



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2011

Central Office

8:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Strumello, Chairman
James Garofolo (arrived at 7:23 p.m.)
Peter Kubik
Yashu Putorti (arrived at 7:57 p.m.)
Fred Stanek
Lee-Ann Dauerty, BOE Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School Parent
Saundra Gesek, Seymour Board of Selectman
Jay Hatfield, Seymour Board of Finance
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal – Seymour High School
Wayne Natzel – Director of Facilities
Ed Rostowsky – Athletic Director
Bill Paecht – Parks Commission
Dennis Rozum – Public Works
Wayne Finkle
Sean Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with a salute to the flag at 7:00 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION ON USAGE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS

Mr. Putorti led the discussion on the use of the athletic fields and explored the possibility of “resting” a field each year. Mr. Paecht discussed how the process works for organizations to apply to use the fields and indicated that “resting” a field is not possible at this time because all the fields are currently being over utilized. Interested organizations must submit an application for field use and also indicate what fields they want to use. The Parks Commission reviews the application and for the most part grants permission to use the fields that have been requested. There was some discussion on whether the process could be changed so that some of the smaller fields could be used by some of the younger kids’ teams. Mr. Paecht indicated this may be possible if they change the application to include a space for the age of the players.

2. FIELD CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Heavy use occurs mainly with the football and soccer teams. The school teams take priority for field use. There is a wear and tear issue with football and soccer fields. Baseball and Softball fields are being maintained. Almost all the fields have drainage issues. All fields are over used and over booked. Mr. Strumello asked about the use of protective mats on the football field and Mr. Rostowsky indicated that they have not been used in a while because they kill the grass and moving them is difficult. Ms. Mascolo summarized the discussion. With all the use of fields around the town of Seymour, a field rest is just not possible at this time and possibly could be worked out in the future with the appropriate application changes.

3. **OCR COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

Mr. Lucke explained that schools are chosen for an OCR Compliance Review at random every eight years. Seymour High School's last review was ten years ago. He described the process he went through to check the compliance of doors, services, slopes, height of tables, width of doors, etc. He was in charge of gathering the data to submit our review to the State Department of Education who then used our data and came to the school to conduct their own review. Mr. Belden reviewed the OCR Compliance Review Voluntary Action Plan explaining that some of the remedies are substantial while other items have already been corrected. He indicated there were three categories on the action plan; 1 - Remedies that can be accomplished within the 2011-12 budget year, 2 - Remedies that will need to be spread out over multiple budgets, and 3 - Remedies that will require multiple years to accomplish and may require town approval and/or referendums. There was a detailed discussion on whether or not there was a "grandfather" clause when it comes to compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and Rick indicated that no "grandfather" clause exists. Mr. Garofolo asked about penalties and fines and Mr. Belden did not know the types of penalties or the amounts of fines but indicated there were no penalties in the short term and they were liberal with granting extensions to complete the work. Currently many items have been corrected and are continuing to take care of the low/no cost remedies now. Mr. Belden explained that the Connecticut Department of Education OCR Compliance Review will protect us should we be audited at the Federal level. The next step in this process will be getting the SDOE approval on our Voluntary Action Plan. Once we have obtained approval, we will want to approach the Town of Seymour Board of Selectmen to request the establishment of a School Needs Committee.

4. **SCHOOL NEEDS COMMITTEE**

There was a brief discussion on the establishment of a School Needs Committee and what the scope of their responsibility regarding the OCR Compliance Review. It was decided to wait for the approval from the SDOE on our Voluntary Action Plan before approaching the town. The committee's responsibilities will be based on the Board of Selectmen's recommendation. The Board of Education will need to present to the Board of Selectman and request the establishment of a School Needs Committee. Mr. Sean Walsh questioned the difference between a mandate and a recommendation and indicated there are many ADA grant opportunities. Jay Hatfield, 26 Patton Avenue, asked if there are checks in place so the Chatfield renovation will be compliant. Mr. Belden indicated there were but would provide a copy of the OCR Audit to the Chatfield Architects (Silver Petrocelli) for their review.

5. **LOPRESTI PLAYGROUND**

Mr. Belden reminded everyone that the playground equipment at LoPresti School had been destroyed by a fire. Ms. Mascolo indicated that the LoPresti PTA represented by Mrs. Theresa Dunlop and Mrs. Suzanne Rafferty, had approached her regarding doing something to replace the playground for the remainder of the school year. The insurance has a \$10,000 deductible and it was discovered that many parts of the playscape could be saved and reused. She is happy to report the playground is functional and the parents are happy with the restoration. There was some discussion regarding the use of the equipment after LoPresti closes but no decision will be made at this point.

6. **STATE FACILITIES SURVEY (ED 050)**

Mr. Belden reviewed the ED 050 Report (School Facilities Survey) which he completes with the help of Mr. Natzel. Normally this report is done every two years but changes to the legislation required it to be completed again this year. Scores of "threes" are considered good. This report is used to determine funding for construction and renovation projects. When reviewing the report, pay attention to the scale as it means different things in different sections.

7. **PARTICIPATION OF ANSONIA GOLF PROGRAM**

Mr. Rostowsky explained that we have participated as a Team of One with Ansonia for the last couple of years since our golf program was eliminated. According to CIAC regulations, a team of one can have only a maximum of 3 players. This year he has been approached by a parent who wants her son to participate. Currently this would make four students who are interested in playing golf this year and there may be others who are interested and we don't know about yet. Mr. Rostowsky asked for permission to hold try outs for the golf team and let the Ansonia Coach decide who the three players would be. The committee agreed that this would be the fairest solution to the problem.

8. **CUSTODIANS – PT/FT**

Ms. Mascolo talked about how Mr. Mark Krauchik presented several creative ideas during our budget workshop to deal with a shortage of custodians in the district. One suggestion was to eliminate some of the part time custodians and add a full time custodian. Ms. Mascolo asked to hold off on this suggestion because of the budget process and after the consolidation of jobs between Chatfield and LoPresti School.

9. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None

10. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Natzel did a review of the Facilities Summer project and reported the completion or progress of each item.

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

**Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty**