MEETING MINUTES (revised)

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING: November 15, 2010
Seymour Middle School 7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
James Garofolo
Peter Kubik
Jeanne Loda
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek
James Ward – Arrived 8:00 P.M.
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT: All Present

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
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Carlos Aldave, Asst. Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti
Mary Lavoie, Director of Curriculum
Roberta Pratt, System-wide Technology Coordinator
Ernie DiStasi, Administrative Intern, Bungay
Paul Roy, First Selectman, Seymour
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Jennifer Monaco, SHS Teacher
Allison Acquavella, SMS Teacher/Student Council Adv.
Jennifer Batterton, SMS Teacher
Harvey Catlin, SMS Teacher
Shelley Stedman, Library Media Specialist, SMS
Mary Deming, SHS / President, Seymour
Natalie Moir, SMS / Vice President, Seymour Pink
Jennifer Magri
Kim DiFusco
David Torres
V. LaChance

I) CALL TO ORDER

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

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) 21st Century Teaching and Learning

1. Ms. Mascolo passed out an article regarding the use of “Clickers” in the classroom and on-line
2. Jennifer Monaco, SHS, gave a quiz to BOE members with Smart board based on last meetings presentation. Ms. Monaco provided further information on the use of the clickers in the classroom and answered BOE member’s questions.

B) Recognitions

1. Congratulations were extended to **Rich Kearns** by BOE members, who again were honored by FEMA this year for his involvement with the STEP Program.

2. Congratulations were extended by BOE members to the members of the **Seymour High School Girls Volleyball team** on their very successful season which concluded with winning the NVL Volleyball Championship.

BOE members congratulated the American Legion 10 on its Veteran's Day activities around town. Mr. Stanek commented that 22 schools in other districts also conducted classes on Veteran's Day this year.

C) Correspondence

1. Seymour Board of Education received a letter dated October 29, 2010 from Barbara Malota expressing her disappointment that Seymour High School does not have enough time to see all parents for parent conferences.

2. Letter dated November 1, 2010 to parents and guardians of Bungay School students from Mary Sue Feige recognizing all who were involved in the emergency dismissal of students on Monday, November 1, 2010 was read.

3. Letter dated November 4, 2010 to MaryAnne Mascolo from Rich Kearns sharing information from National School Bus Safety Week (October 26th through November 1st) was read.

4. Letter dated November 5, 2010 to MaryAnne Mascolo from Rich Kearns thanking her and the Board of Education for the support and generosity that was extended for the first "Seymour Trunk or Treat" on October 31, 2010, was read.

5. Seymour High School received a contribution of $50,000.00 from FUSCO for a new dugout for the girl's softball team. Chairman Strumello thanked Mr. Baker, chairman at that time, for all helping Mrs. Fusco decide where the money should go. Mr. Belden recommended a motion be made to accept the $50,000 contribution from FUSCO, and that the money will go towards a new dugout for the girl's softball team at Seymour High School.

10-3335: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) moved to add to the Agenda a motion to accept the $50,000 contribution check by Mrs. Fusco to Seymour High School and that it be put towards a new dugout for the Seymour High School Girl's Softball team.

SO VOTED:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Ward

10-3336: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec Mr. Kubik) moved to accept the $50,000 contribution check donated by Mrs. Fusco to Seymour High School and that it be put towards a new dugout for the Seymour High School Girl's Softball team.

SO VOTED:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Ward

Mr. Baker suggested having a dedication at the first home game. Ms. Mascolo will look in it. Mr. Stanek suggested we follow up with a thank you letter.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – November 3, 2010
2. Special BOE Meeting – October 25, 2010

10-3336: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec Mr. Putorti) moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Stanek asked that Item A-1, of the regular BOE meeting on November 3, 2010, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

Mr. Stanek stated that he also opposed **MOTION 10-3325**, November 3, 2010 BOE meeting, page 5, along with Mr. Garofolo and asked that the minutes be so corrected.

10-3337: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec Mrs. Loda) moved to accept the November 3, 2010 BOE minutes as amended.

SO VOTED:

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

B) Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Tomas, Donna
   - Instructional Paraprofessional
   - Bungay Elementary School
   - Paraprofessional Contract
   - Replacing Christina Ferranti

C) Appendix E

1. Frosolone, Nick
   - Coach
   - Freshman Boys Basketball
   - Seymour High School
   - New Position

D) Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Cyr, Susan
   - Clerical Paraprofessional
   - Central Office

E) Finance Committee – November 15, 2010

1. Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the Financial Management Summary for October 2010

F) Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report – August – October 2010

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- Item A-1, regular BOE meeting November 3, 2010, was removed from the Consent Agenda

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1) Presentation to Mrs. Mary Deming, Seymour Pink

a. Allison Acquavella, SMS teacher and Student Council Advisor, introduced the Student Council members to the BOE, who spoke on the importance of Seymour Pink towards Breast Cancer as a community effort. SMS Student Council performed a skit and presented a check for $300.00 to Mrs. Mary Deming, President of Seymour Pink. Mrs. Deming thanked the SMS Student Council for their generosity.

2) Student Representative – Reba Putorti

a. Veteran's Day Activities - Reba reported Mrs. Brown set up a field trip for students to go to French Park for a Veteran's Day ceremony. SHS grades 11 and 12 attended an assembly and listened to presentations from Veterans on their experiences during the war. Mr. Ward asked Reba her impression of the Veterans coming to speak at SHS. Reba responded she like it a lot. Mr. Ward also inquired about the student mentoring program (Link Crew). Reba reported they meeting once a month, are split into groups, and decide new social activities for the freshman. The meetings are to plan how to get the freshman involved within the high school.

b. Parent Conferences – SHS teachers met with parents of students needing more direction and help with their classes.

c. Reba updated the BOE on the status of SHS varsity sports

3) Seymour Middle School Improvement Plan – Bernadette Hamad

- Principal Hamad gave an excellent in depth slide show presentation of goals from last year and this year e.g. reading scores, math scores, and strategies on school climate, and how to improve scores at the middle school.
- Mr. Putorti asked if any changes have been made since last year. Mrs. Hamad explained the Administration and Guidance focused on talking to students in small and large groups, individually, displaying student work, having students take ownership of the building, e.g. being proud of where they are, which will result in them behaving better.
- Mr. Baker commented on that cohort math scores of 6^{th} and 7^{th} grades had dropped and 8^{th} grade was up. Mrs. Hamad stated they talked with teachers and work needs to be done in word problems. Also, we are at the tail end of revising the curriculum to address areas they did not do well in.
- Chairman Strumello commented that most of the students are almost there, but not up higher. Mrs. Hamad stated they are working on revising writing prompts. Also, if students read more and are reading well written material, it should translate in better writing and improve vocabulary. Mrs. Hamad reported they are using 4 writing prompts which will be double scored using the rubric.
- Mr. Stanek asked if students are well informed on behavioral expectations. Mrs. Hamad explained some student do not understand what is expected and needed to discuss it as well as be given examples.
- Mr. Ward inquired about differentiation being used. Mrs. Hamad explained there is a range and it is being revisited lately. Teachers who have been trained to help the teachers are making more time available to them. Those who have been trained are using differentiation.
- Mr. Stanek passed on as a community representative that the perennial complaint is there is NOT enough homework being given out to students.
- Chairman Strumello asked how parent committee was chosen. Mrs. Hamad stated that at a well attended Parent Council meeting new parent faces volunteered, which is what she was looking for.
- Mr. Baker asked how we are doing with regard to preparing SMS students for transition to SHS. Mrs. Hamad stated she feels we are getting better and she has spoken with Mrs. Goodrich about setting up meetings on this, as well as speaking with the Guidance counselors on what else we can do to help the transition from elementary to middle school. Presently tours are given to elementary school students at SMS.

- Chairman Strumello commented there seems to be a lack of communication between the SMS and SHS teachers. Mrs. Hamad explained administrative meeting will be held first, and the plan out the staff meetings.
- Mrs. Hamad reported a parent made a comment about the arts and how SMS was able to rework the schedule so bands etc are regular courses and students are NOT pulled out of another class.
- Superintendent Mascolo thanked Principal Hamad for her presentation

4) Veteran's Day Activities/Programs

Ms. Mascolo reported all Seymour school had activities and they were appreciated by all

5) Revised Minutes of BOE Regular Minutes October 15 and 20. 2010

No Comments

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee Meeting – November 15, 2010

Mrs. Flood reported they met earlier this evening and Mr. Belden answered questions regarding Worker's Compensation

2. Chairman's Report

a. Review of Parent's Meeting, November 10, 2010
- Chairman Strumello thought overall it was a positive meeting
- Chairman Strumello commented that the public needs to understand that BOE members are volunteers and cannot attend every school event

b. Board Member's Comments
- Mr. Stanek asked how we could attract yes votes from people not in our base. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Chairman Strumello reported he was alerted by First Selectman Roy about a letter regarding Bungay School oil spill. The concern was did Mrs. Feige notified about follow up visits by Nafis and Young to Bungay School after the oil spill. Mrs. Feige stated she was not notified about the visits. Chairman Strumello asked that they be notified about school visit procedures.
- First Selectman Roy stated he received a call from Nafis and Young, and Mr. Roy thought it would be a good idea if he stopped by, take a good look, and give his assessment
- Chairman Strumello stated two visits were made by NYE, November 1st and 2nd, 2010, and proper protocol was not taken for these visits.
- It was pointed out students were dismissed early on November 1st due to the oil spill, and no students were present on November 2nd since it was Election Day.

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. A Policy Committee Meeting was rescheduled for December 1st from November 17th, and upcoming reports were reviewed.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Request for Out of State Field Trip

10-3338: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec Mr. Stanek) moved to approve the request of Mr. Nate Dobas for Seymour Middle School 8th Grade Choir members to attend an out of state field trip to Radio City Music Hall in New York City, NY on December 11, 2010.

Principal Hamad expressed that this was an audition process for the SMS to be chosen for an opening act for the show.

SO VOTED:

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

B) Request for Out of State Field Trip

10-3339: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik sec Mr. Stanek) moved to approve the request of Mr. Harvey Catlin for Seymour Middle School 8th Grade Students to attend an out of state field trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 6 through April 8, 2011.

Mr. Catlin commented he is doing a fundraiser with the students for the trip and all chaperones are staff members.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

10-3340: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:18 P.M. and go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Further, that the Board invite the following individuals to attend the executive session: Superintendent MaryAnne Mascolo.

SO VOTED:

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

The board came out of Executive Session at 9:37 P.M.

10-3341: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk