



MEETING MINUTES

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING: July 6, 2010
Seymour Middle School 7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Strumello, Chairman
Bruce Baker
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Peter Kubik
Fred Stanek
James Ward
Yashu Putorti

ABSENT: James Garofolo

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

Also introduced were Judith Moeller, candidate for Language Arts Consultant, LoPresti School and Teri Jones Kirkland, candidate for Library Media Specialist, Chatfield and LoPresti Schools.

I) CALL TO ORDER

Ed Strumello, chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 P.M.

II) BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A) RECOGNITIONS

1. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2010 from Seymour High School on their participation in a very successful graduation ceremony.
2. Ms. Mascolo distributed a collage of writings prepared by Bungay School students. Some discussion ensued as to providing board packets electronically in an effort to be "green."

B) CORRESPONDENCE

1. A request from a social worker to advertise within the schools.
2. A letter from the newly founded organization, Seymour Sports Hall of Fame, requesting the endorsement of the Board of Education.

III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Magri, 16 Union Street, questioned the agenda of the evening in regard to discussion pertaining to the recent graduation ceremonies at Seymour High School. She referred to answers to questions that were submitted at the June 21, 2010 board meeting.

At this time Ms. Mascolo referred to a letter from her office answering the questions that had been posed regarding safety and security procedures at the recent graduation ceremonies. She noted in her response that she had met with members of the Seymour Police Department as well as high school administration and that they will meet to review and consider revision of graduation practices.

Mr. Strumello noted that he will be assuming chairmanship of the policy committee and that the committee would be meeting over the summer to address this issue and other pending items.

Paul Roy, First Selectman, addressed the issue of polling places in town due to the upcoming construction project at Chatfield School. At this time, the town is requesting the use of LoPresti School on Election Day. Mr. Roy also noted that the town is in need of computers for some buildings and departments and requested that in the instance the schools are replacing them, that they consider donating them to the town. Mr. Belden noted that he would refer this request to Roberta Pratt, technology director.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

10-3025: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION RESCINDED

10-3026: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Stanek) to approve the consent agenda with items B) 1, 2, and 3 removed to V)

A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education meeting - June 21, 2010

C) Staff Hiring-Appendix E

1. Lindgren, Roxanne-Blue Team leader, Seymour Middle School, replacing Dina Garrow

SO VOTED:

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

V) ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

B) Staff Hiring- Certified

1. Kirkland, Teri Jones-Library Media Specialist, Chatfield and LoPresti Elementary Schools, replacing Roseanne Thornton, Step 12 Masters

10-3027: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to approve the hiring of Teri Jones Kirkland as library media specialist at Chatfield and LoPresti Elementary Schools at Step 12, Masters.

Discussion: Mr. Putorti questioned the salary differential in replacing a position at Step 10, Masters with Step 12. Ms. Mascolo advised that savings had been found in replacing a teacher resignation as well as an indicated potential savings in insurance benefits. The board recognized the credentials of the candidate as well as the high recommendations by the interviewing principals, Mrs. Briggs and Mrs. Giordano. Mrs. Loda deferred to the recommendations of the Superintendent and administration.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

2. Moeller, Judith-Language Arts Consultant, LoPresti Elementary School, replacing Darlene O'Callaghan, Step 12, 6th year

10-3028: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Ward) to approve the hiring of Judith Moeller as Language Arts Consultant at LoPresti Elementary School at Step 12, 6th year.

Discussion: The board posed some questions to the candidate in regard to her number of years of teaching. Mr. Ward questioned whether two language arts consultants would be needed with the merger of Chatfield and LoPresti Schools. It was indicated that both positions would be retained.

SO VOTED:

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

3. Zou, Marisa-Speech and Language Pathologist-All Elementary Schools, Step 4, 6th year

10-3029: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Kubik) to approve the hiring of Marisa Zou as Speech and Language Pathologist for all elementary schools at Step 4, 6th year.

