



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

April 4, 2011
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti School
Paul Roy, First Selectman, Town of Seymour
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School parent
Tony Spinelli, Valley Independent Sentinel

I) CALL TO ORDER

A) Chairman Ed Strumello 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 Teaching and Learning

Ms. Mascolo reviewed Chapter 1 – The Importance of Simplicity, Clarity, and Priority of FOCUS by Author Mike Schmoker, e.g. a decent, coherent curriculum, structurally sound lesson plans, and authentic literacy. She asked BOE members to talk to each other and make connections to what we are doing in our district and how it relates to the three items in this chapter. Discussion followed on conversations BOE members had with each other.

B) Recognitions

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Bungay School students Abigail Andrade, John Castillo-Franco, Rebecca Findley, Samantha Katrenya, Chatfield School students Chelsea Avila, Hayley Hatheway, Isabella Torri, Jean Paul Viruet and LoPresti School students Michael Johnson, Paulina Karwowski, Leah McCluskey, Victoria Reno who were selected to participate in the CMEA Elementary Honors Choir. The choir will perform at the 2011 CMEA In Service Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford on Friday, April 8, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Bungay 5th grader, Cristian Abreus, who performed in a concert at Carnegie Hall on February 5, 2011
3. Ms. Mascolo congratulated all the Chatfield students who surpassed the goal of reading 6000 books in the Winter Reading Challenge. The students read a total of 6641 books!

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

B) Recognitions (continued)

4. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the 17 members of the Seymour High School football and softball teams who raised over \$3600 for the Special Olympics Penguin Plunge. The group "plunged" on March 20, 2011
5. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Middle School 6th Grade Students Nicole Augustitus (1st Place), Tristan Andrzejewski (2nd Place), Tea Puro (3rd Place), 7th Grade Students Jacob Romano (1st Place and Overall Winner), Mikayla Harkey (2nd Place), Alexandra Fryc (3rd Place), 8th Grade Students Lissette Irizarry (1st Place), Gaby Elias Torelli (2nd Place), and Tamara Torri (3rd Place), who were honored for their entries in the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest

C) Correspondence

1. Letter dated March 9, 2011 to Ms. Heather Brown, Seymour High School, was received from Dr. Susan Lewis and Nurse Katherine Loehr thanking her history classes for their donations to the Veterans Hospital
2. Letter dated March 22, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo was received from Robert Koskelowski requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act
3. Letter dated March 24, 2011 to Robert Koskelowski from MaryAnne Mascolo responding to his March 22, 2011 FOI request for information
4. Letter dated March 28, 2011 to MaryAnne Mascolo was received from Robert Koskelowski requesting additional information under the Freedom of Information Act
5. Chairman Strumello received a letter regarding National History Day in April 2011

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – March 21, 2011
2. Special BOE Meeting – March 28, 2011

B) Staff Hiring – Non-Certified

1. Shealy, Ileana
 - a. Clerical Paraprofessional
 - b. LoPresti Elementary School
 - c. Replacing Kara Buell
 - d. Step 1, Paraprofessionals Contract

C) Volunteer

1. Adams, George
 - a. Assistant Coach, Softball
 - b. Seymour Middle School

D) Staff Resignation (Retirement) – Certified

1. Stanek, Karen
 - a. Social Studies Teacher
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Effective end of school year

E) Staff Resignation – Non-Certified

1. Dwyer, Kristina
 - a. Instructional Paraprofessional
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Effective April 8, 2011

IV) CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

F) Staff Resignation – Non-Certified

2. Hofmann, Adrienne
 - a. Clerical Paraprofessional
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Effective April 1, 2011

G) Staff Resignation – Appendix E

1. Federowicz, Thomas
 - a. Coach, Volleyball
 - b. Seymour Middle School
2. Willadsen, David
 - a. Coach, Boys and Girls
 - b. Seymour High School

Mr. Putorti asked that Item D be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Stanek asked that Item A, 2 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

10-3419: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the Consent Agenda with Item A, 2 and Item D removed.

SO VOTED:

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Item D and Item A, 2 were removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Stanek noted under Item A, 2 Special BOE Meeting – March 28, 2011 it reads Mr. Putorti arrived at 7:10 p.m. and He, Mr. Stanek, arriving at 8:40 p.m. Both were at the meeting which started at 7:30 p.m. and ended at 8:11 p.m. Ms. Mascolo will have the arrival times removed from the minutes.

10-3420: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the staff resignation of SHS Social Studies teacher Karen Stanek with great appreciation and regret.

Mrs. Loda and Chairman Strumello expressed their appreciation as well.

Mr. Stanek commented Mrs. Stanek's blood is blue and gold.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representatives

- a. Hat Day - sponsored by FBLA to benefit the people of Japan - \$1.00 per student, April 1, 2011
- b. Driving Assembly for 11th/12th grade students – April 4, 2011
- c. Prom, Aqua Turf – April 9, 2011 and Post Prom 12: a.m. – 5:00 a.m.
- d. Color Wars and Pep Rally – April 15, 2011

Chairman Strumello inquired as to why the Prom is at the Aqua Turf in Southington and not a local venue. Ms. Mascolo will check into this. Mr. Stanek commented SHS class advisors decide on the location of formals.

2. Winter Season Report – Seymour High School – MaryAnne Mascolo

Ms. Mascolo passed out this Winter Season report for BOE's review. Chairman Strumello commented on the lack of freshman participation

3. Energy Committee Minutes – March 17, 2011

Mr. Belden reviewed the minutes of the Energy Committee and answered BOE member's questions.

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

A) INFORMATION (continued)

4. Finance Committee Minutes – Revised – March 7, 2011

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

NONE

2. Chairman's Report

a. Board Member's Comments

Chairman Strumello, Mr. Stanek and Ms. Mascolo attended the Valley Community Foundation Association meeting on March 28, 2011. Chairman Strumello noted many people in attendance are proud to be from the valley. Mr. Ward commented our Transition Program is on the weak side and would like to see a position funded. Ms. Mascolo noted our district has a high autistic population. A Personnel Search Committee meeting will be held on April 7, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

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. The Seymour Pink Pasta Dinner will be held on April 26, 2011, at the Brookside Inn. Ms. Mascolo reported the Policy Committee Meeting has been changed to April 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., with Awards prior at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Mascolo also noted a Curriculum Committee meeting will be set up soon. Mr. Garofolo would like to discuss changes in teacher's evaluations, use of workbooks and how they are integrated into the curriculum, and student assessment input in the class of how teachers met the goals in their respective classes at a Curriculum Committee meeting. Mr. Belden noted a possible Paraprofessional contract negotiations meeting scheduled for April 27, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Full Day Kindergarten

10-3421: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) to commit to the towns people of Seymour that if the current level of funding approved by the Board of Finance of \$722,000.00 of new money is approved at referendum, this BOE will fund 2 full-time Kindergarten positions for LoPresti School and the two Literacy Tutors currently funded with the Keep Our Educators Working Act Fund.

Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik and Mr. Baker all commented they are in full support of Full Time Kindergarten, and Mr. Kubik noted his supports this for the entire district. Discussion was held on the possibility of other cuts being made if enough funding was not received. Mr. Baker commented the valley has to change and wants the leaders of the town to commit to the children of Seymour.

SO VOTED:

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

Mr. Garofolo inquired that BOE put out a letter similar to one Monroe sent out asking the community to support the budget. Chairman Strumello will work on this.

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

IX) ADJOURNMENT

10-3422: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk