



## MEETING MINUTES

### SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### REGULAR MEETING:

Seymour Middle School

February 6, 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  
Lukacz Grabowski, Student Representative  
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent	Susan Duke, Teacher, LoPresti School
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent	June Tema, Teacher, LoPresti School
Mary Lavoie, Director of Instruction	Dawn Verrelli, Teacher LoPresti School
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Spec. Ed.	Sandra Andes
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS	Andy Maghee
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS	Richard Rossik
Monica Briggs, Asst. Principal, SMS	Keith A. Casey
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS	Dacia Mirabelle
Dave Olechna, Principal, CS/LS	John Hannon
Leslie Sojka, Asst. Principal, CS/LS	Colleen Maguire
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coord.	Dawn Adams
Meagan Krushinski, SEA President/SMS Teacher	Lynn Persico
Michael Oberdick, Technology Integration Teacher	Timothy Rennison
Allison Sheridan, Teacher, CS	Dave Palumbo
Allison Acquavella, Teacher, SMS	
Suzanne & James Rafferty	

#### 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. Demonstration of how teachers and students use technology in the classroom – Michael Oberdick, Technology Integration Teacher

Michael Oberdick gave an informative presentation of Prezi, a collaborative 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning tool, and invited SMS Grade 6 student Madison Brenchak and SHS student Christine Murphy to share with the BOE what they have learned using the Prezi Program in their respective Language Arts class and AP English class. Meagan Krushinski, SMS Health teacher, gave a presentation on Smart Response System (clickers) and how students are using them in her Health class. Michael Oberdick gave an informative presentation of Art Sonia (social networking view of art) and IPADS being used in SHS Music classroom. Mr. Oberdick and Mrs. Krushinski answered all BOE members' questions.

2. Demonstration of the pilot program using IPADS in the classroom – Ms. Sheridan, Second Grade Teacher and her students

Allison Sheridan and several of her students: Sage Wotton, Morrigan Maguire, Matthew Baker, Colby Commune, Jackson Hannon, gave informative and delightful presentations to BOE members on how they are using IPADS in their classrooms. Mr. Oberdick and Ms. Sheridan answered all BOE members' questions.

**B. Recognitions**

1. Congratulations to Cathy Federowicz on being named as Girls Volleyball Coach of the Year and to Cindy Farrell on being selected for the 2011 All-Area Girls Volleyball team
2. Congratulations to Rebecca Putorti who earned a spot on the Academic All-Stars for Girls Soccer
3. Congratulations to Danielle Pereira who received a Gold Key Award for the 2012 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Show
4. Congratulations to the CAS Elementary Arts Awards Recipients! Aaron Bogardus, LoPresti, Alexandra Petronchak, LoPresti, Samantha Winkel, Chatfield, Dante Criscio, Chatfield, Aleksej Cupic, Bungay and Jade Schumacher, Bungay
5. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School Boys Basketball team who defeated St. Johns 49 to 27 last Saturday at a tournament in Watertown. The Championship Game was played on Sunday at Watertown High School. Only six players were able to make the game and they fought hard! Swift 71 to Seymour 46
6. Congratulations to the SMS Student Council. Through a school spirit themed week (Monday, January 23rd through Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>) for their Global Awareness Fundraiser, the student council raised \$1359.32 to support education at a school Located at a Darfur Refugee Camp
7. Congratulations to the Middle School Audubon Club. During the month of January they collected 39 pairs of gently worn but clean jeans. The purpose of the Jean Swap program is to show students they can recycle, de-clutter, and help others at the same time
8. Mr. Hatfield recognized Michelle Pleban as a member of 2011 All-Area Girls Swim Team and Katie Petroski on the Boys and Girls track teams

**C. Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2012

**10-3601: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to accept the Regular BOE Minutes from the January 17, 2012 as presented

**SO VOTED:**

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

**D. Correspondence**

1. Letter dated 01/24/12 from Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. to MaryAnne Mascolo Regarding the End of the Year School Report Form ED001
2. Letter dated 01/12/12 from Rich Kearns to MaryAnne Mascolo regarding the award of a grant in the amount of \$2,267.00 to be used to purchase emergency preparedness backpacks
3. Pamphlet on Reading Strategies
4. Booklet from CEA on "View from the Classroom"
5. Letter from Education Weekly Magazine

### III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Rossik, 34 Roberts Street, Seymour, shared his concerns about two Central Office administrators in the system. Chairman Putorti thanked Mr. Rossik and informed him this would be something to discuss in a private and not in a public forum. Mr. Rossik stated he would be open to Chairman Putorti's suggestion.

David Palumbo, 138 Old Ansonia Road, Seymour, recently made some complaints about the safety of all children on buses. Mr. Palumbo put together a letter and presented it to the BOE for their review and asked them to act on it as soon as possible.

Paul Thompson, 31 Evergreen Terrace, Seymour, a member of the Seymour Town Technology Committee, passed out a brief online survey to BOE members to gather information about what features and resources the community and various Board Members would like to see on the new Town's website.

Meagan Krushinski, SEA President, let BOE members know the letter to be reviewed later on in Executive Session for Impact Bargaining from the Seymour Education Association was written on behalf of only the elementary school teachers, not all Seymour Public Schools teachers.

### IV) **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

#### **A. INFORMATION**

##### **1. Student Representative Report**

###### **a. HIGH SCHOOL**

- Course Selection, 2/7/12
- Class Meetings with the Student Council, 2/9/12
- Ski Trip to Mt. Stratton, 2/12/12
- Winter Dance, 2/25/12 (rescheduled to 2/25/12)
- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, 2/29/12

###### **b. MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- No upcoming events

###### **c. BUNGAY SCHOOL**

- Student Data Team, 1/31/12  
The eight student representatives: Jenna Geffert, Peyton Iott, Nicholas Marchetti, Makenna Nicholas, Amber Recine, Lexi Robinson, Kolby Sirowich, and Gabby Venditti worked collaboratively with the Bungay Elementary School data team looking at grade level data (no student names) on reading fluency and the number of minutes read. The next step for the student data team is to use the data to create a school-wide data wall
- Kidsmarathon Bungay Elementary School students in grades two through five will be able to participate in KIDSMARATHON which is an 8-10 week training program that enables kids to compete in a full marathon by running incremental distances each week leading up to the finish in front of hundreds of fans at Cheshire High School on May 19, 2012. The program is coordinated with the assistance of Carol Perez, physical education teacher. The program helps children develop life-long fitness skills, positive nutritional habits, social-emotional learning, a feeling of accomplishment, and self-confidence

###### **d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS**

- Chatfield/LoPresti Bingo Night, Seymour Middle School, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 2/3/12
- Visit by the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Mascot "Storm" during Chatfield lunch waves to recognize participation in PTA Sound Tigers Winter Reading Challenge, 2/14/12. Chatfield students have read over 2,500 books since November!
- Visit by the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Mascot "Storm" during LoPresti lunch waves to recognize participation in PTA Sound Tigers Winter Reading Challenge, 2/15/12. As of January 30, 2012 LoPresti students have read 3,212 books!
- Chatfield/LoPresti Hot Cocoa Social, sponsored by LoPresti PTA, Seymour Middle School, 6:30, 2/24/12

##### **2. Superintendent Elect Transition Plan, Part 1 – Christine Syriac**

Ms. Syriac gave an in-depth and insightful presentation of her core beliefs and goals for the future of the Seymour Public Schools when she assumes her new duties as Superintendent on July 1, 2012.

She thanked her mentor, Ms. Mascolo, for all her support and guidance since she began working for the Seymour Public Schools

**3. Article – We Can Overcome Poverty’s Impact on School Success**

**4. Staff Resignations - Certified**

- a. Moeller, Judith
  - Language Arts Consultant
  - LoPresti Elementary School
  - Effective June 30, 2012

**5. Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

- a. DiLeone, Joseph
  - Part Time District Wide Computer Technician
  - Central Office
  - Effective December 11, 2011

**6. Staff Hiring – Certified**

- a. Bruhn, Melissa
  - Part Time Biology Teacher (pending certification)
  - High School
  - Replacing Sasha Salem
  - Step 1, Bachelors

**7. Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

- a. Vayda, Matthew
  - Part Time District Wide Computer Technician
  - Central Office
  - Replacing Joseph DiLeone

**B. REPORTS**

**1. Revised Minutes**

- a. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes (revised) – December 19, 2012

**2. Committee Reports**

- a. Liaison Committee Minutes – January 11, 2012
- b. Transportation Committee Minutes – January 11, 2012
- c. Finance Committee Minutes – January 17, 2012
- d. Facilities Committee Minutes – January 19, 2012
- e. Special BOE Meeting Agenda – February 7, 2012
- f. Athletic Committee Agenda – February 9, 2012 (rescheduled to 2-23-12)

Mr. Kubik updated the BOE on the heating issues at Seymour High School

**3. Chairman’s Report**

None

**a. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Hatfield commented the agenda for the BOE meeting was posted online before the BOE received it. Ms. Mascolo stated the Town Hall is closed on Fridays and must receive it on the Thursday before the scheduled BOE meeting. Discussion was held.

Mr. Stanek asked if the part time Biology teacher being hired is replacing a full time or part-time teacher. Ms. Mascolo stated a part-time teacher. Mr. Stanek asked how applicants applied for this position. Ms. Mascolo stated she was not sure how many, but stated it was difficult to find a certified applicant. Mr. Stanek asked if there were any applicants from Seymour. Ms. Mascolo stated she did not know. Mr. Stanek noted the lack of hiring local people, and he went through the thirty professional hires from July 2010 to the present and only one was from Seymour and another was a graduate of Seymour High School. Discussion was held. Mr. Stanek also asked about the possibility

of making up a day of school at the end of year when we have several late starts or early dismissals. Discussion was held.

Mr. Hatfield stated he thought the Town of Seymour Technology survey hand is valid idea and asked if Ms. Syriac could look into this for the school district's website. He also asked what the progress was on the student interest survey. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held on whether to keep "Board member Comments" on future BOE Meeting agendas.

#### **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.

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

◆ 1. Review of the letter for Impact Bargaining from Seymour Teachers Association

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

#### **VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

##### **A. Nutrition Services Financial Report – December, 2011**

**10-3602: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the December, 2011 Nutrition Services Financial Report as submitted

Discussion was held

**SO VOTED:**

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

##### **B. Out of State Field Trip**

**10-3603: MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield, Sec. Mrs. Magri) to approve the request of Ashly Scharn, Katie Dombrowski, and Stephanie Shelinsky to take the High School Cheerleading team on an out of state field trip to Providence, RI on March 16, 2012 to March 17, 2012

Discussion was held

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3604: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) move to enter into Executive Session to review the letter for Impact Bargaining from Seymour Teachers Association and to invite the following individuals to attend the executive session: MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent

**SO VOTED:**

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

The BOE entered into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m.

The BOE came out of Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.

#### **VII) ADJOURNMENT**

**10-3605: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Magri) to adjourn at 10:31 p.m.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**Submitted,**

**Patricia Gillis, Clerk**