



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour High School

October 18, 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 (arrived 7:45 PM)

ABSENT:

All Present

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.
Cathy Goodrich, Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti
Jim Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Mary Lavoie, Dir. Of Curriculum
Nancy Snopkowski, Dir. Of Sp. Ed
Fran Divito, Chair of Math Dept., SHS
Al Skiparis, Chair of Social Studies Dept., of SHS
Lisa Cheney, Chair of English Dept., SHS
Sara Morgatto, Chair of Special Services, SHS

I) CALL TO ORDER

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

10-3317: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to amend the agenda to move Recognition to the top of the agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the students who achieved at the advanced level on all of the CAPT subtests: **Kelly Ferris, Alexa Hinds (absent), Danielle Pereira, Alexandra Rice, and Caitlin Slotter.** Ms. Mascolo congratulated the students and noted they honor us with their achievements.

B) 21st Century Teaching and Learning

Ms. Mascolo reviewed transforming school culture and noted the important things that affect student learning e.g., instruction, teachers believe that students can learn at higher levels, and the administrator being an instructional leader.

Ms. Syriac presented two videos showing positive school culture and toxic school culture. The first video showed how the school responded to a student entering 9th grade for the first time that doesn't learn. The second video depicted the school responding to the same student entering 9th grade for the first time in a positive manner to help the student succeed in high school. Ms. Mascolo noted after the second video that failure was not an option for the student and the school did not give up on the student.

Mr. Ward recalled a student expelled about three years ago, whose grades fell in the first semester, and asked what has changed now. Ms. Mascolo stated that Seymour High School now has Learning Labs (also for bright students), Link Crew (transition from 8th grade to high school), and Student Advisory (student has connection with one adult). Ms. Mascolo noted that we still have a ways to go, but we are much better than we were.

Assistant Principals Freund and Lucke also informed Board members students were already flagged this year who are failing, meetings are conducted with students, parents, and teachers, they collect at risk students' grades bi-weekly from teachers, parents are called, ninth grade teams meet twice a week, and progress reports are put on Ed-line for all students signed up bi-weekly. Chairman Strumello noted the complaint he used to get was the student that fails, the parent is going to get notified, but now the students who go from an A to a B, which is unacceptable in some homes, are now getting notified.

C) Correspondence

1. None (Chairman Strumello noted there is a free Lexia RTI Workshop - Lexia Reading and Assessment without Testing - on November 19th. He also noted other school staff could attend as well as Board members.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – October 4, 2010

B) Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Cyr, Susan
 - Clerical paraprofessional
 - Central Office
 - Replacing Lisa Stowe

C) Appendix E Position

1. **Gilbert, Jeffrey**
 - Assistant Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Nick Teodosio

D) Ms. Elisa Jones has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Kenneth Jones, Laney Jones, Kayla Jones, Haleigh Jones and MacKenzie Jones for the 2010-2011 school year

Motion for consideration: to acknowledge the receipt of these forms and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

- Mr. Stanek asked should there be a separate motion for the **Motion for consideration?**
- Ms. Mascolo stated there should not be a separate motion for the **Motion for consideration.**

E) Finance Committee – October 18, 2010

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

10-3318: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to accept the Consent agenda with Items A, B, C, D, and E.

SO VOTED:

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representative – Reba Putorti

a. Homecoming Week – October 18-23, 2010

- Monday, October 18, 2010 – Hat Day and Seymour Pink Concert at Seymour Middle School
- Tuesday, October 19, 2010 – Color Wars and Dodge Ball Tournament
- Wednesday October 20, 2010 – Seymour Pink Day
- Thursday, October 21, 2010 – Door Decorating and Favorite Team Jersey Day
- Friday, October 22, 2010 – Blue and Gold Day, Pep Rally at 12:25 p.m. And Football Game at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 23, 2010 – Homecoming Dance, 6:00-10:00 P.M., Seymour High School

2. Seymour High School Improvement Plan - Cathy Goodrich

Assistant Principal Freund presented a slideshow on CAPT performance across all subjects and school culture and climate. Research indicates that the more a student is connected to the school environment, the better the student will perform. Also, create a culture and climate that fosters importance of student achievement on high stakes testing as measured by the faculty. Mr. Freund also presented new strategies being implemented at the high school, e.g. addition of silent sustained reading for 20 minutes daily, increased writing in all areas, e.g. in Art class, and use of Professional Development Days to monitor goals.

Assistant Principals Freund and Lucke entertained questions from the Board upon conclusion of the slideshow. Mr. Garofolo asked when students write, if we take representative samples across curriculum to see if there is a quality of writing and fold it into overall plan of assessment. Mr. Freund indicated we are heading in that direction, and the high school uses a rubric to check student progress. Mr. Garofolo asked if the students write in World Language classes in English or the language. Mr. Lucke stated it depends on the level of language the students are in, e.g. lower levels write in English. Mr. Garofolo asked how you determine if students are reading or day dreaming. Mr. Lucke explained teachers are developing assessment and are implementing reading strategies into instruction. Mrs. Goodrich, SHS Principal, noted we want the students to read for pleasure so there is no assessment.

Chairman Strumello asked if the high school used pleasure reading to identify need and purpose behind SSR. He noted Killingly uses SSR to read for pleasure. Chairman Strumello asked is there 100% participation? Mrs. Goodrich and both Assistant Principals stated their teachers read in class each day with students for pleasure. Mrs. Goodrich invited all BOE members to join them any day of the week during silent reading time.

Mr. Kubik stated he was happy to hear we are going in a positive direction and asked if anything they see that will push us forward? Mr. Freund stated most critical reading and writing should show increased academic performance with pleasure reading. Mr. Baker asked if SHS is missing discrete skills in Math. Mr. Lucke said we are good in discrete skills. Mr. Lucke explained for math reading initiative, there has not been enough word problems to increase our math scores; more word problems will help math scores. Mr. Baker noted that Math is critical. Mr. Kubik asked if word problems are the only weakness in Math since there is such a disparity between PSAT and SAT data. Chairman Strumello stated there has been a problem in Seymour elementary and middle schools with regard to word problems for years.

Mr. Stanek asked if there is any data to show increase in CAPT scores. Mr. Freund stated it would be hard to extract this information.

Mr. Ward inquired where we are with curriculum development at the high school. Principal Goodrich explained curriculum is being revised and implemented for the freshmen. Mr. Ward asked what has been the affect/impact on students of the new curriculum. English teachers are revising and incorporating it in classes, and Freshman Seminar has been created. Mr. Ward asked if teacher/student received recognition for activity. CAPT incentives/raffle tickets with prize written on it, e.g. Prom ticket, parking ticket, sweatshirts, which increases attendance in CAPT testing. Mr. Baker asked how NEASC sees us. Principal Goodrich explained we have been taken off warning status.

3. Teacher Efficacy Workshop

Mrs. Syriac presented a slide show on the book by Carol Dweck, "What Is Mindset?"

Examples: Fixed mindset: basic qualities, you are born bright or not very bright. Growth Mindset: through effort/practice/learning we can acquire abilities not born with – work to become great.

Administrators encourage teachers with low efficacy to reflect on respect, build trust; student should be in welcoming/supporting classroom; teacher should expect students to learn, they will learn. Other conversation points: external factors beyond our control, private dialogue with student/parent, teacher take responsibility for student learning. How do we respond when students do not learn? Low efficacy – teachers play blame game; if students are failing at a high rate, we need to look at instruction.

4. 2010-11 Minimum Budget Requirement

Mr. Belden stated we would look to Brian Mahoney and the State Department for Guidance

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 get it.

5. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes Revised – September 20, 2010

NONE

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee Minutes – October 14, 2010

Chairman Strumello thanked Joan Rinkewith for all her hard work and help with the policies.

b. Liaison Committee Minutes – October 18, 2010

c. Finance Committee Meeting – October 18, 2010

2. Chairman's Report

a. Reflect on Assistant Principal Interview Procedure

Chairman Strumello stated he was skeptical at first of the new procedure, and then he was revitalized and amazed at how many talented candidates had come forward and applied to the Seymour District. He was happy with all aspects of the process and all parties concerned. Mrs. Loda agreed with Chairman Strumello and pleased with all the candidates

b. Graduation Committee

Chairman Strumello would like representatives from all schools in the Seymour district and city-wide, e.g. Seymour Police Department, BOE members, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Putorti, to participate

c. Board Members Comments None

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. Pizza will be served at the Dec. 6th meeting at 6:30 PM at Central Office at and a 45 minute presentation of Electronic Board and October 20th is Seymour Pink Day.

A Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16th. At that time, more Policy meetings will be set up. Chairman Strumello asked Ms. Mascolo to look at more dates for meetings before they meet on December 16th.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Seymour Middle School Assistant Principal

Mr. Putorti asked why Mr. Aldave had so many job changes. Ms. Mascolo explained Mr. Aldave worked in larger school districts with diverse cultures and jobs were phased out in some school systems.

10-3320: MOTION: (Mr. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Carlos Aldave as the Seymour Middle School Assistant Principal per contract

SO VOTED:

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

B) Districtwide Full Day Kindergarten

Mr. Belden presented three scenarios (see handout)

Mr. Stanek wants more discussion, and to hear the Administration's in depth scenario on full day Kindergarten. Mrs. Flood asked if we are sure we can reserve educational fund grant toward full day Kindergarten. Ms. Mascolo said yes, we can. Mr. Kubik feels it is important to implement full day Kindergarten district wide; it is in the best interest of the children. Mrs. Loda is in favor, but her concern is what we will do when money is gone; she feels we have a better chance of keeping the money if we go forward. Mr. Putorti is not in favor of adding expenses to our budget at this time. Mrs. Loda asked what the Superintendent recommends. Ms. Mascolo stated we need a plan for new Chatfield/LoPresti opening up first. Ms. Mascolo feels we should implement full day Kindergarten over the next two years; full day Kindergarten will benefit every child. Mr. Stanek agrees Seymour should have full day Kindergarten, but we need to show the town the importance of it, and also talk to the Board of Finance. Chairman Strumello stated it is hard for him to weigh the political/financial climate for kids, and wants more thorough conversation and discussion on this matter. Chairman Strumello does not like the idea of having a joint meeting with the Board of Finance. Mr. Putorti restated it is not a good idea for full day Kindergarten this year – financial suicide. Chairman Strumello has questions about class sizes. Mr. Baker stated there will never be a time for this to be an easy thing to do. Mr. Stanek asked for more information on this matter before the next meeting.

10-3321: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Ward) to table action until November 15, 2010 regularly scheduled meeting with discussion at the October 25th Budget meeting.

SO VOTED:

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

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

10-3322: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) moved to adjourn to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 PM.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Patricia Gillis, Clerk

MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT (MBR)
SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ARE NOT
MEMBERS OF SECONDARY REGIONS
FISCAL YEAR: 2010-11
ED012A

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF FINANCE AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS
BUREAU OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT
165 CAPITOL AVE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1630

School District: 124-Seymour
Contact Person: Richard A. Belden
E-Mail Address:

Date: 10/12/2010 12:40:30 PM
Telephone: 203-888-4564
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Line	Description	Amount
1	Final 2008-09 Budgeted Appropriation Including Supplemental Appropriations	29,117,491
2	2010-11 Budgeted Appropriation Including Supplemental Appropriations and Any Reductions Made Pursuant to PA09-1 (J19SS) Section 19	29,117,491
3	2010-11 Budget Appropriation Change (Line 2 - Line 1)	0
4	Maximum Allowable Decrease from State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF)	-1,403,325
5	Minimum Budget Requirement Compliance (If Line 3 is equal to or exceeds Line 4 then YES, or else NO)	Yes

Data Certified by sey on 10/12/2010 12:40:23 PM.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Business Managers
Town Finance Officers

FROM: Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer
Division of Finance and Internal Operations

DATE: October 12, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Minimum Budget Requirement

The Minimum Budget Requirement (Form ED012) data collection system is now available.

In order to monitor compliance with the provisions of Section 10-262i of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), we must collect town appropriation amounts for fiscal years 2009 and 2011. The information collected for the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) is similar to last year. However, please review the following information before completing the form.

Section 10-262i(d) of the 2010 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes states that for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, the budgeted appropriation for education each year shall be no less than the budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, minus any reductions made pursuant to Section 19 of Public Act 09-1 of the June 19 Special Session. To be in compliance with the MBR, your district's budgeted 2010-11 appropriation for education cannot be less than the amount budgeted for 2008-09 minus the amount of State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) that represent approximately 14 percent of this year's Education Cost Sharing entitlement.

In lieu of a reduction to the board of education budget, some districts may have opted to return/lapse an amount up to the total of the SFSF grants received. Be aware that in these situations, only local funds may be returned/lapsed. By law, SFSF dollars must be spent exclusively by the board of education for educational purposes only.

Please note the following when reporting appropriations:

- Unlike last year, there is no MBR reduction as a result of a town having fewer resident students. Section 1 of Public Act 10-151 was applicable for just the 2009-10 year.
- Another change this year is that there is no option for towns to reduce the board of education's budgeted appropriation after it has been passed as was allowed for 2009-10 per Section 19 of Public Act 09-1 of the June 19 Special Session.
- The appropriations must be from local revenues, which may include state grants such as Education Cost Sharing and Transportation that are paid to the town and are not subject to pass through to the board of education.

- Any accounting-related adjustments must be consistent between the two years, i.e., if 2010-11 includes an item such as school district employee health benefits that was previously appropriated to another department, the amount of the appropriation for these benefits must be added to the 2008-09 appropriation amount. Conversely, if there was an item that was included in 2008-09 that was not in 2010-11, that item must be removed from what is reported in 2008-09. While this applies to reclassifications of expenses only, keep in mind any one-time special appropriation for education must remain as part of that year's appropriation, i.e., if in 2008-09 additional funds were appropriated for computers, that amount must remain as part of the 2008-09 appropriation.
- The ED012 data collection system has been prefilled with the 2008-09 appropriation amount reported on the prior year's ED012. You cannot revise that data. If you find that a change needs to be made, please send an e-mail to Mark Stange at mark.stange@ct.gov with an explanation for the change and the revised amount. The Department of Education will then review that information and determine the appropriate steps to take regarding your situation.
- Do not include appropriations related to land, buildings, capital and debt service except for any portion of those items that were approved from your district's filing of the Debt Service Claim Form (ED452).

Consistent with last year's filing, secondary regional district assessment information must be included in the member town's ED012. There are several versions of the ED012:

- ED012A for school districts that are not members of secondary regions;
- ED012B for school districts that are members of secondary regions; and
- ED012 Worksheet to be filed by the secondary district.

The internet application will automatically take you to the correct version based on your town code.

In preparation for filing the MBR data, the ED012A, B and Worksheet Instructions are available on our Web site: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2634&q=320626>. For informational purposes only, we have also posted samples of the forms.

The ED012 data entry screens and instructions are available at www.csde.state.ct.us. Follow the instructions for the security pop up windows until you reach the Web page listing the Department data collection options. Click on ED012 MBR Compliance-Current and Prior Years. The Web page that appears requires you to enter a "User Login Name" and "Password." (These two security codes are the same codes as those used in the ED001 Internet Application.)

Please enter the data and your superintendent's code by October 29, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Stange at mark.stange@ct.gov or 860-713-6462.

Thank you.

BM:cm

cc: Mark McQuillan
Eugene Croce
Mark Stange