



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

December 6, 2010
6:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik – Arrived 6:35 P.M.
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek – Arrived 8:10 P.M.
James Ward – Arrived 6:45 P.M.
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT:

Bruce Baker

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Operations
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Carlos Aldave, Asst. Principal, SMS
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti
Nancy Snopkowski, Special Education Director, SPS
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coordinator
Paul Roy, First Selectman, Seymour
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Lisa Stemler, CABA
Jennifer Magri, Parent

I) CALL TO ORDER

Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 P.M.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) CABA Electronic Board Pack – Lisa Stemler

1. A presentation was given by Lisa Stemler on the benefits of using CABA Electronic Board Pack:
 - A tool for creating communication meetings, notices, agendas etc
 - A way to post meeting information for public access
 - A searchable archive of meeting information
 - An aid to administrators & BOE members as they prepare for meetings

This program was developed by a Kentucky school board and is only offered to BOE members. The cost is \$3,000.00 for the first year; thereafter the cost is \$1,500.00 for updating and training programs. Middletown Public Schools, Middletown, CT was a “pilot” district and has been using CABA for eleven years. Madison, Plainville, and Woodbridge Schools also use this program. More discussion and questions were asked by BOE members and answered to the satisfaction of the BOE by Ms. Stemler

B) 21st Century Teaching and Learning

None

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

C) Recognitions

1. Mrs. Flood asked to have the BOE send a letter to SMS Gold Team staff and students for all their hard work and time volunteered to help provide Thanksgiving Day groceries for needy families within our community, donating turkeys to Spooner House and Trinity Church (Seymour Food Bank).
2. Mr. Kubik recognized Richard Kearns, Security Director (SPS), for his outstanding work handling the bomb scares last month.

D) Correspondence

1. A letter dated November 17, 2010, was sent to all Seymour Middle School and High School students and their parents/guardians from MaryAnne Mascolo to educate them on bomb threats and the punishment for those who choose to commit this crime.
2. Chairman Strumello received a letter from Vanderbilt offering a Masters course in Human Development Counseling.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – November 15, 2010
2. Special BOE Meeting – November 10, 2010
3. Special BOE Meeting – November 17, 2010
 - a. Expulsion – 4:00 p.m.
 - b. Expulsion – 6:30 p.m.
 - c. Expulsion – 8:00 p.m.

10-3342: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec Mr. Putorti) moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairman Strumello asked to remove regular BOE minutes of November 15, 2010 and Item 4D – Staff hiring from the consent Agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

Chairman Strumello asked that the Executive Session Motion 10-3340 from the BOE minutes of November 15, 2010 be changed to read Mrs. Flood from Mr. Strumello

10-3343: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the November 15, 2010 BOE minutes as amended.

SO VOTED:

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

Chairman Strumello stated under Item IV D of BOE Agenda for December 6, 2010, he did not see a second certification for Marissa Scinto, candidate for Cheerleading Coach at Seymour Middle School.

10-3344: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mrs. Loda) to table this item until a second certification is validated by the Superintendent.

Mr. Aldave informed the BOE that he has seen the second certification for Ms. Scinto and provided it for the BOE.

10-3345: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to rescind their previous motion.

SO VOTED

IV) CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

A) Approval of Minutes

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

10-3346: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to hire Marissa Scinto upon approval of the Superintendent of Schools and the appropriate certification papers.

SO VOTED

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

B) Staff Resignation – Certified

1. Morgan-Modica, Heather
 - Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School

C) Staff Resignation – Non-Certified

1. Rickel, Holly
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour Middle School

D) Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Scinto, Marissa
 - Coach
 - Cheerleading
 - Seymour Middle School

E) Appointment - Volunteer

1. Acquavella, Allison
 - Ski club Advisor
 - Seymour Middle School

10-3347: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the consent agenda as amended.

SO VOTED

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Regular BOE minutes of November 15, 2010 and Item 4D – Staff hiring were removed from the consent Agenda.

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1) Student Representative – Reba Putorti

- a. There was a power outage at SHS earlier this month.
- b. Meet Seymour High School night for 8th graders will be held December 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Strumello encouraged BOE members to attend.
- c. The Seymour High School winter concert will be held on December 16, 2010

2) Professional Development Update

Associate Superintendent Christine Syriac presented two handouts to the BOE, a TECH DAY PD Guide and Professional Development Report from the Tech PD Day held on November 2, 2010. The Superintendent thanked Ms. Syriac and Robert Pratt for all their time and effort putting this together for the staff.

VI) **INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)**

A) **INFORMATION**

3) **Silent Sustained Reading** – Seymour High School

For the BOE's information

4) **Materials Given to Charter Revision Committee**

Chairman Strumello commented he read over this report and stated that the BOE stance was correct the entire time. Some discussion by BOE members was held on this report for a short time.

5) **2011-2012 School Calendar**

The BOE has already approved this calendar.

6) **Revised Minutes** - BOE Regular Minutes November 3, 2010

No Comments

B) **REPORTS**

1. **Committee Reports**

a. Finance Committee Meeting – November 15, 2010

Mrs. Flood reported they reviewed the summary of Mr. Belden's October report, went over the employment compensation budget, and the fact that repairs and maintenance activity on that account is being very closely monitored because of the limited funding available. Mr. Garofolo asked what is the amount of the Technology line that has been frozen? Mr. Belden responded.

10-3348: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to approved the Finance Committee report as presented.

SO VOTED

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

b. Policy Committee Minutes – November 16, 2010

Chairman Strumello reported it was a short, but very productive meeting.

10-3349: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the Policy Committee report as presented.

SO VOTED

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

2. **Chairman's Report**

a. CABA/CAPSS Convention Recap

Chairman Strumello reported on CABA 2010 Convention legislative and legal issues. Legislative proposals for 2011 were presented at convention. The Superintendent commented keynote speakers were very interesting. She suggested BOE members attend a convention. Chairman Strumello commented that 97% of funding in Ledyard, CT, comes from taxpayers.

b. Board Member's Comments

Mr. Garofolo commented it has come to his attention that at least 4 Seymour High School teachers would take early retirement. He asked if the BOE would consider promoting this, if it would benefit the BOE. Mr. Belden explained if the BOE offers a plan, the January 1st date is negated.

10-3350: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved that the BOE direct the Superintendent to survey the school system's teachers interested in retiring early for this current school year.

Mr. Ward commented we do not have a budget to go by now. Mr. Kubik agreed. The Superintendent commented it is very premature to do this. She felt BOE would not save a large amount of money.

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

Mr. Ward, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Loda and Mr. Putorti indicated they would not support this motion.

Mr. Stanek disqualified from voting on this motion.

Mr. Garofolo and Mrs. Flood withdrew their previous motion.

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, and reviewed upcoming reports. Chairman Strumello suggested BOE members schedule meetings with staff (both certified and non-certified) similar to the meeting held with the public last month. Discussion was held among the members as follows:

- Mr. Ward asked what Chairman Strumello's objective would be to meet with the staff. Chairman Strumello responded, the BOE would get a sense of what the staff thinks of the budget, and this would be an education for them to see how the budget works. Mr. Ward indicated he would support Chairman Strumello's suggestion, but did not want the meeting to become a gripe session.
- Mr. Kubik suggested that the Superintendent identify the needs of the district for the budget.
- Mr. Stanek commented the BOE ended up behind the eight ball because of what the BOE approved last year.
- Mr. Putorti suggested the Superintendent present the budget both ways: 1) the district needs, and 2) a level service budget
- Discussion was held on where to hold the meeting, and Seymour Middle School was suggested.

10-3351: MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec. Mr. Kubik) moved to hold a BOE Special Meeting with the non-certified staff on December 15, 2010, at 4:15 p.m., and with the certified staff on December 16, 2010, at 4:15 p.m., both to be held at the Seymour Middle School auditorium.

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Belden gave an updated report on the remediation efforts of the oil spill at Bungay School earlier this year.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) BOE Meeting Schedule July 2011 - June 2012

10-3352: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the July 2011 – June 2012 Board of Education meeting schedule as submitted.

SO VOTED:

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

B) One Man Team - Swimming

10-3353: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of Ansonia High School to have Richard Parham to participate in Swimming as a one man team in Seymour

SO VOTED:

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

C) One Man Team - Swimming

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

10-3354: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of Derby High School to have Zach Carroll to participate in swimming as a one man team in Seymour.

SO VOTED:

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

D) One Man Team – Wrestling

10-3355: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of Ansonia High School to have Ryan O'Connor to participate in wrestling as a one man team in Seymour.

SO VOTED:

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

E) Team of One - Golf

10-3356: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of Seymour High School students Matthew Kozlowski, Dominic Petronchak, and Peter Tomlinson to participate in golf as a team of one in golf at Ansonia High School.

SO VOTED:

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

F) Policy #2000.1/Regulation #2001.1 (a-d) Board-Superintendent Relations

10-3357: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of policy and regulations #2000.1 Board-Superintendent Relations as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mr. Garofolo asked for clarification on the first sentence of sub-section D of Appendix, paragraph 4. THE BOE can reject a recommendation by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

G) Policy #2120 Organizational Chart

10-3358: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of Policy #2120 Organizational Chart as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Kubik asked questions regarding why the Director of Special Education reported to two people and who did her evaluation. The Superintendent explained the flow of the Organizational Chart. Chairman Strumello explained that since the Director of Special Education did not have a main office at each school site, that person reported to the building principal at each school and also to the Superintendent.

SO VOTED:

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

H) Policy #2131.1 Appointment of Designee for Superintendent of Schools

10-3359: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of policy # 2131.1 Appointment of Designee for Superintendent of Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

I) Policy #2132/Regulation #2132 (a-f) Assistant Superintendent of Schools

10-3360: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of regulation #2132 Assistant Superintendent of Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee

SO VOTED:

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

J) Regulation #2134 (a-b) Director of Finance and Operations

10-3361: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of regulation #2134 (a-b) Director of Finance and Operations as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mr. Ward asked about replacement issues on page 1, under Certifications. Would this policy put us in a position that if an elderly old man would have such a unique combination of certificates that we would not be able to replace that person by those standards? Chairman Strumello explained this allows us the flexibility that if the BOE wanted to have an Assistant Superintendent with a 092 and Business Manager certification, if he chose to return to the Business Manager and have an 085, he can do that also.

SO VOTED:

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

K) Policy #2141 Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent

10-3362: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of policy #2141 Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mrs. Flood had a question regarding the first sentence of this policy. The Superintendent this gives the BOE the option to choose an internal candidate and/or search outside the district for a candidate. Mr. Garofolo pointed out a potential hazard in this policy– that five members of the BOE is a quorum, and you can elect a Superintendent at a meeting with only three members voting for a Superintendent out of nine. Mr. Garofolo asked the BOE to consider that instead of such a thing being possible, and to preclude a political appointment, meaning five out of nine could elect a Superintendent, that instead two thirds of the members of the BOE are needed to elect a Superintendent, which makes it six people; and even if all five of one party to chose to vote, they still need a member of the other party; and that precludes, at least, a political fiat appointment.

10-3363: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to table Item K) Policy #2141 Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent and send it back to the Policy Committee for reconsideration and possible change of wording.

Mr. Ward asked what the split of party members is on the BOE. This will be looked info for clarification.

SO VOTED:

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

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

AGAINST: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward

L) Policy #2151 Hiring School Administrators

10-3364: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to eliminate policy #2151 Hiring School Administrators as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mr. Garofolo questioned the new wording of this policy, stated the old 2151 indicates that there would be a committee composed of BOE members, teachers, parents, and administrative staff, but the proposed replacement policy precludes any outsiders, so to speak. Mr. Garofolo is wondering why the BOE would want to do this. He further stated, in the Appendix there are no comments regarding the hiring of personnel to include anyone else other than BOE members and administrators; if parents, teachers, and community members are our stake holders, then they in fact have a standing in whose is hired as an administrator. Further discussion and explanation by the Superintendent continued as to the wording of the new policy.

SO VOTED:

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

AGAINST: Mr. Garofolo

M) Regulation #2231 (a-b) Policy and Regulation Systems

10-3365: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of regulation #2231 (a-b) Policy and Regulation Systems as recommended by the Policy committee

Mr. Garofolo asked in the last paragraph regarding CABA, and where it would be uploaded to, and if we uploaded to CABA online, what would happen if we lost the data.

SO VOTED:

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

N) Policy #2400 Evaluation of Administrative Personnel

10-3366: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to approve the revision of policy #2400 Evaluation of Administrative Personnel as recommended by the Policy Committee

SO VOTED:

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

**VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION
NONE**

10-3367: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:12 P.M.

SO VOTED

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk