



## MEETING MINUTES (revised)

### 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 DeStatis, 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) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning**

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

**B) Recognition**

1. Mrs. Mascolo thank 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 Office Joe DeNigris with the Family Preparedness Program "Step!" which was presented to all our approximately 225 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

##### **1. Gilbert, Jeffrey**

- Assistant Coach, Football
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Nick Teodosio
- 

**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. Mary Anne 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** See attached report.

## **4) 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles – Mary Anne Mascolo** Delayed – see attached letter

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**

- See attached handout by Superintendent  
Note: Over 53% of parents surveyed did not answer the questions regarding input to the budget.
- 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.

## **B) REPORTS**

### **1. Committee Reports**

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

## 5. 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
  6. 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

## 7. 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 two school students (one high school and one 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 (see attached report). 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 turnout 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 (see attachments).

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 Kindergarteners test high than those who attend half day.

Mr. Putorti agreed that a Full Day Kindergarten is necessary, but do we still have a grant? Also, we would need to hire 2 more full time teachers.

Mrs. Flood asked what the Superintendent recommended with regard to Full Day Kindergarten. Ms. Mascolo 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Mr. Garofolo presented a 3 page statement regarding his position on revising #2 of Policy #6154 – Homework.

A lengthy discussion followed 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 also proposed having a committee of teacher go back and develop the purpose and definition of homework be articulated. 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. Kubik, Mr. Ward

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

**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

**SO VOTED:**

**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 need 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.

**A) Personnel Matter**

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk