



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour High School

June 6, 2011
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti - absent
Fred Stanek
James Ward
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sandy Briggs
Karen Baker
Lisa Cheney
Alan Skiparis
Barbara Tucci
Diane Thomas
Mary Deming
Bruce Deming
Marianna Stack
Judith Laudati
Terri O'Connor
Barbara Grudsias
Jennifer Sardo
Diane Reilly
Kevin Reilly
Joe Perrucci

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent of Finance & Oper.
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, Seymour Middle School
Cathy Goodrich, Principal, Seymour High School
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal Intern, Bungay School
Seymour First Selectman Paul Roy
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School parent
Jay Hatfield
Ingrid Conlan
Mort Conlan
Karen Stanek
#15 on sign in sheet

I) CALL TO ORDER

A) Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 P.M.

Introductions were made by Chairman Strumello and Ms. Mascolo.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) Awards Recognitions

1. Principal's Awards – Cathy Goodrich

- Sam Harding received \$300.00 for his Seymour Pink tee-shirt design, which he donated back to Seymour Pink
- Rory O'Connor recognized as member of Student Leadership Committee
 - instrumental in reinstating water bottles to SHS and organized a winter dance
- Karen Studley, Social Worker
 - planned and organized a Diversity Day at SHS
- Recognized for Diversity Day participation
 - Mary Deming, Aaron Pollack, Jennifer Mandeville, William Bria, Kyle Jackson, Mallory Briggs, Hector Gereda, Bhupinder Singh

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

A) Awards Recognitions (continued)

2. 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School – Cathy Goodrich
 - Dr. George Z. Tzepos, SHS Class of 1985
3. Retiring Staff Members – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Patrick Coughlin, World Language Teacher - SHS
 - Judith Laudati – English Teacher – SMS
 - Ellen Marcantonio – English Teacher – SHS
 - Marianna Stack – Special Ed Teacher – SMS
 - Karen Stanek – Social Studies Teacher – SHS
4. 25 Years of Service – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Lee Angeloszek – English Teacher – SMS
 - Sheree Butcaris – Special Ed Teacher – SMS
 - Lisa Cheney – English Teacher – SHS
 - Sharon Filipowich – Clerical Para – Bungay School
 - Deborah Griffin – Special Ed Teacher – Bungay School
 - Barbara Grudzias – Instructional Para – Chatfield School
 - Joseph Perrucci – Tech Ed Teacher – SHS
 - Jennifer Sardo – Business Teacher – SHS
 - Marianna Stack – Special Ed Teacher – SMS
 - Barbara Tucci – Cafeteria Staff – LoPresti School
5. CAS Distinguished Friend of Education Award – Mary Sue Feige
 - Florence Klezovich
6. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award – Ed Strumello
 - John K. Hummel
7. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award – Ed Strumello
 - David Fleming (Elementary)
 - Steven Tilki (Middle School)
 - Shane Cather (High School)
8. Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award – Fred Stanek
 - Dan Shibu – SMS student
9. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award – Fred Stanek
 - Ingrid Conlan
 - Mort Conlan
10. Recognition of Awards Advisory Committee – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Mort Conlan
 - Eugene Coppola
 - Terri Ferrara
 - Regina Fitzgerald
 - Suzanne Garman
 - Fred Stanek
 - Donna Tomas
 - Andrew McCuen
 - Thomas Saksa
11. 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Harvey Catlin – Social Studies Teacher – Seymour Middle School
12. National Honor Society – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - New Members Inducted – 27 students
 - Two Year Certificates – 32 students
 - Three Year Pins – 18 students
 - Total – 77 students were recognized

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

A) Awards Recognitions (continued)

13. High School Honor Roll Breakfast, May 5, 2011 – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Grade 12 – 29 students
 - Grade 11 – 33 students
 - Grade 10 – 35 students
 - Grade 9 – 22 students
 - Total – 119 students were recognized
14. Middle School Evening of Honors, May 26, 2011 – MaryAnne Mascolo
 - Grade 6 – 86 students
 - Grade 7 – 102 students
 - Grade 8 – 61 students
 - Total – 249 students were recognized
15. Harvard Book Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Alexandra Rice
16. Yale Book Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Caitlin Slotter
17. St. Michael's Book Awards – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Justin Morrow
 - Danielle Pereira
18. Wellesley Book Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Jessica Popik
19. Michael's Jewelers Watches Awards – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Sukhmeet Kohli
 - Stephanie Orts
20. Smith Book Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Alexa Hinds
21. Rensselaer Medal Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Emily Baldwin
22. Mt. Holyoak Book Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Kelly Ferris
23. Governor's Scholar of CT Award – MaryAnne Mascolo / Cathy Goodrich
 - Alexandra Rice
24. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative – Ed Strumello
 - Wynonna Anglace
 - Rebecca Putorti

BREAK

B) Recognitions

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Seymour High School student Demi Gonzalez, who was the winner of the Community Spirit Art Contest for 2011. Demi's artwork will be made into a flag to hang in the downtown district
2. Ms. Hamad congratulated Seymour Middle School students William Bennett, Adam Iacomacci, Emily Wrogg, Cassandra Rossetti, Justine Inzero, and Jessica Gagne who were nominated by their teams for the Derby Elks Lodge #571 Student of the Year. Since only one student from each grade can be forwarded to the Elks for consideration, William Bennett, Cassandra Rossetti, and Jessica Gagne will be our nominees for this award

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

B) Recognitions (continued)

3. Mrs. Hamad congratulated Middle School students Samuel Cournoyer and Jennifer Fusco on being named as Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Leaders. Congratulations were also extended to Alexander Ney and Kristine McLean who were also nominated for this award
4. Mr. Stanek recognized and thanked students who assisted with Founders Day this past weekend.

C) Correspondence

1. Letter dated May 23, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo from Rich Kearns informing us that he has acquired an additional Breathalyzer Unit with funds received from Community Funding
2. Letter dated May 13, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo from Rich Kearns informing her that this year's "Teen Smoke Stoppers" program was very successful
3. Letter dated May 10, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo from Rich Kearns thanking her for coming to the Seymour High School "Take a Stand Day" on May 6, 2011
4. Letter dated May 6, 2011 to the students of Seymour and Oxford High School from Senator Richard Blumenthal offering his apology for not being able to attend the 7th Annual "Take a Stand" Day and offering his congratulations to the people who organize this very important program
5. Ms. Putorti also shared a thank you letter dated May 5, 2011 to SHS Student Council thanking them for their recent monetary gift of \$1,000.00 to the hospital.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

SPS parents Kevin and Diane Reilly requested an Intra district transfer for their children from LoPresti to Chatfield. They also praised and thanked BOE members and school district personnel for all the good things they are doing for their children.

SPS parent Jen Magri, 16 Union Street, Seymour, expressed her gratefulness that the budget passed, saw an increase of parent voting this year; attended the LoPresti School Volunteer Breakfast and reported over 120 volunteers were recognized; and attended Central Connecticut State College's honors convocation where SHS graduate Johnny Kassay was honored for the Departmental Award for the School of Engineering and Technology for Technology and Engineer Education and graduated Cum Laude. Mrs. Magri introduced SHS sophomore Monica Mordowanec to BOE members. Monica attended the HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar this past weekend. Monica reported it was the best experience she has experienced in her life. HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) encourages young people to volunteer and do things that will impact the world and teaches leadership skills. She hopes to attend next year as an alumnus.

SPS parents Lee and Stephanie Kobieski asked BOE members to approve their appeal for their son to continue his education at Chatfield School.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – May 2, 2011
2. Special BOE Meeting – May 23, 2011

B) Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Tilki, Steven
 - Coach, Volleyball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Tom Federowicz

C) Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Judd, April
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Central Office
 - Effective June 10, 2011

IV) CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

D) Staff Resignation – Appendix E

1. Acquavella, Allison
 - Student Advisor
 - Middle School
 - Effective June 15, 2011
2. Cheney, Lisa
 - Literary Magazine
 - School Newspaper
 - High School
 - Effective June 15, 2011
3. Esposito, Deborah
 - Team Leader
 - Middle School
 - Effective June 15, 2011
4. Willadsen, David
 - Team Leader
 - Middle School
 - Effective June 15, 2011
5. Tkacz-Casini, Aimee
 - Coach, Dance Team
 - High School
 - Effective May 31, 2011
6. Stanek, Karen
 - Student Council Advisor
 - High School
 - Effective June 15, 2011

Mr. Garofolo asked to remove Item 4, C) 1 of the BOE minutes of May 16 2011 from the Consent Agenda.

10-3460: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Baker) moved to accept the Consent Agenda with the removal of Item 4, C) 1 from the May 16, 2011 BOE minutes.

SO VOTED:

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

10-3461: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Baker) to amend Item 4 C) 1 of the BOE minutes May 16, 2011 to Staff Resignation of Carlos Aldave.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

- 1) **Student Representative** – Reba Putorti
 - a. Senior Picnic, May 26, 2011 at Holiday Hill
 - b. Awards Assembly May 19, 2011
 - c. Senior Banquet, June 2, 2011 at Aqua Turf Club, Southington
 - d. Senior Exams begin on June 9, 2011
 - e. All other Student Exams are June 10-15, 2011

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION (continued)

Chairman Strumello commented he was disappointed with the low parental attendance at the SHS Awards Assembly this year.

- 2) **Staff Hiring – Certified**
 - a. Cegelka, Katelyn
 - Language Arts Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Judith Laudati
 - Step 1, Bachelors
- 3) **E-RATE Results Recap – Rick Belden**

Mr. Belden passed a recap of the results to BOE members and gave a short synopsis of these results
- 4) **Pilot Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) – MaryAnne Mascolo**

Seymour Public Schools was chosen to select several elementary school students to Participate in the CMT Pilot test.
- 5) **Chatfield/LoPresti Elementary School Building Committee Agenda – May 25, 2011**

Mr. Baker and Mr. Kubik each gave updates on the ongoing construction and projected completion date of this project.

- 6) **Inside Out Art Show – Students Who Participated & Picture**
 - Iran Aguirre Zirate
 - Lauren Almonte
 - Keishla Carrion
 - Julianne Cacho
 - John Chavez-Valencia
 - Christina Cretella
 - Francesca DelPrete
 - Mike Espinelli
 - Demi Gonzalez
 - Dalton Harvey
 - Emily Mansi
 - Christine Murphy
 - Evelyn Roman
 - Maria Roman
 - Hannah Saffo
 - Melissa Schmidt
 - Mary Sheppard
 - Divya Shibu
 - Olena Stasyuk
 - Elena Tanellari
 - Claudia Valenti
 - Meta Wallace
- 7) **Revised Minutes – Finance Committee Meeting – May 2, 2011**

For the BOE members information
- 8) **Seymour Summer Literacy Program 2011 – MaryAnne Mascolo**

Ms. Mascolo handed out a flyer sent home to selected students to attend the Seymour Summer Literacy Program this summer funded through a grant for students entering grades 1 and 2 from Kindergarten based on DRA scores. A total of 67 students were selected to attend.

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS
A) INFORMATION (continued)

9) Student Elections

a. Class of 2012

- President – Stephanie Orts
- Vice President – Emily Dieckman
- Secretary – Emily Baldwin
- Treasurer – Rob Brito
- Student Council –
Emily Baldwin, Brittany Williams, Tim Boroski, Karin Gittings,
Sukhmeet Kohli, Michele Pleban, Josh Tilton, Stephanie Orts

b. Class of 2013

- President – Sarah Valenti
- Vice President – Ross Barreiro
- Secretary – Jessica Alves
- Treasurer – Brian Tomlinson
- Student Council –
Mike Conlan, Krista Pereira, Connor Coyne, Nick Curina, Angela Tacinelli
Brian Tomlinson, Mike Espinell, Sarah Valenti

c. Class of 2014

- President – Laura Dieckman
- Vice President – Claudia Majkner
- Secretary – Matt Hollo
- Treasurer – Lee Marchetti
- Student Council –
Laura Dieckman, Jack Briggs, Lee Marchetti, Claudia Majkner,
Zachary Sirowich, Banpreet Kohli, Diana Janus, Miles Livolsi

d. Student Council Officers

- President – Stephanie Orts
- Vice President – Reba Putorti
- Secretary – Caitlin Glazier
- Treasurer – Rob Brito

B) REPORTS

1) Committee Reports

- a. NONE

2) Chairman's Report – Ed Strumello

Chairman Strumello reported he was able to attend and witness 3 wins of girls' softball and boys' baseball teams in the last two weeks and the girls' softball team will play in the championship game. Also, Chairman Strumello reported he has been following the reauthorization of "No Child Left Behind" and has learned Secretary of Education, Mr. Arne Duncan, has indicated to the legislation and Congress schools cannot work on a Congress schedule, and they need to respond soon because schools start in August and September; if they do not act, "No Child Left Behind" will lapse.

a. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Kubik inquired what changes were made by a SHS graduation committee set up after last year's graduation. Ms. Mascolo reported the Seymour Police presence on the field has been cut down to one or two being present this year, and SPS staff will be working with the students this year; a letter is being sent home extending the return of gowns after the graduation ceremony to 45 minutes this year; students chose blue and white for their gown colors; the staging area will be spray painted for set up; where the students will be attending college will be added to the program this year; and Ms. Goodrich will do a closing statement at the end of the graduation ceremony.

B) REPORTS (continued)

2) Chairman's Report

a. Board Members' Comments (continued)

Mr. Garofolo asked if the wand of the individual or the manner in which the Seymour Police conducted their search was in question. Ms. Mascolo reported if the wand goes off The student is asked if they have anything they should not have, and empty their pockets. If it becomes something more that that, the Seymour staff will handle it.

3) Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo reviewed the details of her report, including meetings and activities of the last two weeks, upcoming meetings and events.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Out of State Field Trip

10-3462: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the request of Ashly Scharn, Katie Dombrowski, and Stephanie Shelinsky to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to attend a field trip to NCA Camp in Honesdale, Pennsylvania on August 14 through August 17, 2011

Mr. Ward asked who would be paying for this trip. Ms. Goodrich reported the Spirit Club and parents pay for the trip.

SO VOTED:

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

B) Monetary Donation

10-3463: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the donation of \$4,500.00 from the Bungay PTA for the purchase and installation of an interactive white board for Bungay School

Mary Sue Feige informed the BOE the interactive white board will possibly be put in a Kindergarten Classroom

SO VOTED:

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

C) Intra District Transfers

10-3464: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to consider the Superintendent's recommendation for approvals/denials of intra district transfer requests for the 2011-2012 school year

SO VOTED:

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

D) Reinstatement of Teachers

10-3465: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to reinstate the teachers who were non-renewed due to budgetary reasons for the 2011-2012 school year

- Allison Acquavella, Jennifer Batterton, Tamresa Brody, Allison, Calvert, Michelle Cirella, Brian Cleveland, Rebecca DeAngelis, Lauren DeFilippo, Lauren DiCenzo, Jessica DiRoma, Christina Duquette, Monica Fasciano, Nicholas Frosolone, Nichole Gardner, Ashley Hinnern, Terri Kirkland, Mallory Knutson, Joy Marino, Megan McDonough, Judith, Moeller, Michael Oberdick, Noelle Oberdick, Laura Pellerito, Julie Pinkussohn, Kristen Ramadon, Kathleen Riordan, Kimberly Ryan,

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

D) Reinstatement of Teachers (continued)

10-3465: MOTION (continued)

- Jennifer Schmolz, Allison Sheridan, Shelley Stedman, Jessica Strumello, Gina Sweet, Andrea Teixeira, Victoria Williams, Kristine Yoxall, Marisa Zou

SO VOTED:

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

RECUSSAL: Chairman Strumello

E) Non Renewal of Long Term Substitute Teachers

10-3466: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Erica Bouteiller and Jasmine Eaton at the end of the 2010-2011 school year as recommended by the Superintendent

SO VOTED:

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

F) 2011-2012 Education Budget

10-3467: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. NONE) to discuss and take possible action on 2011-2012 education budget recommendations

Mr. Stanek inquired what possible action would be taken and felt this motion was not appropriate to act on. Chairman Strumello suggested the motion be withdrawn and further discussion be held on the 2011-2012 budget.

Mrs. Loda withdrew the motion. A lengthy discussion followed on the 2011-2012 budget presented by Ms. Mascolo.

10-3468: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Ward) to first eliminate the LoPresti principal position, eliminate two Administrative Interns at Chatfield and Bungay, and eliminate a Special Education teacher position for the 2011-2012 school year

SO VOTED:

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

10-3469: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to add two assistant elementary principal positions, one at Bungay and one at Chatfield, a high school business teacher, and 2 full day Kindergarten teachers for the 2011-2012 school year

SO VOTED:

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

10-3470: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to adjust our past budget by \$448, 204.00 proposed by the Superintendent

SO VOTED:

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

G) Hiring Agent – Summer Months

10-3471: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to authorize the Superintendent to act as the Board's hiring agent during the summer months for non-certified open positions

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) Discussion and possible action on the 2012-2015 contract of Christine Syriac

10-3472: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to enter into Executive Session at 9:57 p.m. for discussion and possible action on the 2012-2015 contract of Christine Syriac.

Mr. Garofolo asked to table the motion due to the lateness of the hour.

10-3473: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mr. Stanek) to table the previous motion due to the lateness of the hour.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

Members came out of Executive Session at 10:35 p.m.

10-3474: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to approve the 2012-2015 Superintendent contract for Christine Syriac as presented with a date change to June 30th in section 3b of the contract.

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

IX) ADJOURNMENT

10-3475: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to adjourn at 10:36 p.m.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk