



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

March 21, 2011
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik – Arrived 7:35 p.m.
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek – Arrived 7:35 p.m.
Mr. Ward – Arrived 7:40 p.m.
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.
Mary Lavoie, Director of Curriculum, SPS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Carlos Aldave, Assistant Principal, SMS
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti School
Paul Roy, First Selectman, Town of Seymour
Bob Koskelowski, Board of Finance, Town of Seymour
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Jennifer Magri, Seymour Public School parent
Cindy Dion, Seymour Public School parent
William Ferris, Seymour Public School parent
Kelly Baker
Stefanie Golebieski

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 Teaching and Learning

Ms. Mascolo reviewed an article from BOE members' packet, "What at Risk Students Need."

Ms. Mascolo reminded BOE members of the FOCUS book they received as a gift at last month's meeting is a quick read, and she would be going over the first chapter at the next BOE meeting. She summarized the first chapter in three parts:

- guaranteed viable curriculum
- structured sound lesson plans in place
- reading, writing and talking everyday in every class

Mr. Baker commented this reinforces all day Kindergarten and SPS should have it. Mrs. Loda and Mrs. Flood agreed. Mr. Baker inquired about the use of Paras in early grade classrooms. Mrs. Syriac responded Language Arts consultants, SRBI teachers, and Literacy Tutors are doing grades K, 1 and 2. She also stated Paras are primarily being used with SPED students.

B) Recognitions

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Bungay School students Danielle Campbell, Madison Brenchak, Rocco Vertuccio, and Melissa Gagliardi who were selected to attend the Connecticut Association of Schools Marine Science Day on May 19, 2011.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Seymour High School Cheerleaders who placed second at the State Championship on March 12, 2011. Ms. Mascolo added the team placed third at the New England Regionals this past weekend.
3. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Daniel Robinson, a 7th grade student at Seymour Middle School, who raised \$325.00 for the Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics. The plunge was held on March 20th.

C) Correspondence

1. Chairman Strumello received a letter of invitation from Valley Community Foundation to attend a dinner on Monday, March 28th at Ansonia High School from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Baker asked if the BOE had received a reply from Selectman Roy regarding a comprehensive plan study between LoPresti School, the old middle school, and Central Office. Selectman Roy responded we cannot move on LoPresti School until we are absolutely sure we will not have to use it, and another committee would be formed when the time comes to do so.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Seymour resident and Seymour Public School parent, Cindy Dion of Carriage Drive, informed the BOE a group of parents put a petition together to bring to the BOF on April 6th to accept the BOE's budget as presented earlier this month, and also asked for the BOE's support of the petition.

Bob Koskelowski, Seymour appointed BOF member, gave a lengthy statement regarding his concerns about elected officials talking down to other elected figures and people making comments without knowing all the facts, and how it hurts him personally. He also noted his volunteerism in the community over the past 20 years and items he has supported with regard to the Seymour Public Schools in past years. Mr. Koskelowski also stated he voted for the budget because he felt it was the best he could do for Seymour, there is a division in the community, and also noted he supported All-Day Kindergarten.

Seymour resident and Seymour Public School parent William Ferris commented his \$5,000.00 offering to the Seymour Public Schools was to help with the referendum, not to have BOF member(s) change their vote(s). Mr. Ferris also agreed with Mr. Koskelowski that there is a lot of animosity and a huge division in the town, but not from the BOE.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA**A) Approval of minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting – March 7, 2011

B) Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report – February 2011

10-3413: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

NONE

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representative – Reba Putorti

- a. Mr. Seymour, March 18, 2011 – Ms. Putorti reported there were 8 contestants (6 seniors and 2 juniors). Eric Parmalee, senior, was the winner. The money raised was donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital.
- b. Hat Day at SHS is April 1, 2011 and is sponsored by the FBLA Club to benefit the people of Japan. The cost is \$1.00 to wear a hat.

2. Curriculum Revision Cycle – Christine Syriac

Ms. Syriac gave an in-depth presentation of a draft handout from the BOE's packet. Mr. Garofolo inquired about implementing a Foreign Language Program at the elementary level and what language it would be. Mrs. Syriac responded that is a goal and the possible language(s) could be Spanish and Chinese. Chairman Strumello asked if we knew how many other districts are implanting Foreign Language at the K-5 level. Mrs. Syriac said she would look into it.

3. Energy Efficiency Award – Rick Belden

Mr. Belden was contacted by CL&P about being nominated to receive the Peak Performance Award, and we should find out in April or May. He explained the criteria to be considered for this award.

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

- a. Awards Committee Minutes – March 3, 2011
 - Chairman Strumello and Mr. Stanek attended.
 - Ms. Mascolo reminded BOE members they have a pamphlet they can fill out and send in.
- b. Finance Committee Minutes – March 7, 2011
 - Mrs. Flood noted a correction to the minutes: She called the meeting to order
 - Sub-committee discussed a Waiver for removal of snow, which was approved
- c. Policy Committee Agenda – March 15, 2011 - **CANCELLED**
 - Ms. Mascolo suggested meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m. for the Awards Committee and at 7:30 p.m. for the Policy Committee. Chairman Strumello and Mr. Stanek agreed.

2. Chairman's Report

- a. CABA/CAPSS Convention Recap

Chairman Strumello passed out updated information from the last of the CABA workshops for BOE members review.
- b. Board Member's Comments

Mr. Baker thought custodial services, e.g. being in charge of town buildings, could save money. Discussion was held regarding communities and school districts doing some things together to save money.

Chairman Strumello asked either Selectman Roy or Mr. Garofolo to give an update on the 98 Bank Street Committee. Mr. Garofolo responded no definitive decision has been made on what the committee will actually do at this time. A walk through of 98 Bank Street has been scheduled for March 31st; a walk through will also be conducted at Seymour High School. Selectman Roy responded they are trying to gather all information necessary to make an informed decision.

A lengthy discussion was held on the following: 1) who might buy some of the buildings, 2) all buildings should be sold now, 3) moving 98 Bank Street to SHS or the Community Center, 4) selling LoPresti now, 5) money from sale of 98 Bank Street could be used to make the Community Center better, 6) cost of updating the furnace system at 98 Bank Street, 7) feasibility of selling 98 Bank Street when Valley Health has a 30 year lease, there now, 8) costs involved to keep building operating 15 months from now.

Selectman Roy commented he felt the Community Center would always be the Community Center. He feels 98 Bank Street would be the building to sell.

2. **Chairman's Report (continued)**
 - b. Board Member's comments (continued)

Mr. Stanek asked could we as a BOE commit to the towns people of Seymour that we would fund the two All-Day Kindergarten positions at LoPresti School before the referendum. Mr. Baker stated he supported Mr. Stanek on this proposal. A lengthy discussion was held and it was asked of Ms. Mascolo to put this on the BOE agenda for the April 4th meeting.

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. She also commented there have been no lay off notices sent out to our teachers at this time and they need to be sent out by April 1st. Ms. Mascolo requested a Special BOE meeting on March 28th at 7:30 p.m. and Personnel issues at 8:00 p.m.

10-3414: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda sec. Mr. Baker) to add to the agenda to accept the donation of \$5,000.00 from Mr. and Mrs. William Ferris as presented in a letter to be used for Technology for the purchase of "e" Readers and that it should be used in this current fiscal year.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3415: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the donation of \$5,000.00 from Mr. And Mrs. William Ferris as presented in the letter to be used for Technology for the purchase of "e" Readers and that it should be used in this current fiscal year.

SO VOTED:

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Out of State Field Trip

10-3416: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to approve the request of Ms. Alcutt, Ms. Dorosh, and Ms. Duquette to take the 5th grade LoPresti student to attend a field trip to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA on May 4, 2011.

SO VOTED:

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

B) Monetary Donation

10-3417: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Ward) to accept the donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from MaryAnne Mascolo to be used for the purchase of technology for students and teachers.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

IX) ADJOURNMENT

10-3418: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to adjourn at 9:05 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