



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

January 17, 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:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Oper.
Mary Lavoie, Director of Instruction
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Education
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coord., SPS
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS
Meagan Krushinski, SEA President & SMS Teacher
Bruce Deming, Seymour HS Teacher
Lisa Heneghan, Bungay School
Amanda Cleveland, Silver, Petrucelli & Associates
Mark D'Agostino, D'Agostino & Associates
Andrew Moyer, Seymour resident

I) CALL TO ORDER

A. Yashu Putorti, Chairman, called the meeting to with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 P.M.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. 21st Century Learning

1. NextEd – Transforming Connecticut's Education System

Question: As a member of the Board of Education, what do you think is the most important recommendation made in this proposal to transform Connecticut schools and why? Discussion was held and BOE members shared their recommendations.

Mrs. Harmeling handed out a booklet to BOE members entitled, "Primary Sources 2011, A First Look for Education Nation – A Project of Scholastic And The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation" A lengthy discussion was held.

B. Recognitions

1. Moment of Silence – John J. Adzima

Ms. Mascolo noted that Mr. Adzima was the first Principal of Chatfield Elementary School. Mr. Strumello gave a heartfelt eulogy of Mr. Adzima. Mrs. Magri and Mr. Stanek shared their fond memories of Mr. Adzima as well. Mr. Hatfield asked to remember Ruth Davies, a former Seymour Public School teacher for more than 49 years, who passed away this past December. Mr. Stanek shared his memories of Ms. Davies.

B. Recognitions (continued)

2. Thank you to Yale Termite & Pest Elimination Corporation and Accurate Bed Bug Detection Dog for their assistance regarding the bed bug issue at LoPresti Elementary School. They have gone above and beyond during this holiday season to assist the Seymour Schools in this sensitive matter
3. Congratulations to the students and staff of Seymour High School who contributed to the Angel Tree and the Mitten Tree this holiday season. The Angel Tree helped 24 families which included 48 students and their siblings. Each family received gifts and a gift card to Stop and Shop. The Mitten Tree provided each family with hats, gloves and scarves and also contributed to the shelter in Ansonia
4. Congratulations to the students who were winners in the Anti-Drug and Poison Prevention Calendar contest. This year the following students' work was featured in the 2012 Calendar: January - Moriah Deaver (BS), May – Amber Szymanski (CS), August – Erin Cronin (BS), September – Allan Schmidheini (LS), October – Abby Solomon (BS), December – Stephanie Ferrara (LS)
5. Congratulations to the finalists in the Grade 3 Battle of the Books at Bungay School: Kevin Harmeling, Novrus Shehaj, John Anroman, and Alyssa Moher. Good job and keep reading!

Mrs. Harmeling noted this was the first year Bungay School held the Battle of the Books and it was a great success

6. Congratulations to Bungay students Nicholas Marchetti (gr. 4), Ian Argento (gr.4), Reilly Bronson (gr. 5), Daniel Bouzolin (gr. 5), Madeline Coco (gr. 5), Payton Iott (gr. 5), Connor Benson (gr. 5), Chatfield students Madeline Cirillo (gr. 5), Tyler Fauci (gr. 5), Tyler Ganim (gr. 5), James Lanese (gr. 5), Jonathan Sullivan (gr. 5), Cody Guillette (gr. 5) and LoPresti students Aaron Bogardus (gr. 5), Ashleigh Persico (gr. 5), Nina Rosario (gr. 5), Amanda Stauber (gr. 5), Theodore Vincent (gr. 5), and Nancy Wender (gr. 5) who were selected to attend the Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Leadership Conference on January 11, 2012
7. Congratulations to the Middle School Geography Bee Top Ten: Christian Abreus, Fred Ames, Sam Bradshaw, John Castillo-Franco, Liam Flannery, Chris Fraser, Nikhil Kesireddy, Megan Machnicz, Farian Rabbani, and Scott Walkinshaw. These students will soon compete in the final round of the MS Geography Bee and the winner of the school will take the state test. The top 100 scores from Connecticut will compete at Central CT State University to determine a state winner. Winners from each state will compete in Washington DC in May

Mr. Garofolo asked to have all the student names put on the district website for recognition.

8. Mr. Hatfield asked to recognize Seymour High School volleyball player Cindy Farrell as all area player, and Cathy Federowicz as coach of the year. These announcements were recently in the New Haven Register.

