid.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**D. Correspondence**

1. Letter dated 01/31/12 from Ronald Skurat and Elise Wood, Registrars of Voters to Cathy Goodrich, Principal of Seymour High School requesting permission to set up a voter registration booth in the school
2. Letter dated 02/23/12 from Michael Ricci, State Mediator to Attorney Fred Dorsey notifying the Seymour Board of Education that the mediation session has been scheduled for March 6, 2012
3. Letter dated 02/28/12 from MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent to First Selectman Kurt Miller relinquishing control of LoPresti School

**III) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Richard Rossik, 34 Roberts Street, Seymour, asked why an email did not go out to parents informing them of the recent chlorine spill at Seymour High School, and that he had to read about it in the newspaper. Mr. Rossik asked for the BOE to investigate how and why this spill occurred.

**IV) INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

**A. INFORMATION**

**1. Student Representative Report**

**a. HIGH SCHOOL**

- Winter Dance, March 3, 2012 – Ms. Putorti noted Disc Jockey Nick Ortiz brought a strobe light and disco ball to the dance for all to enjoy
- CAPT Testing, week of March 5, 2012

**b. MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- The SMS cheerleaders will compete in a competition at East Haven High School on March 1, 2012, beginning at 10:00am. They will compete against Our Lady Mount Carmel, Great Oak, Danbury Middle School, and Long River
- 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 back to Connecticut.
- SMS students will be participating in Pi Day activities in their math classes exploring the history of Pi and how it is derived. Pi, Greek letter ( $\pi$ ), 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...

**c. BUNGAY SCHOOL**

- Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, 2012  
To commemorate Dr. Seuss' birthday Bungay School is welcoming the following guests to read to our students: MaryAnne Mascolo, Christine Syriac, Rick Belden, Nancy Snopkowski, Bernadette Hamad and Kurt Miller

**1. Student Representative Report (continued)**

**d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS**

- Chatfield and LoPresti are having a Family Fun event at a Bridgeport Sound Tigers game on Sunday, March 11, 2012. Students that have read 10 or more books in the Winter Reading Challenge earn a free ticket to the game

**2. Strategic School Profile – Christine Syriac**

**10-3608: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Hatfield) moved to table this item due to the lateness of the hour and the great amount of material needed to be covered to a future meeting date.

**SO VOTED:**

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Gesek, Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mrs. Magri, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Chairman Putorti, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek

**3. Teacher of the Year Process – Christine Syriac**

Ms. Syriac gave an informative presentation on the selection process for Teacher of the Year

**4. Article – “February 1 is National Digital Learning Day”**

**5. Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

- a. Carroza, Stephanie
- Clerical Paraprofessional
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective February 17, 2012

**6. Staff Resignation – Appendix E**

- a. O'Connor, Paul
- Head Coach –Girls Soccer
  - High School
  - Effective Immediately

**7. Hats at Seymour High School**

- Dress Code Policy (5132)  
Discussion was held

**8. Review of Board Polices**

- Board-Superintendent Relationship (2000.1)
- Recruitment and Selection (4111)  
Discussion was held

**10-3609: MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Ms. Gesek) to send Policy 2000.1 - Board-Superintendent Relationship and Policy 4111 - Recruitment and Selection to the Policy Committee to discuss and review, and take into consideration Mr. Stanek's points and position.

Ms. Mascolo noted this policy was developed by C.A.B.E.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3610: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, Mrs. Harmeling) to move Item **6. F** under **Recommended Actions** up on the agenda at this time.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**F. Award of RFP # 12-01**

**10-3611: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Magri) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to award RFP # 12-01 for the Wide Area Network (WAN) to Advanced Corporate Networking (Digital BackOffice), Milford, CT and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a five year agreement beginning July 1, 2012 per the terms and conditions of the proposal

Mr. Belden gave an informative overview on this contract and answered BOE members' questions.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**B. REPORTS**

**1. Revised Minutes**

a. None

**2. Committee Reports**

a. Finance Committee Minutes (revised) – January 17, 2012

**10-3612: MOTION:** (Mrs. Harmeling, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to accept the Finance Committee Minutes (revised) of January 17, 2012 with the following changes: the meeting was held at Seymour Middle School at 7:00 p.m., the attendees were: Jim Garofolo, Kristen Harmeling, Jen Magri, MaryAnne Mascolo, Christine Syriac, Rick Belden, and to change the wording on page 1, under No. 2, from "rated premium insurance" to "obtain insurance independent of the Town of Seymour".

**SO VOTED:**

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

b. Athletic Committee Minutes – February 23, 2012

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Board of Finance will meet this coming Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Norma Drummer Room

**a. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Strumello attended a forum on the Connecticut Achievement GAP. Mrs. Magri and Mrs. Harmeling toured SHS, SMS and elementary school and thoroughly enjoyed their visits. Mr. Hatfield noted he thought it was interesting that the Legislation has included discussion of Labor Unions in the curriculum. He also asked for a copy of the report regarding the recent incident (chlorine spill) at SHS.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Mascolo distributed her report to BOE members which detailed her meetings, activities and eblasts of the previous month as well as upcoming meetings and activities.

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

◆ 1. None

**VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**A. Nutrition Services Financial Report – January, 2012**

**10-3613: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the January, 2012 Nutrition Services Financial Report as submitted

**SO VOTED:**

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

**B. Out of State Field Trip**

**10-3614: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, Sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to approve the request of Mary Deming to take the High School 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes on an out of state field trip to Boston, MA on May 12, 2012

**SO VOTED:**

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

**C. Monetary Donation**

**10-3615: MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to approve the donation from Seymour High School Class of 1942 (represented by Vera Domareck) in the amount of \$1,073.31 to be used to purchase message boards for the library and the main office of Seymour High School

Discussion was held.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**D. Appendix E Position of Assistant Coach**

**10-3616: MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to establish the Appendix E position of Assistant Coach for the Freshmen Baseball Team for the spring 2012 season

**SO VOTED:**

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

**E. Extension of Electricity Contract**

**10-3617: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Hatfield) to waive formal bidding for the provision of electricity generation services and ratify the decision of the Board Chairman, per Board Policy 3320 (Waiving the Bidding Process, item 2), to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a two (2) year agreement with Constellation New Energy, Houston, TX, commencing on 10/26/12 and concluding on 10/27/2014 at a price of \$.068097 per kWh

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3618: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to add to the agenda the hiring of spring coaches for the 2011-2012 school year:

**SO VOTED:**

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

**G. Hiring of Spring Coaches for 2011-2012**

**10-3619: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Hatfield) to rehire the following spring coaches for the 2011-2012 school year:

Baseball:

Bob Kelo	Head Coach
OPEN	Assistant
Steven Reilly	Volunteer

Softball:

Ken Pereiras	Head Coach
Jamie Yakushevich	Assistant
Jill Yakushevich	Assistant

Track:

Tom Lennon	Head Coach
Chris Pagliaro	Assistant
John Johnson	Assistant
David Willadsen	Assistant
Mike Sirowich	Assistant
Brandt Schneider	Volunteer
Brian Cleveland	Volunteer
Gregory Murphy	Volunteer
Joe Poulsen	Volunteer

Girl's Tennis:

Missy Orosz	Head Coach
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**SO VOTED:**

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

**VII) ADJOURNMENT**

**10-3620: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Hatfield) to adjourn at 10:17 p.m.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**Submitted,**

**Patricia Gillis, Clerk**