



## MEETING MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Chatfield Elementary School

October 4, 2010

7:30 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ed Strumello, Chairman  
Bruce Baker  
Judith Flood  
Jeanne Loda  
Peter Kubik  
Fred Stanek  
James Ward (arrived 7:55 PM)  
Yashu Putorti

**ABSENT:**

James Garofolo

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Christine Syriac, Associate Supt.  
Rick Belden, Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Oper.  
Paul Roy, First Selectman  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Lavoie, Dir. Of Curriculum  
David Olechna, Principal, Chatfield  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay  
Nancy Snopkowski, Dir. of Sp. Ed.  
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Darlene O'Callaghan, Lang. Arts, Chat  
Allison Cunningham, Teacher, Chatfield  
Leslie Sojka, Admin. Intern, Chatfield

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

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

**10-3307: MOTION:** (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to amend the agenda to move Mr. Jamie Cohen, of the Valley Community Foundation to the top of the agenda.

**SO VOTED:**

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

Mr. Cohen presented and reviewed for the Board the details of the Valley Community Foundation Agreement in which the Seymour Public School Funds will be maintained for grants, awards and/or scholarships at a current interest rate of 5.75%. At this time the Seymour Public School Funds will encompass seven (7) different funds. Quarterly statements will be issued and online access is available. At time of administration, funds will be paid to and distributed by the Superintendent's office and the Board of Education.

**10-3308: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) that the Seymour Board of Education enter into an agreement between the Seymour Board of Education and the Valley Community Foundation for the establishment of an endowment fund as presented by the Valley Community Foundation, a copy of which will be included with tonight's minutes.

**SO VOTED:**

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

At this time, Mr. Strumello introduced Wynonna Anglace, co-student representative to the Board and First Selectman Paul Roy. He took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Roy on becoming one of the first three mentors participating in the upcoming Mentoring program slated to begin shortly.

## **II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Ms. Mascolo reviewed the highlights of the professional development provided for the administrators today and held at Chatfield School on Instructional Rounds. She also reviewed a handout provided to the Board on "A High-Reliability Organization" and the current reading of the Board "Transforming School Culture-How to Overcome Staff Division" by Anthony Muhammad.

### **B) Recognitions**

1. Congratulations to the College Board AP Scholars: **Matthew Boczar, Anna Pleban, and Rebecca Skellington**. AP Scholars are students who receive a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
2. Congratulations to the College Board AP Scholars with Honors: **Samantha Calcagni, Stephanie McCourt, Samantha Tilton, and Margaret Tucker**. AP Scholars with Honors are students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores a 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
3. Congratulations to the College Board AP Scholar with Distinction: **Mary Bylo**. AP Scholars with distinction are students who average a score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores a 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
4. Congratulations to the Seymour School Readiness team for the Kindergarten Orientation provided over the summer at the Seymour Public Library. A photo collage of the event was circulated to the Board.

\*Mr. Stanek requested that a letter of congratulations from the Board be sent to the AP Scholars. Ms. Mascolo noted that her office had already done so, including the Board's congratulations as well.

### **C) Correspondence**

1. Letter from Colleen Fries from the Office of Coyne, Von Kuhn, Brady & Fries, LLC to Rick Belden, dated September 27, 2010 regarding the Valley Community Foundation Agreement.

## **III) PUBLIC COMMENT**

**NONE**

## **IV) CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A) Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting-September 20, 2010
2. Special BOE Meeting-September 20, 2010

### **B) Staff Resignation-Certified**

1. Eckhardt, Geraldine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
  - LoPresti Elementary School

### **C) Staff Resignation-Non-Certified**

1. Ferrante, Christine
  - Instructional Paraprofessional
  - Bungay School

### **D) Staff Hiring-Certified**

1. Hinnert, Ashley
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher
  - LoPresti Elementary School
  - Replacing Geraldine Eckhardt
  - Step 1, Bachelors

**E) Staff Hiring**

1. Gillis, Patricia
  - Board Clerk
  - Central Office
  - Replacing Lisa Willadsen

**F) Finance Committee-September 20, 2010**

1. Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the Financial Management Summary for July and August, 2010.

**10-3309: MOTION:** (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the Consent Agenda with Items A) 1. Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting-September 20, 2010 and B) Staff Resignation-Certified and D) Staff Hiring- Certified removed to V) Items Removed from Consent Agenda.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**A) Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting-September 20, 2010- Minutes of September 20, 2010 should not read "Revised" at the top of page 1, Details to be added: 3306: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to adjourn Executive Session at 10:30 PM

**10-3310: MOTION:** (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the minutes of September 20, 2010 as revised.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**B) Staff Resignation-Certified**

1. Eckhardt, Geraldine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher
  - LoPresti Elementary School

**10-3311: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept with appreciation and regret the resignation of Geraldine Eckhardt as 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Anna LoPresti Elementary School.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**E) Staff Hiring-Certified**

1. Hinnners, Ashley
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher
  - LoPresti Elementary School
  - Replacing Geraldine Eckhardt
  - Step 1, Bachelors

Discussion: Mr. Stanek inquired as to whether any Seymour residents had applied for the position. Ms. Mascolo noted that there were 600 applicants; at the present time, she could not say whether any were Seymour residents.

**10-3312: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept the hiring of Ashley Hinnners as Grade 3 Teacher at Anna LoPresti School replacing Geraldine Eckhardt at Step 1, Bachelors.

**SO VOTED:**

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

## **VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **A) INFORMATION**

#### **1. Student Representatives –Reba Putorti and Wynonna Anglace**

- a. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Elections for Class Officers and Student Council-Oct. 7, 2010
- b. SATs- October 9, 2010
- c. Junior Ring Dance (HS Cafeteria) and Commitment to Graduation Ceremony (HS Auditorium)-5:30-9:30 PM-October 14, 2010
- d. PSATs-October 16, 2010

Mr. Strumello requested that the Student Representatives provide the Board with an update on the current records of the season's sports teams.

#### **2. Chatfield School Improvement Plan-David Olechna**

Mr. Olechna entertained questions from the Board in regard to the administration of DRA testing. He explained that professional development was ongoing for teachers in the administration of DRA testing. Principals and language arts consultants take an active part in reviewing testing and scoring as well. Mr. Baker questioned as to whether Mr. Olechna's professional opinion would be that the return of full day Kindergarten to the district would be beneficial. Mr. Olechna was in strong favor. The Board commended his presentation and again, congratulated him on his new position.

#### **3. Teacher Efficacy Workshop-Christine Syriac (to be presented at next board meeting).**

#### **4. Conversion to New Payroll Service-Rick Belden**

Mr. Belden reviewed details of the upcoming conversion to the new payroll service slated to begin in January, 2011 in conjunction with the town Finance Department. The new vendor should prove to be quite beneficial with a potential savings of over \$7,000.00. The company is noted for providing excellent service to districts similar in size to Seymour. The product is web based. A program called "E-clock" in which time cards are kept electronically could possibly begin in July, 2011.

#### **5. Instructional Rounds-MaryAnne Mascolo**

Ms. Mascolo noted that Instructional Rounds by administrators are not for the purpose of teacher evaluation but to learn more about student work, learning and behavior.

#### **6. Literary Luminosity- Joy Marino**

Ms. Marino provides a newsletter for her colleagues on language arts hints and suggestions. A copy was provided for the Board this evening.

#### **7. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes Revised-September 7, 2010**

### **D) REPORTS**

#### **1. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance Committee Minutes-September 20, 2010

- b. Facility Committee Minutes-September 21, 2010

Mr. Kubik reviewed the details of the meeting noting that both Mr. Natzel, Director of Maintenance and Mr. Krauchik, Custodial Union president brought to the committee the need for the replacement of a full time custodian to keep the Seymour Schools operating successfully.

- c. Athletic and Facilities Committee Meeting-September 21, 2010  
Postponed due to lack of a quorum.

Mr. Belden noted that a potential grant of \$12, 500 from the Katherine Matthies Foundation would provide new bleachers for the Seymour High Girls Softball Field. Recommendations and site information would be forthcoming.

#### **2. Chairman's Report**

a. CABE Convention Awards-Mr. Strumello noted that four (4) members, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood and Mrs. Loda would be receiving awards for 10 years of service to Seymour Public Schools and the Board of Education.

b. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Baker noted at this time the importance of Full Day kindergarten for young children. With federal funds becoming available, he urged fellow board members to consider reinstating full day kindergarten in January. The board was in agreement and plans to positively promote the program's reinstatement.

Mr. Stanek asked the board to revisit the appointment of members to a committee to review graduation procedures at Seymour High School. Ms. Mascolo advised that Mrs. Goodrich, SHS principal, has the names of parents and teachers who would be willing to serve. Mr. Strumello felt that it was important that a parent of a student who attended each elementary school should serve on the committee. Mr. Stanek would like to see a member of the Seymour Police Department on the committee as well. It was agreed that in order to keep the committee well-run, it should be kept to a maximum of 10 members. Ms. Mascolo will proceed with setting the group up.

### 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. Meetings were scheduled for a Special Board Meeting on October 25 at Central Office at 7:00 PM to begin budget discussions, a Board Meeting with the public on November 10 at 7:00 PM for public input into the budget process, and a Policy Committee meeting on December 1 rescheduled from November 17. Upcoming reports were reviewed. It was noted that 2 grievances and an unfair labor practice had been filed by the SEA.

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

**Motion for consideration:** to approve the revision of policy #6154-Homework as recommended by the Superintendent.

The board discussed the wording and substance of the policy. Ms. Mascolo will review and take into account discussion and suggestions provided at the Board's professional development on policy making.

**10-3313: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to table the motion to approve the revision of policy #6154 –Homework as recommended by the Superintendent until the regular Board of Education meeting of October 18, 2010.

#### SO VOTED

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

#### VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### A) Review and possible action of Superintendent's Performance Evaluation.

**10-3314:** (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:38 PM inviting Superintendent of Schools, MaryAnne Mascolo for review and possible action of Superintendent's Performance Evaluation.

#### SO VOTED

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

The board exited executive session at 10:20 PM.

**10:3315: MOTION** (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the 2009-2010 performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10:3316: MOTION:** (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to adjourn the meeting

**SO VOTED:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Submitted,

Lisa Willadsen, Clerk