



MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

September 20, 2010
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Peter Kubik
Fred Stanek
James Ward (arrived 7:50 P.M.)
Yashu Putorti
James Garofolo

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Super. Of Finance & Oper.
Paul Roy, First Selectman
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Lavoie, Dir. Of Curriculum
Monica Briggs, Principal, LoPresti School
James Freund, Asst. Principal, SHS
Nancy Snopkowski, Dir. Of Special Education
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Ernie DiStasi, Administrative Intern, Bungay School
David Olechna, Principal, Chatfield School

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) CURRICULUM 21

Ms. Mascolo presented a handout regarding a workshop presented by Tim Waters that she and Assistant Superintendent, Christine Syriac had recently attended. The presentation concurs with the district's agenda to move our schools forward from "Good to Great."

B) RECOGNITIONS

1. Ms. Mascolo lauded Mrs. Syriac's effort in preparing outstanding professional development presentations.

C) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Elise Wood and Ronald Skurat, Registrar of Voters to MaryAnne Mascolo, dated September 6, 2010 asking for confirmation that Chatfield School will not be available for use as a polling place on November 2, 2010.
2. Letter from Rick Belden dated September 9, 2010 in response to the letter above from Elise Wood and Ronald Skurat, Registrar of Voters confirming that Chatfield School will not be available for use as a polling place on November 2, 2010 due to construction activity at the school.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE meeting-September 7, 2010

B) Staff Hiring-Non-Certified

1. Gillis, Patricia-Secretary, Seymour Middle School, replacing Elaine Bonaventura

C) Volunteers

1. Scinto, Marissa, Assistant Coach, Cheerleading, Seymour High School

D) Resignations

1. Lisa Willadsen, Board of Education Clerk, Central Office

E) Finance Committee-September 7, 2010

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

10-3287: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker): to accept the Consent Agenda with the removal of Items A and E to the Non-Consent Agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting-September 7, 2010

10-3288: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the minutes of September 7, 2010 with the revision to page 6 "Entered into Executive Session at 10:07 P.M."

The Board held a brief discussion on the possibility of having minutes e-mailed to members two (2) days prior to the meeting date in order to avoid costly correction time. This will be further investigated with the hiring of the new clerk.

SO VOTED:

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

F) Finance Committee-September 7, 2010

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

10-3289: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda): to postpone the approval of the Financial Management Summary for July and August 2010 to the next regular BOE meeting in order to give board members adequate time for review.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representatives

- a. Review of Senior Day-September 10, 2010-successful and much enjoyed by the Senior Class
- b. Picture Day-September 24, 2010
- c. Wildcat Welcome Back Run-September 25, 2010-will benefit Cancer Research

2. LoPresti School Improvement Plan-Monica Briggs

Mrs. Briggs presented to the Board with the LoPresti School 2010-2012 School Improvement Plan. In keeping with the Board's request, data was provided similarly to the presentation of the District State Assessment provided by Director of Curriculum, Mary Lavoie at the September 7, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Briggs was able to provide answers to the questions directed by the board. The board has asked that all schools provide commonality in their School Improvement Plans but are hoping to see more "narrative" in future presentations.

10-3289: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to add to the agenda the acceptance of the 2010-2012 LoPresti School Improvement Plan.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3290: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the 2010-2012 LoPresti School Improvement Plan as detailed in documentation provided to the Board of Education.

SO VOTED:

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

3. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes Revised- August 16, 2010

B) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Agenda-September 20, 2010-moved to next month
- b. Policy Committee Minutes-September 15, 2010-next meeting on October 14, 2010
- c. Facilities Committee Agenda-September 21, 2010 (updated-below)
- d. Athletic and Facilities Committee Agenda-September 21, 2010

2. Chairman's Report

- a. CAFE Liaison Report- Mr. Peter Kubik will accept this position.
- b. Homework Policy-to be added to a later agenda.
- c. Joan Daly has begun as Girls' Soccer Coach at Seymour Middle School.
- d. Mr. Strumello noted that Ms. Kelli Poulos-Huwer had not provided the board with the forms generally utilized by the district when home-schooling a child. It was determined that no standard forms were required to be presented when home-schooling a child, the board may only acknowledge that the child is receiving some type of schooling.

10-3291: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to rescind Motion 10-3270 "to acknowledge the receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program upon completion of the intent form."

SO VOTED:

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

10-3292: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to add to the agenda to acknowledge the intent of Ms. Kelli-Poulos Huwer to home school her child, Aidan Lloyd, for the 2010-2011 school year.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3293: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to acknowledge the receipt of this information and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program.

- e. Board Members Comments: Mr. Stanek requested that Ms. Mascolo provide the board with the notes from the board professional development provided by Mr. Caruso in regard to the homework policy. The board discussed the presentation of the School Improvement Plans and are hoping to see more "narrative" in upcoming presentations, citing the areas of how the schools have improved, the areas of improvement, the areas still need, what has been working, what has not. These were many of the questions directed to Mrs. Briggs, which she was able to answer for the Board. Ms. Mascolo urged the Board to consider that earlier requests had been to show data in areas of testing strengths and weaknesses and that administrators have already been working on their School Improvement Plans in that direction. It was suggested that the Board perhaps open these presentations with their questions prepared.

- 3. Superintendent's Report** Ms. Mascolo reviewed her recent and upcoming activities and meetings, including the upcoming interviews for the assistant principal position at SMS. She asked the board to consider setting up meetings for follow up of the Superintendent evaluation and approval of goals, discussion of the 2011-2012 budget process and setting up focus groups for parental input into the upcoming budget process. She noted the upcoming presentations of School Improvement Plans as well as reports upcoming on the District Data Team and Professional Development by Christine Syriac, Special Education by Nancy Snopkowski and Technology by Roberta Pratt. She referred to questions posed by the Board as to the Chatfield School Grade 5 field trip to the Big E noting the bus cost of \$400.00, 49 students and 16 chaperones in attendance and cost per student of \$8.00. She also provided the board with handouts and articles.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Request for Out of State Field Trip

Motion for Consideration: to approve the request of Mrs. Deming and Mrs. Sweeney to have Grade 10 and 12 Honors Biology and Anatomy and AP/UCONN Biology students attend a field trip to see "Bodies: The Exhibition" in New York City, NY on October 25, 2010.

Discussion: Mr. Strumello inquired as to whether any needy students would be provided for. He was assured by Mr. Freund that this would be taken care of.

10-3294: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the request of Mrs. Deming and Mrs. Sweeney to have Grade 10 and 12 Honors Biology and Anatomy and AP/UCONN Biology students attend a field trip to see "Bodies: The Exhibition" in New York City, NY on October 25, 2010.

SO VOTED:

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

B) Policy and regulation #0521 –Nondiscrimination

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of policy and regulation #0521-Nondiscrimination as recommended by the Policy Committee.

10-3295: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to approve the revision of policy and regulation #0521-Nondiscrimination as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

C) Policy and regulation #1112-News Media Relations

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of policy and regulation #1112-News Media Relations as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mrs. Flood inquired as to a board member's role if contacted by a member of the press. As a group it was decided the board member should feel comfortable to speak but to be sure to maintain the position addressed as their own.

10-3296: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to approve the revision of policy and regulation #1112-News Media Relations as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

D) Policy #1120-Board of Education Meetings

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of policy #1120 Board of Education meetings as recommended by the Policy Committee.

10-3296: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to approve the revision of policy #1120 Board of Education meetings as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

E) Policy #1220-Citizen's Advisory Committee

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of policy #1220-Citizens' Advisory Committee as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Garofolo had some questions as to the removal of the committees. The Policy Committee noted the committee had not functioned in the past few years. It was noted that committees could be put back in place if needed.

10-3297: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to approve the revision of policy #1220-Citizens' Advisory Committee as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

F) Policy and regulation #1250-Visits to the schools

Motion for consideration: to approve the revision of policy and regulation #1250-Visits to the Schools as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Garofolo pointed out that this policy contradicts the Board by-laws. Discussion was held as to whether by-laws or policy superseded. Ms. Mascolo suggested the by-laws be revised to reflect policy.

10-3298: MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec. Mrs. Flood) to table the motion to approve the revision of policy and regulation #1250-Visits to the Schools for return to the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

G) Policy #1251- Loitering or Causing Disturbance

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of policy #1251-Loitering or Causing Disturbance as recommended by the Policy Committee.

10-3299: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the revision of policy #1251-Loitering or Causing Disturbance as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

H) Policy #1312-Public Complaints

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of Policy #1312-Public Complaints as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Garofolo suggested revision of wording.

10-3300: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to approve the revision of Policy #1312-Public Complaints as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

I) Policy #1341-Placement of Signs in School Buildings and on School Grounds

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of Policy #1341-Placement of Signs in School Buildings and on School Grounds as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Garofolo noted revision of wording was necessary.

10-3301: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to approve the revision of Policy #1341-Placement of Signs in School Buildings and on School Grounds as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

At this time, Mr. Stanek noted that the changes in wording necessary were significant and that the Board should reconsider approval of this policy and remand it back to the policy committee.

10-3302: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to rescind Motion 10-3301: to approve the revision of Policy #1341-Placement of Signs in School Buildings and on School Grounds as recommended by the Policy Committee

SO VOTED:

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

10-3303: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Loda) to remand the revision of Policy #1341-Placement of Signs in School Buildings and on School Grounds back to the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

J) Policy #1416-Fiscal Authority

Motion for Consideration: to approve the revision of Policy #1416- Fiscal Authority as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Discussion: Mrs. Flood requested sentence clarification.

10-3304: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Kubik) to approve the revision of Policy #1416- Fiscal Authority as recommended by the Policy Committee.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3305: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:00 P.M. for Review of the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,
Lisa Willadsen, Clerk