



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:

Bungay School

November 3, 2010

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
Patricia Gillis, BOE Clerk

ABSENT:

All Present

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Administrative Intern, Bungay
Andrea Teixeira, L.A. Consultant, Bungay
Stefanie Slie, Raising Readers Facilitator, Gr. 2, Bungay
Paul Roy, First Selectman
Reba Putorti, SHS Student Representative
Jennifer Magri
Kristen Harmeling, parent
Maria Keeler, parent
Carol Rich, parent
Kristen Bruno, parent
Mr. Argento, parent

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. Superintendent reviewed presentation information from the October 18, 2010 meeting.

B) Recognition

1. Mrs. Mascolo thanked the following Seymour High School seniors **Wynonna Anglace, Andrea Avila, Rudy Basuljevic, Mary-Kate Durette, Austen Roman, Stephanie Burt, Brittany Guard, Oliva Saffo, Tiffany Cano, Devan LaBaire, and Hanah Mirlis** for assisting Security Director Rick Kearns and Youth Officer Joe DeNigris with the Family Preparedness Program "Step!" which was presented to all our approximately 225 4th graders.

2. Chairman Strumello congratulated all winners of our elections.

C) Correspondence

1. Ms. Mascolo received a letter dated October 15, 2010 from Rich Kearns providing information regarding Project H.O.P.E. Project H.O.P.E. creates awareness in Oxford and Seymour regarding teen runaways.
2. Ms. Mascolo received a letter dated October 15, 2010 from Rich Kearns providing an update on Seymour's first "Seymour Trunk or Treat" held on Sunday, October 31, 2010 at Seymour Middle School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Stanek attended and reported it was a lot of fun and 37 cars participated in this event. Chairman Strumello commented on the success of the event as well. A Halloween parade and a trunk decorating contest were held during the event.
3. Chairman Strumello noted there is a College Board exam going to be held in Boston sometime in February 2011.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Several parents attended the meeting and spoke in favor of supporting Full Day Kindergarten for the Seymour Public Schools for the next school year.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – October 18, 2010

Mr. Kubik asked to correct the spelling of the word "Administrative" in the previous minutes of Oct. 18, 2010 Item II.

2. Special BOE Meeting – October 20, 2010

Mr. Kubik asked to correct Motion E05 from "Mrs. Loda" to "Mr. Kubik."

B) Appendix E Position

1. Pawluk, Aaron
 - Assistant Coach, Freshman Girls' Basketball
 - Seymour High School
 - New Position

C) Re-hiring of Winter Sports Coaches and Re-Approval of Winter Sports Volunteers

10-3323: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the Consent Agenda as amended with the above changes (1 and 2) to the Regular BOE Meeting of October, 18, 2010, and the Special BOE Meeting of October 20, 2010.

SO VOTED:

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

**V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
NONE**

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1) Student Representative – Reba Putorti

- a. Homecoming Dance – October 23, 2010 – 330 attendees
The SHS Gym was decorated as a "Night in the City" and the Cafeteria was decorated in blue and gold.
- b. Boys soccer is 10-4-2, Girls Soccer is 7-8-1, Football is 0-6, Cross Country Is 7-4 and (boys and girls), and Volleyball is 17-1 (won first round of State and play Woodland next)
- c. Reba reported there were not enough teams for dodge ball due to activities with Homecoming.

Mr. Kubik inquired about the Powder Puff Game activities. Reba reported it would not be held this year because not enough people signed up, and the cost of the uniform was \$45.00 each. Paul Lucke explained further regarding the cost and playing out of district.

Chairman Strumello asked Ms. Mascolo to check on using the SHS field for a pick up Powder Puff game Thanksgiving week. Selectman Roy commented you can play with a small amount of players.

2) Bungay Elementary School Improvement Plan – Mary Sue Feige

- Principal Feige thanked her literary team at Bungay and also thanked Mr. Belden and First Selectman Pay Roy for all their help with the oil spill earlier in the week.
- Mary Sue Feige presented an excellent slideshow on strategies implemented to support goals at Bungay School. She also stated that teachers make a school great and failure is not an option!
- Mr. Kubik asked would % of students be increased with Full Day Kindergarten. Mary Sue believes it would be.
- Mr. Kubik asked with regard to Goals: Is the bar set too high at 44% to 80%? Mary Sue's hope is Bungay will be able to achieve the 80% goal set.
- Mr. Ward commented on Gr. 5's high score. Mary Sue Feige stated she got old materials from SMS and gave to the children ready to read them.
- Mr. Ward asked regarding CFA: What has been accomplished? Mary Sue Feige stated certain areas were targeted for students to meet and then move on.
- Mr. Garofolo asked are targets for writing skills done only in school. Mary Sue Feige replied yes and stated prompts are done in school and practice is done at home.
- Mr. Putorti asked how many ESL students are there. There are 43 students. MaryAnne Mascolo stated Mary Lavoie will do report on ESL students.
- Chairman Strumello commented on DRA: Gr. 3 did better on CMT than Gr. 2.
- Superintendent Mascolo thanked Principal Feige for her presentation.

3) Parent Visitation – Mary Anne Mascolo

The principals sent reports noting the number of parents in attendance on these days.

4) 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles – Mary Anne Mascolo

Strategic School Profiles have been delayed per letter from the commissioner.

Mr. Putorti asked if we will be able to get the \$1.4 Federal funds. Mr. Belden stated there is nothing that says we will definitely receive it.

5) Communication Survey – Mary Anne Mascolo

The Communication Survey can be accessed on the Seymour Public Schools District Web Page.

- Mr. Ward commented email is vehicle to look at in the future.
- Mr. Putorti commented on having a more efficient website.
- Chairman Strumello commented that 45% of senior citizens responded, but only 6% attend meetings. He hopes more will come to the November 10, 2010 meeting.

It was noted that over 53% of parents surveyed did not answer the questions regarding input to the budget.

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

- a. Policy Committee Minutes – October 14, 2010
- b. Liaison Committee Minutes – October 18, 2010
 - Mrs. Loda reported 2 Grievances were denied.
- c. Finance Committee Meeting – October 18, 2010
 - Mrs. Flood reported for September

2. Chairman's Report

- a. Review of article "*Study: School Buses Safe Enough without Seat Belts*" (CT Post – 10/25/10) School Bus Safety report done by Alabama
- b. Review of Article "*Shaping the Future*" (Fairfield University Magazine – Fall 2010)
- c. Board Members Comments

Mr. Baker commented it is more dangerous to ride to school with parents than on the school bus. He would rather see and talk to his son than text him or receive a text

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. December 8, 2010 is the CAPSS award ceremony, and four school students (two high school and two middle school) will be recognized for achievement. Mrs. Goodrich will send invitations for Graduation Committee meeting. Ms. Mascolo also handed out an article regarding the new CSU requirements for 2015 (Southern news article).

Full Day Kindergarten – Ms. Mascolo reported on her passion for Seymour School District to have a Full-Day Kindergarten. She presented her research paper from when she was in her UCONN Program. Ms. Mascolo believes our country needs to look at a long-term plan for Full-Day Kindergarten.

Mr. Garofolo asked what number of students we could expect to turn out incarcerated or illiterate. He would also like to know where the information came from and if it relates to Seymour at this point in time.

Ms. Mascolo suggested implementing full day kindergarten at LoPresti for the 2011-2012 school year. Research supports starting at LoPresti because they have the most at risk students; then start Full Day Kindergarten at Chatfield and Bungay for 2010-2013 school year. Research shows Full Day Kindergarten test higher than those who attend half day at the end of their Kindergarten year.

Mr. Putorti agreed that a Full Day Kindergarten is necessary, but questioned if we will still have a grant. The district would need to hire 2.5 additional Kindergarten teachers for the full district program.

Mrs. Flood asked what the Superintendent recommended with regard to Full Day Kindergarten. Ms. Mascolo's recommendation is for a Full Day Kindergarten to be implemented at LoPresti School for the 2011-2012 school year due to budget constraints. Mrs. Flood also asked if there is a definition of an at risk student. Ms. Mascolo explained an at risk student as follows: comes from a single parent home, did not attend preschool, participates in reduced lunch program, and language barriers etc.

Mr. Baker feels we need Full Day Kindergarten, "or we are failing our students; we need to step up to the plate and protect our kids." Mr. Garofolo agreed with Mr. Baker, but, "if we find ourselves short changed after implementing a Full Day Kindergarten, what would we do?" Mr. Baker responded, "We would step up to the plate and find the money, but we need the support of our 1st Selectman."

Mr. Stanek asked if we could move more students to LoPresti from Bungay School. Ms. Mascolo stated it would involve busing costs, but it could be possible and would depend on the number of student enrolled each year. He also commented we need to look at the political process in light of the recent election and educate our public.

Mr. Belden pointed out this is a two-year decision.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS **A) Homework Policy # 6154**

10-3324: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve just the revision #2 of Policy # 6154.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

A lengthy discussion of the homework policy took place with all members involved. Ms. Mascolo explained her position on the homework policy as well. Mr. Garofolo asked to establish a committee of teachers, parents and BOE members to review the policy.

Mr. Garofolo asked to have the previous motion rescinded. Mr. Putorti would not rescind the previous motion.

Mr. Stanek asked if Policy #6154A was going to be regulation. Ms. Mascolo stated yes, it would be a regulation. She stated that she has a committee of teachers who will assist her in developing the regulations. For now, we will still use the ones already in place.

B) The Superintendent will recommend the non-renewal of Stacy Glanz as the end of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes section 10-15)

10-3325: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec Mrs. Loda) moved that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of Stacy Glanz at the end of the 2010-2011 school year as recommended by the Superintendent

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

C) Grievance #10-11-01

10-3326: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec Mr. Baker) moved to accept the Recommendation of the Superintendent to the full board to uphold the Liaison Committee's denial of grievance #10-11-01

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

DISQUALIFICATION: Mr. Stanek

D) Grievance #10-11-02

10-3327: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to the full board to uphold the Liaison Committee's denial of grievance #10-11-02

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

DISQUALIFICATION: Mr. Stanek

10-3328: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr.Kubik) moved to add to the agenda a motion to approve all Fall Volunteer Coaches.

SO VOTED:

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

1033-29: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to approve all Fall Volunteer Coaches (see attachment).

SO VOTED:

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

10-3330: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session at 10:15 P.M. and invited Ms. Mascolo and Ms. Syriac to attend.

Mr. Stanek said the motion needs to state the reason why we are going in Executive Session. The agenda states "Legal Issues", and in his opinion, that is not a sufficient reason and is much too broad to go into Executive Session.

10-3331: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to withdraw previous motion.

10-3332: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) moved to add to the agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3333: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec Mrs. Loda) moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 10:15 P.M.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board then went into Executive Session at 10:17 P.M.

The board came out of Executive Session at 10:19 P.M.

10-3334: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) 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 10:20 P.M.

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk