



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

August 15, 2011
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
James Ward – arrived 7:40 p.m.
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT:

Bruce Baker, Fred Stanek

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Oper.
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coordinator
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of Special Education
Jay Hatfield
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School parent
Dacia Mirabelle, Seymour Public School parent
Lori Robinson, Seymour Public School parent
John Stelma, Seymour resident
Diane Mer
Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, New Haven Register

I) CALL TO ORDER

A. Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35 P.M.

Introductions were made by Chairman Strumello and Ms. Syriac.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. **21st Century Learning**
NONE

B. Recognitions

1. Ms. Syriac congratulated Chatfield School on their very successful Penny Wars Campaign which raised \$962.02. \$462.02 was donated to the Japanese Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Fund, and \$500.00 was donated to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund
2. Ms. Syriac congratulated Seymour High School who has been recognized for its innovative ways to keep student drivers safe. The School has won a package valued at \$250,000.00 from a nationwide contest sponsored by Discovery Education and Toyota
3. Ms. Syriac congratulated Brittany Brassell, Seymour High School graduate, who won the Seymour Pink Tee Shirt Design Contest. Her designed tee shirt will be available through Seymour Pink to wear on Seymour Pink Day (October 19, 2011)

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

C. Correspondence

1. Letter dated July 25, 2011 to Edward Strumello from Robert Rader, Executive Director of CABE thanking this district for continuing our membership in CABE for the upcoming year
2. Letter dated August 1, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo from George Coleman, thanking the district for our decision to participate in the Healthy Food Certification program for 2011-12
3. Letter dated August 9, 2011 to Deputy Commissioner Pasquale Salemi from MaryAnne Mascolo certifying our commitment to lifetime surfacing and equipment maintenance for the playscapes at the Chatfield LoPresti School
4. Letter to Chairman Edward Strumello from Virginia B. Edwards, Editor-in-Chief of *Education Week*, inviting him to attend a one-day interactive forum, **Ed Tech 2012: Boosting Student Achievement**, to be held on October 4, 2011 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
5. Letter dated June 23, 2011 to all members of The Class of 2011 from Cathy Goodrich, Principal of Seymour High School, thanking them for a very successful graduation. Ms. Goodrich commended them for their display of maturity and sense of responsibility during the ceremony
6. Letter dated July 14, 2011 to Cathy Goodrich from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEAS&C) informing her the Commission on Public Secondary Schools, at its June 26, 2011 meeting, voted to accept the Special Progress Report of Seymour High School and continued the school's accreditation

Mr. Ward arrived at 7:40 p.m.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Seymour Public School parent Dacia Mirabelle requested her daughter be placed in a classroom with a friend at Bungay School this coming school year due to a medical condition to support her comfort level in the classroom. Mrs. Mirabelle presented a note to the BOE from her daughter's doctor in support of this request. Mrs. Syriac will meet with the Principal of Bungay School and look into this request.

Seymour Public School parent Lori Robinson expressed her disappointment on hearing about the elimination of Honors English and History programs at Seymour High School. She has contacted other school districts and they are not going in this direction. Mrs. Robinson and several other parents will follow-up with a letter to the BOE.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – June 20, 2011
2. Special BOE Meeting – June 29, 2011

B. Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Bernegger, Lisa
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Special Education
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective August 3, 2011

C. Staff Resignation – Certified

1. Brody, Tamresa
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective August 2, 2011

IV) CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

D. Volunteer

1. Reilly, Steven
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach
 - Baseball
 - Seymour High School

10-3496: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

SO VOTED:

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION

Mrs. Syriac requested Item 3. E, under **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**, be removed from the Agenda

1. CS LS School Construction Project

- a. Monthly Report #4 – August 8, 2011

2. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

- a. Boyle, Patricia
 - Administrative Assistant to Associate Superintendent
 - Central Office
 - Replacing April Judd
 - b. Clements, Kathy
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Special Education
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Donna Tomas
 - c. Geloso, Elizabeth
 - Clerical Paraprofessional
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Replacing Ileany Shealy
 - d. LeBlanc, Sarah
 - Secretary
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Patricia Boyle
 - e. Mazzarise, Michelle
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Special Education
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Judith Simpson
- 2. Staff Hiring - Certified**
- a. Chenkus, Joanne
 - .5 Spanish Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Patrick Coughlin
 - Step 12, Masters

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION (continued)

- b. Cinicola, Heather
 - Full Day Kindergarten Teacher
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Step 1, Bachelors
 - c. Francisco, Nicole
 - Grade 3 Teacher
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Step 1, Masters
 - d. Grover, Heather
 - Music Teacher
 - Chatfield and LoPresti Elementary Schools
 - Replacing Elizabeth Choti-Bayreuther
 - Step 1, Bachelors
 - e. Kent, Lindsay
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Marianne Stack
 - Step 2, Bachelors
 - f. Mullaney, Kyle
 - Grade 4 Teacher
 - Chatfield Elementary School
 - Replacing Shannon Hubeny
 - Step 1, Bachelors
 - g. Smith, Sarah
 - Full Day Kindergarten Teacher
 - LoPresti Elementary School
 - Step 1, Masters
 - h. Sorge, Daniel
 - Computer Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Michael Oberdick
 - Step 1, Masters
 - i. Weaver, Kristi
 - Part Time School Psychologist
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Jennifer Schmolz
 - Certification Pending
 - Step 1, 6th Year
- 3. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**
- a. Bielesz, Arkadiusz
 - Purple Team Leader
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing David Willadsen
 - b. Carrafiello, Joseph
 - Red Team Leader
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Deborah Esposito

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. INFORMATION (continued)

3. Staff Hiring – Appendix E (continued)

- c. Cheney, Lisa
 - Student Council Advisor
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Karen Stanek

- d. Poulsen, Joseph
 - Coach
 - Cross Country
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing David Willadsen

- e. Item removed from agenda

- f. Wood, Carol
 - Student Council Advisor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Allison Acquavella

Chairman Strumello complimented Mr. Carrafiello on submitting a full resume with his application for the position of Seymour Middle School Red Team Leader.

4. Revised BOE Meeting Minutes

- a. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2011

B. REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee minutes – June 20, 2011

2. Chairman’s Report

- a. Technology Articles
 - “Navigating the Landmines of Technology Misuse”
 - “When the Baby-Boomers Meet the Mobile Generation”

Chairman Strumello and Ms. Mascolo recently attended the CABA presentation in Old Saybrook, CT

- b. Board Members’ Comments

Discussion was held on the effectiveness of technology use in the district.

Mrs. Flood asked if the BOE is going to go paperless for the upcoming school year. Chairman Strumello explained the program under consideration was too expensive for the district at this time.

3. Superintendent’s Report

Mary Lavoie and Roberta Pratt will be attending training on data the State is collecting later on this week

Ms. Syriac reported there is a new consortium of several states developing computerized assessments for our students to take.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Ms. Marianne Barker has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Josiah Barker, for the 2011-2012 school year

10-3497: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti to acknowledge the receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

SO VOTED:

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

B. Ms. Kathy Gardecki has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Rachel and Samantha Gardecki, for the 2011-2012 school year

10-3498: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, Mr. Putorti) to acknowledge the receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

SO VOTED:

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

C. Ms. Jeanne Phung has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Mei-Li Phung, for the 2011-2012 school year

10-3499: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mrs. Loda) in the matter of Ms. Jeanne Phung's intent to home school her child, Mei-Li Phung, the BOE renders no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program for the 2011-2012 school year

SO VOTED:

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

10-3500: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Putorti) to add to the agenda discussion of the use of electronic board packets

SO VOTED:

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

D. Electronic Board Packets - Discussion

BOE members had a lengthy discussion on the use of electronic board packets for meetings in the future.

10-3501: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Flood) to empower the Superintendent to solicit proposals and costs with regard to electronic board packets for future BOE meetings; BOE will ask for cost analysis in the future.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

IX) ADJOURNMENT

10-3502: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

SO VOTED:

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

Mr. Ward

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk