



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

February 7, 2011
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek
Mr. Ward
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT:

Judith Flood

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.
Cathy Goodrich, Principal, SHS
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Carlos Aldave, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Ernie DiStasi, Administrative Intern, Bungay School
David Olechna, Principal, Chatfield School
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti School
Mary Lavoie, Director of Curriculum, SPS
Nancy Snopkowski, Director of SPED
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coordinator, SPS
Paul Roy, First Selectman
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Allison, Acquavella, Teacher, SMS
Jennifer Bowen, Teacher, SMS
Roxanne Lindgren, Teacher, SMS
Dave Willadsen, Teacher SMS
Jennifer Schmolz, School Psychologist, SPS
Mallory Knutson, Teacher, Bungay School
Michelle Cirella, Teacher, Bungay School
Lucille McGinn, Teacher, Bungay School
Bruce Deming, SHS
Christopher Cummings, Teacher, Chatfield School
Beth Lombardi, Teacher, Chatfield School
Leslie Sojka, Teacher, Chatfield School
Jennifer Sardo, Teacher, SHS
Kurt Zeppetello, Teacher, SHS
Monica Fasciano, Teacher, SHS
Kathy Verlezza, Teacher, SHS
Jennifer Monaco, Teacher SHS
Aaron Pawluk, Teacher, SHS
John McCasland, Teacher, SHS
Stephanie Shelinsky, Teacher, SHS
Michael Sirowich, Teacher, SHS
Heather Brown, Teacher, SHS

OTHERS PRESENT (continued):

Lisa Cheney, Teacher, SHS
Paul Sponheimer, Teacher, SHS
Alan Skiparis, Teacher, SHS
Erin McGowan, Substitute Teacher, SPS
John McGinn
Erica Maronczyk
Jack Luidke
Mary Jaini
Jennifer Magri, SPS Parent
Jodie Mozdzer, Valley Independent Sentinel

I) CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Stanek requested a moment of silence for Carmella Manly, a long-time Language Arts teacher for the Seymour Public Schools who recently passed away at the age of ninety-six years old.

Introductions were made by Chairman Strumello and Ms. Mascolo.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) 21st Century Teaching and Learning

Ms. Mascolo gave a presentation on handouts in BOE members' packets and use of Technology in our schools today.

B) Recognitions

- Ms. Mascolo congratulated **Heather Brown** who has been nominated as an "Unsung Hero" in the Saint Michel's College Teacher Recognition Program. This program honors teachers who provide their students with the academic skills and moral support necessary to be successful in post-secondary pursuits
- Ms. Mascolo congratulated the following students who had winning drawings that were selected to be featured in the 2001 Anti-Drug and Poison Prevention Calendar:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ART DISPLAYED</u>
Michaud, Alexa	Bungay	January
Hayden, Ian	Bungay	March
Porto, Anella	Bungay	May
Adamo, Molly	Bungay	July
Calabro, Isabella	Bungay	October
DeBlasio, Melody	Chatfield	Cover
Ganim, Tyler	Chatfield	February
Winkel, Samantha	Chatfield	September
Bopp, Madison	LoPresti	August
Petronchak, Allie	LoPresti	November
Dwy, Ashley	LoPresti	December

- Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Seymour High School Girls Volleyball team on their championship in the NVL Brass Division.
- Ms. Mascolo congratulated the following students on their NVL Awards:

Kate Mirabella (Girls Soccer) – All Brass
Emily Coyne (Girls Soccer) – All Brass
Michelle Pleban (Girls Swimming) – 1st Team NVL
Maggie Crocamo (Girls Swimming) – 1st Team NVL
Katherine Acquavella (Girls Swimming) – 2nd Team NVL
Christine Cretella (Volleyball) - 1st Team All State
Kayla Bleau (Volleyball) 1st Team NVL

4. NVL Award congratulations (continued):

Stephanie Burt (Volleyball) 1st Team NVL
Brittany Brassell (Volleyball) NVL Brass Team
Mike Fraser (Football) NVL All-Brass / All-Valley
James Tyer (Football) NVL All-Brass / All Valley
Dylan Sadick (Football) NVL All-Brass / All Valley
Kevin Walkley (Cross Country) All-NVL/10th Place State Championship
Tommy Saksa (Cross Country) All-NVL
Kevin Saksa (Cross Country) All-NVL
Sarah Valenti (Cross Country) All-NVL
Walter Podgorski (Boys Soccer) 1st Team NVL / All State
Eric Parmelle (Boys Soccer) 1st Team All Brass
Louis Krohelski (Boys Soccer) 1st Team All Brass
Jeromy Kershaw (Boys Soccer) 1st Team All Brass

5. Ms. Mascolo congratulated **Brandt Schneider** who was selected as a presenter at the 2011 CMEA In-Service Conference on April 07-09, 2011
6. Ms. Mascolo congratulated **Mary Ellen Coppola** and **Lucille McGinn** for being selected to receive the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Volunteer Recognition award. A reception is to be held on March 15, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.
7. Ms. Mascolo thanked custodian **Dan LaForme** for his quick reaction to a small fire in LoPresti School. Mr. LaForme's quick actions in knocking down the fire with a fire extinguisher in the third floor bathroom prevented our staff and students from being placed in more danger and kept damage to our building to a minimum.
8. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the **Middle School Student Council** and **Homeroom Representatives** who organized the 2nd annual fundraiser for the March of Dimes. Their efforts resulted in a donation in the amount of \$1,146.75.
9. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the **students who participated in the Winter Concert** at Bungay School on January 25, 2011. Great Job!
10. Ms. Mascolo congratulated **Stephanie Orts** (Grade 11) who has been chosen as a finalist in the Turkey Hill Ice Cream design a Cow contest. People will be asked to choose from five designs on the website www.turkeyhill.com/fun/design-cow.aspx. Good luck, Stephanie!

Chairman Strumello noted he and Mr. Stanek attended the Football banquet held at Villa Bianca.

C) Correspondence

1. Kim Leoni, LPC and School Counselor at LoPresti School, sent a letter dated December 27, 2010, to the Church of the Good Shepherd and thanked them for supplying Christmas gifts to six children from LoPresti School.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rossik sent a letter dated January 1, 2011 to the Seymour BOE regarding Spanish classes at Seymour Middle School.
3. MaryAnne Mascolo received a letter dated January 1, 2011 from Nancy Pugliese, J.D. Chief, Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, reporting that our district is in full compliance with CT General Statutes, Sec. 10-145 (a).
4. A letter from William Wilkin, Jr. to sent to the First Selectman, the Superintendent, the Chief of Police and Principal Briggs concerned about sidewalks being cleared near LoPresti School. Ms. Mascolo clarified the sidewalks are neighborhood sidewalks, not SPS sidewalks.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Sponheimer, teacher at SHS, congratulated Ms. Mascolo on her retirement and wished her the best of luck.

Several Administrators and faculty members in attendance thanked the BOE for their support on accepting the Superintendent's budget proposals, e.g. full-day Kindergarten, support of Literacy Tutors, full-time psychologist. Teachers also stated they attended this meeting to show their support for a budget that supports technology and gave examples of Smart Board use in their classrooms.

Mr. Garofolo commended all those who came tonight and expressed opinions in support of their beliefs in something with which the board has to deal, which are expenditures of public funds for technology. He asked how does technology benefit the individual student in the individual classroom, how does it advance his or her learning. Mr. Garofolo encouraged teachers to invite him to their classrooms to show him how our students have moved forward through the use of technology by submitting a request through the Superintendent's office.

10-3388: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to go out of the order of business and entertain SHS representative Reba Putorti's report at this time.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (out of business order)

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representative – Reba Putorti

- a. Reported on Driving Assembly for Junior and Senior Classes – January 4, 2011
- b. SHS Mid Term Exams were completed on January 26, 2011
- c. Course selections and Counselor presentations were postponed until February 8, 2011
- d. The SHS Winter Dance will be held in the SHY Gym on February 26, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – December 20, 2010
2. Special BOE Meeting – January 24, 2011

B) Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Dwyer, Kristina
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Holly Rickle
2. Strang, Melanie
 - Clerical Paraprofessional
 - Central Office
 - Replacing Susan Cyr

C) Staff Retirement - Certified

1. Marcantonio, Ellen
 - English Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective at conclusion of 2010-11 school year
3. Mascolo, MaryAnne
 - Superintendent of Schools
 - Central Office
 - Effective June 30, 2012

- D) **Ms. Christina Horensavitz has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Amber Horensavitz for the 2010-2011 school year.**
- E) **Finance Committee** – February 7, 2010
- F) **Nutrition Services**
 - 1. Financial Report – December 2010

10-3389: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Chairman Strumello, Mr. Baker, 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

- 2. **What will our Children Lose?** – Christine Syriac
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent, gave an informative presentation from a press conference sponsored by CAFE, CAPS, and CASBO on the potential loss of funding of the ECS funding in regard to the portion (14%) that would come previously from federal stimulus money. Discussion was held and Ms. Syriac answered all BOE members' questions.
- 3. **School Reform** – Article from Ed Strumello
Chairman Strumello provided BOE members with an article containing information regarding the funding of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He stated the last thing he had heard was "The No Child Left Behind" is being changed to "Every Child Counts."
- 4. **Fall Athletic Report** – Seymour High School
- 5. **Minutes**
 - a. Special BOE Meeting – December 15, 2010
No Quorum, No Minutes
 - b. Special BOE Meeting – December 16, 2010
No Quorum, No Minutes

B) REPORTS

- 1. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance Committee Minutes – December 20, 2010
 - b. Finance Committee Agenda – February 7, 2011
Mr. Kubik briefly summarized the Finance Sub Committee meeting
- 2. **Chairman's Report**
 - a. CAFE/CAPSS Convention Recap
Chairman Strumello provided BOE members with the latest of his sessions, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Boards
 - b. Board Members Comments
Mrs. Loda, in her opinion, stated the primary function of the BOE members is to make sure and fight for what they feel is necessary to move the Seymour School District forward. She also commented that as far as technology/computers go, we have heard from many teachers tonight who all support technology, and she agrees with them. Mr. Ward appreciated school staff and administrators for coming to the meeting and sharing their thoughts and classroom experiences with the BOE.

2. **Chairman's Report (continued)**

- b. Mr. Putorti recognized Ms. Mascolo efforts and contributions to the

Seymour School District during her tenure and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

10-3390: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to add to the agenda, the establishment of a personnel search committee comprised of all BOE members.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3391: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to add establish a personnel search committee comprised of all BOE members to discuss the next steps to search for a new superintendent.

Mr. Garofolo asked how the BOE would to this, in open BOE or Special BOE meetings. A lengthy discussion was held on what type of meeting to be held. Mr. Garofolo went on record that he is not comfortable with this motion.

SO VOTED:

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

AGAINST: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

Mr. Stanek explained his vote on the budget, stating his concern is he does not want to see our Board of Finance come back with a zero budget this year. He stated he would like to see much more money into the district, but it is not realistic; he does not want to see a no increase budget like last year.

Mr. Garofolo addressed snow plowing issues at Seymour High School, stating he saw people on the roof of SHS removing snow and wanted to know who was supervising the workers. He saw the workers dumping snow onto the walkway of the pool area and was concerned that someone might fall. Mr. Belden explained Mr. Natzel was the coordinator of hiring private contractors and building custodians were interacting with the workers. Also, Mr. Garofolo stated there is not enough room for two cars to pass in the parking lot as well as loss of parking spaces due to record snowfall this winter; he would like proper service received for what the district is paying for.

Mr. Garofolo stated he accessed the pre-calculus curriculum on the SPS website and went through this course of study. He noted as he went through this curriculum he noticed there was no mention of Chapter 6 in the Pre-Calculus curriculum on the SPS website. Mr. Garofolo asked if SPS covers Chapter 6 in this curriculum. Ms. Mascolo explained – We do not necessarily follow the textbook chapters in order. Our curriculum is aligned to the state standards. Mr. Garofolo stated he would accept Ms. Mascolo's explanation as a preliminary answer, and then respectfully asked the Superintendent to communicate to him if we cover all chapters in the Pre-Calculus curriculum at SHS or whether we omit Chapter 6 in that curriculum.

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 explained ebasts in her report, commented on the talented staff in the SPS she witnessed during her Instructional Rounds, a Diversity Day will be held at SHS March 1st. Also, Ms. Mascolo informed BOE members she received an anonymous letter from a group of concerned parents regarding inviting a guest to the SHS Winter Dance and passed out a copy of the guest permission slip, noting this permission slip is quite intense and thorough. Ms. Mascolo noted an Awards Committee meeting needs to be set up with Mr. Stanek.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Out of State Field Trip

10-3392: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Stanek) to approve the request for the Seymour High School Ski/Snowboard Club to attend a field trip to Mt. Snow, VT on February 27, 2011.

SO VOTED:

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

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

B) Donation of Drum Set

10-3393: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the acceptance of the donation of a drum set from Mr. Doug Hayden to be used by the Music department at Bungay School.

SO VOTED:

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

C) Snow Days

10-3394: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to add days to the end of the school year based on the number of snow days used.

Ms. Mascolo recommended not eliminating April vacation. She handed out a document to BOE members from the Connecticut State Department of Education regarding school closures and the School Calendar.

Mr. Garofolo commented AM Kindergarten has taken a beating with all the snow days used so far this year.

SO VOTED:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

10-3395: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) moved to adjourn at 9:28 P.M.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk