



MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2011

Bungay Elementary School - Cafeteria

7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti (arrived at 7:57 p.m.)
Fred Stanek
James Ward
Reba Putorti, Student Representative
Luckaz Grabowski, Student Representative
Lee-Ann Dauerty, BOE Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Education
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School Parent
Saundra Gesek, Seymour Board of Selectman
Jay Hatfield, Seymour Board of Finance
Cathy Guerra, Seymour Nutrition Dept.
Kristen Harmeling, Seymour Public School Parent
Andrew Moyher

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Salute to the Flag

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. 21st Century Learning

1. None

Mr. Strumello asked for a moment of silence for Josephine Guliuzza, a former Seymour Public Schools employee who passed away on November 18, 2011.

Ms. Mascolo spoke (remarks attached) about the outgoing board members; Bruce Baker, Judy Flood, Jeanne Loda, and Jim Ward, who have served the students of Seymour for a combined total of 53 years. Mr. Strumello also recognized and thanked everyone. Judy Flood thanked the board, Ms. Mascolo, Mrs. Syriac, Mrs. Snopkowski, and Rick. Jeanne Loda thanked everyone and said she really enjoyed serving the students of Seymour. Bruce Baker spoke about how his service on the board was a learning experience and commented on how much education has changed. He has learned and read a lot and said the experience was terrific. Jim Ward said it was a pleasure to serve on the board under the last three superintendents and learned something from each of them. He indicated that our district is moving forward and wished the new board good luck. Ms. Mascolo requested a brief break to enjoy some cake.

B. Recognitions

1. Ms. Mascolo offered congratulations to Heather Brown and her students who raised \$565.00 selling Veterans Day tee shirts. The money will be split between No Vet Left Behind and the town of Seymour's Pearson Fund.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Michael Oberdick who was one of the recipients of a flip video camera and some additional spending money for educational technology. She also thanked all the staff and community who took the time to vote.
3. Ms. Mascolo thanked Rich Kearns, Paul Lucke, and Nick Aprea for their fine work on the Toyota Teen Driving Challenge which was held on October 29-30.
4. Mr. Garofolo stated that he had the opportunity to visit the Middle School during their turkey drive and commended all of the staff and students who were involved. They deserve a thank you and a compliment for serving the school and the community.

C. Correspondence

1. Mr. Strumello reviewed the letter to Allan B. Taylor from Edward Strumello, Chairman, dated November 11, 2011 regarding the resolution concerning burden of proof in special education due process hearings

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jay Hatfield, 23 Patton Avenue, thanked the outgoing members of the Board of Education for their many years of service.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – November 9, 2011

B. Finance Committee – November 21, 2011

1. To accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Management Summary for October, 2011

Mr. Stanek asked that Item A, 1 be removed from the Consent Agenda

10-3553 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mrs. Flood) move to approve the consent agenda with Item A 1 removed

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Stanek requested an additional motion be added to the November 9, 2011 minutes under motion 10-3543 that reads "to confer upon Mr. Edward Williams, a WW II Navy veteran, who was unable to complete his Seymour High School studies because he entered the U.S. navy in 1944 to serve in the Pacific during World War II, a Seymour High School diploma.

10-3554 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Stanek) move to table the approval of the November 9, 2011 Board of Education meeting minutes

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

1. Student Representatives

- a. Class Meetings – November 17-18
- b. Food Drive ends on November 18
- c. Powder Puff Game – November 21
- d. Meet Seymour High School – December 1
- e. Pep Rally/Color Wars – December 2
- f. Mitten Tree – Students
- g. Angel Tree - Staff

Mr. Strumello suggested the student representatives' report on K-12 activities and they should work with Mrs. Goodrich on getting contact information for each principal.

2. Veteran's Day Activities

Ms. Mascolo briefly described the Veteran's Day Activities around the district and commented that she felt that having the students in school was a great decision because of the meaningful ways they spend the day.

B. REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee Agenda – November 21, 2011

Mrs. Flood reported that the Finance Committee reviewed and accepted the October Financial Management Summary

2. Chairman's Report

a. Brief Review of CABA/CAPSS Convention

Mr. Strumello reported that Mr. Putorti, Mrs. Syriac, Ms. Mascolo, and he attending the CABA/CAPSS Conference on November 18 and 19. He found it to be very informative. They saw four different speakers and they were very good and informative. The group attended different sessions which they found to be very good. Among the sessions attended were the Legislative Session, Budgeting in Hard Times, and the Paperless Classroom session. Governor Malloy also attended the convention and was warmly received. Mr. Putorti commented that there were quite a few students who attended the conventions. Ms. Mascolo said this was her fourth convention and thought this one was the best one yet. Mr. Strumello informed the board that the Chatfield School open house would take place on December 13, 2011.

b. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Kubik requested a briefing from the guidance departments at each school level. He is interested in what they do in the schools and what we are doing to prepare students for college.

3. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo distributed her Superintendent's Report to BOE members which detailed her meetings, activities, and ebcasts of the previous two weeks. She also discussed upcoming meetings and activities.

VII. ♦ It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session

- ♦ A. None

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Middle School Math Curriculum

10-3555 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the Middle School Math Curriculum

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

B. New Course Proposal

10-3556 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Body Systems"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

C. New Course Proposal

10-3557 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Guitar I & II"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

D. New Course Proposal

10-3558 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Hip Hop Methods"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

E. New Course Proposal

10-3559 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Principles of Marketing"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

F. New Course Proposal

10-3560 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Entrepreneurship"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

G. New Course Proposal

10-3561 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Hospitality/Tourism"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

H. New Course Proposal

10-3562 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "Sports and Entertainment Marketing"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

I. New Course Proposal

10-3563 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve a new course for the high school entitled "AP European History"

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

10-3564 MOTION: (Mr. Putorti/sec., Mrs. Flood) to add to the agenda the discussion and possible action on the appointment of Jay Hatfield as a volunteer assistant coach for the High School Girls' Basketball team

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

A discussion took place regarding the appointment of Jay Hatfield as a volunteer assistant coach for Girls Basketball at the High School. Ms. Mascolo said she had researched and found that there were no legal reasons why he could not coach. Mr. Strumello said that Mr. Hatfield had completed all the necessary training to be a coach. Mr. Stanek talked about how many of our board members were previous volunteers. Mr. Strumello said Mr. Hatfield would need to disqualify himself from any discussions or issues involving the girls' basketball team and said that he would need to make a choice when a board of education meetings and coaching conflicted.

10-3565 MOTION: (Mr. Putorti/sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the appointment of Jay Hatfield as a volunteer assistant coach for the High School Girls' Basketball team

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

In light of the recent scandal on the campus of Penn State, Mr. Baker recommended the Athletic Committee review its policies regarding student/coach contact and possibly meet with the coaches to review the policies. Mr. Putorti also indicated coaches should not be texting students on a one to one basis. Ms. Mascolo said she has a policy in the works that would address this.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

10-3566 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda/sec., Mrs. Flood) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty**

Remarks – MaryAnne Mascolo
Board of Education Meeting
November 21, 2011

Tonight I would like to recognize Bruce Baker, Judy Flood, Jeanne Loda and Jim Ward for their long tenure on the Seymour Board of Education. Bruce has served 13 years, Judy - 16 years, Jeanne - 14 years, and Jim - 10 years for a total of 53 years of dedicated service to the children of Seymour.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve with these individuals as part of Board and Superintendent Leadership Team. Each of one you has your own unique style but ultimately you all have the same end game – the best interest of children. Jeanne Loda is **fearless**! When it comes to doing what is right for children and the district Jeanne's decisions are always child centered and she is not swayed by politics or negative rhetoric. Judy Flood is **steadfast**! Judy will always tell you where she stands on an issue and why. Once Judy gives you her word, you never ever have to doubt her – her word is her bond. Jim Ward is **judicious**! When he speaks everyone listens! Jim, I have a confession; we've been secretly calling you E.F Hutton all these years. Jim is a resolute advocate for a quality education for all students and I emphasize all, whether they are special education students or students who just need more support and compassion! And then there is Bruce. Bruce is **honorable**! He is a true leader and life long learner. He has read every article and book that I have given to the Board over the years. He has immersed himself in the research of best practices in educational leadership and has worked diligently to understand the business of education. He models what we expect of our students and staff - life long learning! Bruce is proof positive that "an old dog" can learn new tricks!

Being a Board member is a thankless position. Everyone thinks they can do your job better than you do although they have never had any experience in doing so or any knowledge of the complexity of the inner workings of a school district - never mind the knowledge of federal and state legislation that guides the majority of what we do. This kind of knowledge comes from years of experience and countless hours of meetings and hard work.

When I think of you as individuals and as a group, I immediately think of 3 words...

- Commitment
- Advocacy
- Integrity

Your commitment to and advocacy for our students, district and community is unsurpassed. But the one trait that sets you apart from most is – **INTEGRITY**. **Integrity** is defined as "an adherence to moral and ethical principles, soundness of moral character, honesty." In today's society with political fighting at all levels of our national, state and local governments and the inability of our representatives to work for the common good of all Americans; you have held to your principles and remained above the rest. Your collective goal has always been the best interest of the children of Seymour. Now that you are off the Board and have all this "free time"; you may consider going to Washington to model what integrity looks like!

I have learned so much from all of you and I can not tell you how much I have appreciated your guidance and wisdom over the years. Although we did not always see eye to eye on different matters, I always respected you and will always do so.

On behalf of the Seymour Public Schools, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of you for moving our district from "Good to Great!"

With deep appreciation,
MaryAnne