



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

September 6, 2011
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
James Garofolo – Arrived 7:35 p.m.
Peter Kubik
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT:

James Ward

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Oper.
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Education
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, Chatfield School
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coordinator
Jay Hatfield, Seymour Board of Finance Member
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School Parent
Paul Sponheimer, Seymour Resident
Suzanne Rafferty
Jason Avery
Nicole Klarides-Ditria

I) CALL TO ORDER

A. Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 P.M.

Introductions were made by Chairman Strumello and Ms. Mascolo.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. 21st Century Learning

Ms. Mascolo handed out a packet for BOE members reading and gave a synopsis of information in the packet.

Mr. Garofolo arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. Mascolo asked BOE members to take two minutes to talk to another BOE partner about what practices our BOE does very well. Mr. Garofolo: promoting the Superintendent's agenda as she presents it to the Board; Mr. Stanek: setting goals is what we do best; Mrs. Flood: setting goals; Mrs. Loda: using data; Chairman Strumello: using data and setting goals; Mr. Putorti: monitoring progress and taking corrective action; Mr. Kubik: gathering of data and how to use it in positive ways; Mr. Baker: put a 5 year plan together, set a vision, and using data.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

B. Recognitions

Ms. Mascolo complimented all administrators on a great opening day for the 2011-2012 school year.

C. Correspondence

1. None

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Sponheimer would like to learn sometime before the Board enters into Executive Session under VIII. Executive Session, A. Early Retirement on the agenda, what constitutes certified staff; and B. Non Union Contracts, what will be discussed, e.g. extension of contracts. Chairman Strumello stated he would be able to give some information during his report later on in the meeting.

Suzanne Rafferty, LoPresti PTA President, asked what the BOE's intentions are for rebuilding the playground in light of the recent fire at the playground. She also noted the State of Connecticut is offering a reward for information on who did this to the playground. Ms. Mascolo will take pictures and check on the district's insurance policy.

Jay Hatfield, Town of Seymour Board of Finance, commended Mr. Kubik and Mr. Smith on the Pig Roast they put on for the workers on the Chatfield School project. Mr. Hatfield asked for more information on the Math Coordinator position under Recommended Actions on the agenda; and under Non Union Contracts on the agenda how many of them are ending at the end of the school year and are up for renegotiation etc. Chairman Strumello will answer some of these questions during his report later on in the meeting.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – August 15, 2011

B. Student Representatives

1. None

C. Staff Resignations – Certified

1. DiVito, Fran
 - Math Teacher
 - High School
 - Effective 08-25-11

D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified

1. Mazzarise, Michelle
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Middle School
 - Effective 08-24-11

E. Finance Committee – September 6, 2011

1. To accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Management Summary for July, 2011
2. To accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the transfers for fiscal year ending 06/30/11

10-3503: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the removal of Items C1, E1, and E2.

SO VOTED:

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

10-3504: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to accept C1, resignation of SHS Math Teacher Fran DiVito with appreciation and regret.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Baker

10-3505: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to correct the wording of Item E1 to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Financial Management Summary for June 2011.

Mr. Putorti asked several questions regarding last year's budget and Rick Belden responded to the questions.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3506: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the transfers, \$925,697.62, as presented in the document and made part of the minutes of the meeting.

Discussion was held.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Chairman Strumello complimented Ms. Syriac on her thorough report:

- classes by subject and level exceeding 22 students across the district this past school year.
- enrollments in all foreign language classes by schools, by language and levels this past school year
- all classes for 2011-2012 scheduled to have more than 22, repeat 22, students per class
- density of repair services provided by IT personnel for the district by school, for 2010-2011, e.g. how many service calls were needed onsite by school, to repair existing technology equipment or to provide individual assistance to teachers/staff; what techs do when not responding to repair calls or needed technical assistance at various schools; the maintenance logs kept on system equipment to determine economic reparability and who maintains them; provided evidence of the logs and how many spare computers are stocked to replace unrepeatable one; and essential services Roberta Pratt has provided this past school year and a copy of her daily work log and schedule. Mr. Baker asked Mr. Garofolo his opinion on this report. Mr. Garofolo stated he was satisfied with the information contained in the report. Mr. Baker recommended an audit of the IT system.

A. INFORMATION

1. Staff Hiring – Certified

- a. White, Steven
 - Special Education Teacher
 - High School
 - Step 1, Masters
 - Replacing Tamresa Brody

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

A. INFORMATION (continued)

2. Griffin Hospital Childhood Obesity Program – Christine Syriac

Ms. Syriac gave the BOE an overview of this program. Mr. Baker asked about brain scans for students at the high school and how to bring down the cost. Ms. Syriac will check into it.

3. Going Green and Digital: iPads for All at Yale School of Medicine

Ms. Mascolo reported Alison Sheridan, Grade 2 at LoPresti School, is piloting this program.

B. REPORTS

1. Curriculum Committee – June 20, 2011

Chairman Strumello gave an update to Board members

2. Chairman's Report

a. CABE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: *"What Board Members Need to Know About Data"*

Chairman Strumello and Ms. Mascolo attended this conference on July 27, 2011.

Chairman Strumello handed out information on College and Career Readiness

Workshops to Board members for their perusal. He asked Mr. Garofolo if he would attend this workshop on October 27th and will check on times for him. Mr. Garofolo commented he is a proponent of Professional Development.

b. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Baker asked what the enrollment is for full time Kindergarten. Ms. Mascolo will get this information at the next BOE meeting. Chairman Strumello answered several questions from the public regarding Executive Session items. Ms. Mascolo explained to BOE members and the public Early Retirement is offered to teachers and administrators, and some contracts ended on June 30, 2011. Mr. Stanek stated he has heard from several parents expressing their disappointment on eliminating some Honors classes at the high school. He would like to take this up in a Curriculum meeting again. Ms. Mascolo will send out dates.

3. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo reviewed the details of her report, including meetings and activities of the last two months, eblasts she sent out, and upcoming meetings and events.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. ATHLETIC FIELDS

10-3507: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Baker) to discuss and take possible action on sending a formal proposal to the public works department as well as the parks board to jointly develop a long term plan that will allow one athletic field to rest each summer in order to allow for adequate turf repair

Discussion was held.

10-3508: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Baker) rescinded the previous motion.

SO VOTED:

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

B. PART TIME SCIENCE TEACHER – SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Mascolo reported on this position and answered Board members questions. Ms. Syriac also answered several BOE members questions.

10-3509: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to add to the agenda to create a Part-time Science Teacher position at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED:

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

B. PART TIME SCIENCE TEHER – SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL (continued)

10-3510: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to create a Part-time Science Teacher position at Seymour High School

SO VOTED:

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

C. MATH COORDINATOR POSITION – SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

10-3511: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to add to the agenda to eliminate Math Department Chair position and create a Math Coordinator position at Seymour High School

SO VOTED:

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

10-3512: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to eliminate the Math Department Coordinator chair position at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3513: MOTION: Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti to added a Math Coordinator 6-12 position to the Seymour School District.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Strumello asks for a motion to go into executive session inviting the Superintendent, the Associate Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent.

10-3514: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) moved to go into Executive Session at 9:28 p.m. and invited Ms. Mascolo, Ms. Syriac, and Mr. Belden.

Discussion took place. Mr. Stanek questions as to why were we addressing this now. He then read excerpts from the Dec. 6, 2010 minutes noting that Ms. Mascolo said the consideration of an early retirement for teachers was premature. Mrs. Mascolo explained that we were informed by the Seymour Education Association representative that fifteen teachers would retire if an early retirement was offered during the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. Mascolo explained that it was strategically better to offer the retirement this year rather than last year because we plan to pick up the savings for this coming budget to mitigate the lost funding from the Ed Jobs grant

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

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

◆ **A. EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE – CERTIFIED STAFF**

10-3515 MOTION (Loda/Flood) to accept the Liaison Committee's recommendation to offer an early retirement incentive per contract to certified staff as revised by full Board.

SO VOTED:

Affirmative: Baker, Kubik, Putorti, Strumello, Loda, Flood

Opposed: Garofolo, Stanek

◆ **B. NON UNION CONTRACTS**

10-3516 MOTION: (Loda/Baker) to accept the non-union contracts as recommended by the Liaison Committee

Mr. Stanek asked to amend the motion in order to deal with each contract individually.

10-3517 MOTION: (Stanek/Garofolo) to amend the motion in order to deal with each contract individually.

SO VOTED:

Affirmative: Stanek, Garofolo, Flood, Putorti

Opposed: Kubik, Strumello, Baker, Loda

The amendment failed

10-3518 MOTION: (Loda/Baker) to accept the non-union contracts as recommended by the Liaison Committee

- Supervisor of Accounting Services
- Director of Facilities
- Systemwide Security Director
- Systemwide Technology Coordinator
- Districtwide Computer Technician
- Director of Nutrition Services
- Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
- Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
- Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent

SO VOTED:

Affirmative: Baker, Kubik, Putorti, Strumello, Loda, Flood

Opposed: Stanek, Garofolo

IX) ADJOURNMENT

10-3512: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to adjourn at 10:36 p.m.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk