



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING:
Seymour Middle School

August 16, 2010
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Fred Stanek
James Garofolo
Yashu Putorti (arrived 7:40 P.M.)

ABSENT:

Peter Kubik
James Ward

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Super. Of Finance & Oper.
Paul Roy, First Selectman
Mary Lavoie, Dir. Of Curriculum
Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
James Freund, Assistant Principal, SHS

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) RECOGNITIONS

1. Moment of silence-William Pidlipchak
2. The Yale-New Haven Hospital Auxiliary Toy Closet program acknowledges the generous and creative annual contribution of the Seymour High School Future Business Leaders of America.
3. Congratulations to Stephanie Danko and Alyssa Weymer, Senior Captains of the Seymour High School Dance Team, on their selection to perform in the 84th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 25, 2010.
4. The National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS) of Gainesville, VA and Allstate Insurance Company has bestowed National Recognition to the Seymour Public Schools "Think Again! A Pedal Kart Experience!" program for the fourth year in a row. Congratulations to Rich Kearns for his fine work coordinating this program.

B) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Carol Merlone, Superintendent of Ansonia Public Schools, dated July 26, 2010 requesting the Seymour Public School District accept students on a tuition basis.
2. Letter from MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent, dated August 3, 2010 responding to Carol Merlone's request referenced in #1.
3. Letter from Registrar of Voters, Town of Seymour dated July 8, 2010 requesting the use of space in Chatfield School and Seymour Middle School on Primary Election Day, August 10, 2010.
4. Letter from CABA dated August 5, 2010 thanking the Seymour Board of Education for our decision to continue CABA membership.
5. Memo from Mary Sue Feige, dated July 21, 2010 regarding the accommodations of the Seymour Public Library for both parents to attend the Kindergarten Transition program.

6. Memo from Mary Sue Feige dated July 21, 2010 announcing the return again this year of the Raising Readers Parent Workshop program. This program is funded by a grant provided by the Valley Community Foundation and TEAM.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Lois Peck, daughter of William Pidlipchak and a retired Seymour Public Schools, represented the Pidlipchak in thanking the Board and Mr. Stanek for the heartfelt and caring tribute and moment of silence in memory of her father.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

10-3243 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the consent agenda as presented

MOTION RESCINDED

10-3244 MOTION (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the consent agenda with Items D and J removed.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Stanek

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting-July 6, 2010
2. Special BOE Meeting-August 4, 2010

B) Ratify Staff Hiring-Certified

1. DiCenzo, Lauren-Special Education Teacher, LoPresti School, replacing Kathleen Riordan
2. Duquette, Cristina-SRBI Teacher, LoPresti School, replacing Kristen Ramadan

C) Ratify Staff Hiring-Appendix E

1. Cleveland, Brian-Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer, Seymour High School, replacing Sarah Ramey
2. Sirowich, Michael-Assistant Coach, Freshman Football, Seymour High School, New Position
3. Willadsen, David-Team Leader, Purple Team, Seymour Middle School, replacing Ernie DiStasi

E) Volunteers

1. Ramey, Sarah-Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer, Seymour High School

F) Staff Resignations- Appendix E

1. Cleveland, Brian-Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer, Seymour Middle School

G) Staff Resignations-Certified

1. Dunaj, Daniel, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Seymour High School
2. Giordano, Jamie-Principal, Chatfield School
3. Marino, Joy-Reading Consultant, Seymour Middle School
4. Turner, Brittany-3rd grade teacher, Chatfield School

H) Staff Resignations-Non-Certified

1. Pepe, Mary Lee-Secretary, Bungay Elementary School

I) Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report-July 2010

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

D) Rehire of Appendix E positions

1. Sports
2. Non-Sports

10-3245: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept Item D) Rehire of Appendix E positions for sports and non-sports positions currently in place.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Strumello, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Baker, Mr. Garofolo

DISQUALIFIED: Mr. Stanek

J) Finance Committee-August 16, 2010-removed from agenda due to special presentation from Valley Community Foundation

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

1. Student Representatives

a. None

2. District Health Report-2009-2010

Ms. Mascolo commended Joan Rinkewith along with the entire district staff for their fine work.

C) REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Athletic Committee Minutes-August 2, 2010

Mr. Putorti reviewed the details of the August 2 meeting including a proposal to initiate a middle school cross country team, the potential of returning the Athletic Director to the budget and the fledgling Seymour Sports Hall of Fame group.

b. Policy Committee Minutes-August 5, 2010

Mr. Strumello reviewed the details of the August 5, 2010 meeting including a decision to forward to the full board further discussion on the footwear regulation of the board dress code policy.

c. Finance Committee Agenda-August 16, 2010

Mrs. Flood reviewed tonight's presentation by Mr. Cohen of the Valley Community Foundation in regard to handling of scholarship funds. Mr. Belden suggested that further research would be necessary on the part of the Superintendent's office in formalizing final details especially in how the funds be maintained in keeping with the wishes of the donors. All board members agree that the foundation is an excellent idea and look forward to the results of the research.

10-3246: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) that the Valley Community Foundation for Seymour Public School Funds be added to the agenda for the board meeting of September 7, 2010.

SO VOTED:

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

2. Chairman's Report

a. **Appointment of a liaison for CAGE communications**-Mr. Strumello noted that the liaison would be responsible for receiving a monthly e-mail newsletter, encouraged to attend CAGE events and report back to the board, and report on the activities of the Seymour Board to CAGE. This position will be discussed at a later date.

b. **Board Member Comments**-Mr. Putorti expressed his pleasure at the new meeting set up. All members were in agreement.

3. Superintendent's Report

a. Items to be discussed re: Superintendent evaluation

b. Grievance filed by David Kania to be reinstated to former position at Seymour Middle School withdrawn as he obtained position in another district.

c. A new district calendar being sent home by all schools to reflect additional professional development in-service early dismissals as implemented due to impact bargaining.

d. Letter sent home to LoPresti School parents in re: AYP-Year 1 status. Details reviewed by Mrs. Syriac noted that a public school option be made available to parents allowing students to transfer to another school in the district not currently in AYP. These spaces are limited by grade and class sizes and contractual obligations and will be considered on a date and time basis with priority consideration to low income and low achieving students. Currently available in the

other elementary schools are 3 spaces in each grades K and 1, and 4 spaces each in grades 3, 4 and 5. Transportation to other schools in district will be provided as necessary. These regulations are confirmed by the state. It was noted that students should be welcomed in new schools by the start of the school year. The board was advised that CMT and CAPT scores could be reviewed online.

- e. All Board members are invited to Opening Day ceremonies on Tuesday, August 24 at the Seymour Middle School
- f. In the event the Middle School cross country team should come to fruition, Ms. Mascolo advised that Mr. Willadsen has withdrawn his intention to apply for the coaching position at the present time.
- g. A request that the board schedule 1 (one) hour prior to the October 4 board meeting to meet with Maintenance Director Wayne Natzel regarding custodial concerns
- h. The Superintendent's meetings and important dates
- i. Input regarding an article shared with the board.

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Ms. Marianne Barker has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Josiah Barker, for the 2010-2011 school year.

10-3247: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to acknowledge the receipt of Ms. Barker's form and render no opinion as the appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED:

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

B) The Superintendent recommends we do not participate in the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2010-2011 school year.

10-3248: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that we do not participate in the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification program.

Discussion: Mr. Putorti questioned what the healthy food certification program consisted of. Mr. Belden explained that it would provide food services with minimal monetary rebates in return for complying with certain state mandates. The mandates would also be imposed upon any food sales or programs provided by any clubs or organizations and could prove troublesome in some instances. Mrs. Brooks, food services director, does not recommend participation in the program.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3249: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to add to the agenda as Item G "the addition of the tutor positions at Bungay and Chatfield Elementary Schools.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3250: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to move Item F out of order on the agenda for discussion.

SO VOTED:

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

F) Seymour High School Footwear Regulation

10-3251: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to retain current footwear regulation.

Discussion: Mrs. Loda felt strongly that students should not be allowed to wear backless footwear when staff regulations do not allow them the same privilege. Ms. Mascolo noted that in compliance with a grievance staff had been granted alternative dress code considerations other than backless footwear. Mr. Stanek was impressed with the petition filed by the student

body and respected their respect of procedure in doing so and believes the board should listen to their request especially with the verification of high school administration that the backless footwear does not appear to present a safety hazard. Mr. Putorti was in agreement with Mr. Stanek. Mr. Strumello noted that athletes wear such footwear in an effort to preserve their athletic footwear and prevent the athletic footwear from damaging property.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Baker

OPPOSED: Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

10-3252: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to instruct the Superintendent to revise the regulation to allow Seymour High School students to wear “flip-flops” and backless shoes.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Baker

OPPOSED: Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

At this time, Ms. Mascolo distributed a budget “road map” to board members outlining funds that are available for reallocation in the budget. Ms. Mascolo’s recommendations for restoration were, in order, reinstatement of Athletic Director to free administration for instruction and reinstatement of tutors. Approximately \$7,213.00 remains for the reinstatement or reorganization of Appendix E positions.

Mr. Strumello reiterated the importance of the tutors especially with regard to SRBI (Scientific Based Research Intervention).

Mr. Baker felt that none of the funds should be reallocated. He believes the funds should be budgeted in the event of maintenance or other such unexpected emergencies.

Mrs. Flood and Mr. Stanek are strong proponents of the Appendix E positions citing the importance of extracurricular activities in building student character and community involvement. Mr. Stanek also noted the importance of extracurricular activities during the college application processes. He also charged the curriculum committee to review the job descriptions of the Appendix E advisors as well as reviewing the meeting schedules of the clubs. He also indicated his support of the tutor positions.

Mrs. Loda expressed agreement with Mr. Baker.

Mr. Garofolo noted he was ambivalent on the issue of the Appendix E positions citing his support if the clubs were used to promote their missions not just used as social occasions. He also noted his support for reinstatement of the tutors.

Mr. Putorti added that the job of the Board was to provide services for all students and added his support for the Appendix E positions.

Ms. Mascolo suggested the board vote on reinstatement of the Athletic Director and tutors and added that she would meet with Appendix E advisors and return to the board with alternatives. Any Appendix cuts would only be made with the advice of SHS administrators. She noted that there was no choice but to make difficult cuts when facing a 0% budget for the second year.

Mr. Baker urged the Board to exercise caution in reallocating funds keeping in mind that salary increases in the upcoming budget year are contractual.

10-3253: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Loda) to move Item D) Reinstate Part-Time Athletic Director at Seymour High School out of order of the agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

D) Reinstate Part-Time Athletic Director at Seymour High School

10-3254: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to reinstate the part time Athletic Director position with Social Security benefits.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

OPPOSED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Baker, Mr. Strumello

C) Appendix E Non-Sports Clubs

10-3255: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) to discuss and take possible action on the reinstatement of Appendix E Non-Sports Clubs.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Putorti, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda

10-3256: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to move Item G-addition of a tutor at each Bungay and Chatfield Elementary Schools for the 2010-2011 school year at a salary of \$13,055 for each position out of order in the agenda.

SO VOTED:

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

E) Cross-Country Team-Seymour Middle School – not addressed

G) To add a tutor position at each Bungay and Chatfield Elementary Schools for the 2010-2011 school year at a salary of \$13,055 for each position.

10-3257: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to add a tutor position at each Bungay and Chatfield Elementary Schools for the 2010-2011 school year at a salary of \$13,055 for each position.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3258: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Putorti) to send the charge to the Athletic Committee of recreating the Athletic Director position at approximately \$8000.00 lower salary.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Garofolo

VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION

10-3259: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to enter Executive Session at 9:10 P.M. inviting Superintendent of Schools, MaryAnne Mascolo with regard to a personnel issue.

SO VOTED:

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

The group came out of Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

10-3260: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Submitted,

Lisa Willadsen, Clerk