C. Correspondence

1. Letter dated 01/03/12 from Kelli Poulos-Huwer to New Haven Board of Education (cc: Seymour Board of Education) regarding the decision to home school her child
2. Letter from the National School Board Association was received asking the Seymour BOE to join their association

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Deming, 100 Walnut Street, Seymour, and a Seymour High School teacher of 37 years: Mr. Deming also recognized the students and staff who contributed to the SHS Angel Tree and the Mitten Tree this holiday season, noting several clubs got together and gave donations, and a dress down day was held at SHS to raise funds for the gifts as well.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Meagan Krushinski, CSEA President and Seymour Middle School teacher: Ms. Krushinski asked the BOE to reconsider Item K (SEA Early Retirement Counter Proposal) on the agenda and invite Bruce Deming into Executive Session to speak on behalf of the SEA and address / answer any questions the BOE might have before making their final decision.

Andrew Moyer, 225 Mountain Road: Mr. Moyer stated students should be encouraged that they can be and do whatever they want and there are no boundaries to get there, and the schools give the students the opportunity to do this. He noted there is a weakness in mathematics.

IV) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

1. Student Representative Report

a. HIGH SCHOOL

- Mid Term Exams, 1/17/12-1/20/12
- Winter Dance, 1/21/12, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., HS Gym, cost: \$10.00
- This dance has been canceled due to not enough interest
- Course Selection by Guidance Counselors, 1/25/12-1/26/12

Miss Putorti commented she was glad to see the SMS still having Ski Club, and noted SHS was not able to participate due to low interest. Chairman Putorti asked if the SHS students could share a bus with the SMS for next year. Ms. Mascolo will check into it. Mr. Hatfield asked why the Battle of the Books was not held at Chatfield and LoPresti schools. Ms. Mascolo stated this would be something to look into in the future, and noted both Schools had a lot going on with the merging of the two schools and the Chatfield renovation. Mrs. Harmeling also stated since this was the program's first year at Bungay, it was a good idea to have tried it out at one school first. Mr. Hatfield asked for information on reading programs from other schools. Chairman Putorti noted all schools information is now included on the agenda

b. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Geography Bee, Final Round – Date TBA
- MS Ski Club, first trip 01/05/12 – a good time was had by all!
- MS Audubon Club – meets on Thursdays - Currently organizing a jean swap collecting gently used jeans to swap or to donate to a local shelter. Also working on an Earth Day celebration, a poster contest, a bird seed collection for donation, and clean up of school grounds

c. BUNGAY SCHOOL

- Rosa's Readers Reading Incentive for grade 1 students, 12/1/11-02/29/12
A recognition ceremony is held in the spring for students who have read 20 or more books
- Battle of the Books Grades 3, 4, and 5
Final Round Grade 3 – 12/21/11
Final Round Grade 4 and 5 – 01/13/12
- Winter Music Concert - 01/31/12, 7:00 p.m., MS Auditorium

d. CHATFIELD and LoPRESTI SCHOOLS

- Winter Music Concert – 01/26/12, 6:00 p.m., MS Auditorium

2. CMT Schedules – For BOE members information

Chairman Putorti asked for a motion to move Item D. Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) under VI. Recommended Actions, up on the agenda.

10-3586: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Magri) to move Item D. Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) under VI. Recommended Actions up on the agenda.

10-3586: MOTION: (continued)

SO VOTED:

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

Ms. Mascolo introduced Amanda Cleveland of Silver, Petrucelli Associates and Marc D'Agostino of D'Agostino & Associates who have been working with the teachers and Building Committee for the Chatfield/LoPresti schools project. Ms. Cleveland handed out copies of the proposed FFE and the Technology Package Phase to all BOE members for their review.

10-3587: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Chatfield Building Committee to approve the FF&E plan as presented

Mr. Stanek asked to amend the motion to read the "Chatfield/LoPresti Elementary School Building Committee".

Amended MOTION: 10-3587: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Chatfield/LoPresti Elementary School Building Committee to approve the FF&E plan as presented.

A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Cleveland, Mr. D'Agostino, and Mr. Belden answered all BOE Members' questions.

SO VOTED:

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

3. ELL Tutoring Program – Mary Lavoie
Mary Lavoie gave a comprehensive review of this program and answered BOE member's questions
4. 2012 – 2013 Budget – Finance Department, Town Hall
5. Name Change – Curriculum and Technology Committee
6. Education in Connecticut – Governor Dannel Malloy
7. Staff Resignations - Certified
 - a. Duquette, Cristina
 - Grade 5 Teacher
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective June 30, 2012
 - b. Salem, Sasha
 - PT Biology Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 27, 2012
 - c. Stedman, Shelley
 - Library Media Specialists
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2012
8. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
 - a. Thompson, Merissa
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective December 20, 2011

B. REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Chatfield LoPresti Building Committee Summary

- November 1, 2011 – November 30, 2011
- December 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

b. Liaison Committee Agenda – January 11, 2012

c. Transportation Committee Agenda – January 11, 2012

d. Finance Committee Agenda – January 17, 2012

e. Facilities Committee Agenda – January 19, 2012

f. Special BOE Meeting Agenda – January 23, 2012

g. Special BOE Meeting Agenda – January 24, 2012

2. Chairman's Report

Chairman Putorti informed BOE members the First Selectman is forming a committee to look into 98 Bank Street, LoPresti School, the Senior Community Center, and the Town Hall and is requesting a BOE member to be on this committee. Chairman Putorti asks any member interested to email him. Mrs. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mrs. Magri, and Mr. Strumello expressed interest on being on this committee.

a. Board Member Comments

Mr. Strumello recently attended his first ACES meeting and gave a recap of the meeting.

3. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo distributed her report to BOE members which detailed her meetings, activities and eblasts of the past several weeks, as well as upcoming meetings and activities. She also distributed updated contract books to each BOE member.

10-3588: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Gesek) moved to go into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

(Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Gesek) to rescind the previous motion.

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

- ◆ A. Grievance #11-12-02
- ◆ B. SEA Early Retirement Counter Proposal
- ◆ It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session

VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2011

10-3589: MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling, sec. Mrs. Gesek) to accept the minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting of December 19, 2011 with the following changes: change the spelling of Kristina Cretella on page 2, under B. Recognitions, to Christina Cretella, and on page 2 under III) Public Comment, change the word Technology to organizational.

SO VOTED:

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

2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2011

10-3590: MOTION: (Mrs. Magri, sec. Mr. Harmeling) to approve the minutes of the Special BOE Meeting held on December 14, 2011.

SO VOTED:

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

B. Volunteers

1. Krivickas, Alfons
 - Assistant Coach, Wrestling
 - Seymour High School

2. Murphy, Greg
 - Strength and Conditioning Coach, Indoor Track
 - Seymour High School

10-3591: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the appointment of Alfons Krivickas and Greg Murphy as volunteers for Seymour High School

Discussion was held.

SO VOTED:

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

C. Monetary Donation

1. The Seymour High School Lady Wildcat Diamond Club would like to donate approximately \$1400 to pay for new softball jerseys

10-3592: MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Mrs. Gesek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a donation of approximately \$1400 from the Seymour High School Lady Wildcat Diamond Club

Discussion was held.

SO VOTED:

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

**D. Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF& E)
(Presented earlier on the agenda)**

E. Nutrition Services Financial Report – November, 2011

10-3593: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the November, 2011 Nutrition Services Financial Report as submitted

SO VOTED:

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

F. Financial Summary – December, 2011

10-3594: MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Summary, December, 2011 as presented

SO VOTED:

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

G. Out of State Field Trip

10-3595: MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec. Mrs. Harmeling) to approve the request of Kathleen Verlezza and Jen Sardo to take the High School Banking, Personal Finance, and FBLA students on an out of state field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, in Boston, MA

Discussion was held.

Mr. Stanek moved to table this motion. No second.

Motion Failed.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

H. Bus Stop Change

10-3596: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Transportation Committee to deny a parental request for special consideration to change their child's bus stop on early dismissal days

SO VOTED:

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

I. Anticipated Executive Session

10-3597: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mrs. Gesek) move to enter into Executive Session to discuss and take possible action on Grievance #11-12-02 and SEA Early Retirement Counter Proposal and to invite the following individuals to attend the executive session: MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent, Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, and Bruce Deming, SEA Representative

SO VOTED:

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

Mr. Stanek stated non Board members should only be allowed only for as long as their testimony or opinion is necessary

The BOE entered in Executive Session at 9:38 p.m.

The BOE came of out Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

J. Grievance #11-12-02

10-3598: MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling, sec. Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Liaison Committee to deny Grievance #11-12-02

SO VOTED:

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

K. SEA Early Retirement Counter Proposal

10-3599: MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling, sec. Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Liaison Committee to reject the SEA's early retirement counter proposal

SO VOTED:

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

L. BOE Early Retirement

10-3599: MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling, sec. Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Liaison Committee to extend the deadline for participating in the Board's early retirement incentive plan to February 15, 2012

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

RECUSED: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello,

VII) ADJOURNMENT

10-3600: MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling, sec. Ms. Magri) to adjourn at 10:29 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