Discussion: Mrs. Flood questioned the starting step of the candidate. It was noted that this was due to her Special Education degree. Mr. Putorti questioned the need for the position and it was explained that there was need due to the increasing needs of student population.

SO VOTED:

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

VI) INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A) INFORMATION

- 1. Student Representatives – None**
- 2. Valley Community Foundation**

Mr. Belden reviewed his recent meeting with representatives of the Valley Community Foundation with regard to management of scholarship funds for the Seymour Public Schools. Mr. Belden was impressed with his findings. Mr. Stanek gave a short history of the Foundation. Seymour could potentially be the first Valley School system to participate in this endeavor. Mrs. Flood offered some questions in regard to distribution of funds invested. It was decided that the charge be forwarded to the Finance Committee for further consideration. Mr. Belden will contact Mr. Cohen and Ms. Sullivan of the Valley Community Foundation to set up a date for a meeting with the committee. Mr. Stanek requested notification of the meeting as he would like to attend.

- 3. Kindergarten Reception**

Mr. Kubik questioned why the library was only inviting one parent to attend this reception for incoming kindergartners which is sponsored by the Team Readiness grant and the Seymour Public Library. It was noted that the reasoning may be due to space constraints.

- 4. Kindergarten Bus Orientation**

- 5. Revised BOE Minutes- June 7, 2010**

C) REPORTS

- 1. Committee Reports**

- Finance Committee minutes-June 21, 2010
- Residency Committee agenda-July 13, 2010

- 2. Chairman's Report**

- Staff Evaluation Timeline: August 23 was the date decided upon for the Superintendent evaluation
- Board of Education Professional Development: August 4 at 7:00 PM at Central Office was the date chosen by the board for policy development presented by CABE
- Mr. Strumello reported that he, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Baker and Mr. Belden attended a bus safety presentation by All-Star Transportation. They were enlightened by the standards and facts obtained from the presentation.
- Mr. Strumello questioned as to how CABE dues were paid. Ms. Mascolo advised that they are included in the budget.
- Board Member's Comments: Mr. Ward applauded the writings presented by the students of Bungay School

- 3. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Mascolo reviewed the details of her report including data regarding student achievement at SMS chronicling the need for the Language Arts consultant position, the Grant Commitment Notification for the Chatfield-LoPresti building project, the appointments of Ernie DiStasi as Bungay School Intern and Leslie Sojka as Chatfield School Intern, a ConnectEd message sent to all students advising of bus information now available on the school website, the reinstatement of Seymour High School as an SAT test center, a grievance filed on behalf of David Kania and the SEA, details of clubs eliminated at SHS due to budgetary constraints, a listing of positions posted from June 11, 2010, a student attendance report on early dismissal days, an update on the clean up from the June 24th fire at Seymour High. She responded earlier to the questions proposed by Mrs. Laura Lane at the June 21, 2010 board meeting. Ms. Mascolo also reviewed her meetings and upcoming activities.

The date for an upcoming Policy Committee Meeting was set for August 5 at 7:00 P.M.

At this time, Mr. Stanek inquired as to revisiting the protocol and procedures for future graduation ceremonies with the possibility of including faculty and parents in the process. The board and Superintendent expressed agreement and addressed the idea of setting a meeting date in late September.

It was noted the position of School Resource Officer would not be replaced.

Mrs. Flood referred to the Superintendent's data on attendance by students in club activities requiring Appendix E positions that had been eliminated from the budget. She noted that attendance numbers were positive and would like to see consideration of returning these positions to the budget. Ms. Mascolo requested that the Board consider waiting until all staff positions were filled prior to returning these positions. Mr. Stanek requested that the return of these positions as well as that of the Athletic Director and tutors be added to the agenda of the August 16, 2010 meeting.

10-3030: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda): to add to the agenda to rescind Motion 10-3017 of the June 21, 2010 Board of Education motion which denied the hiring of Joy Marino as Reading Consultant at Seymour Middle School at Step 12, 6th year.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Strumello, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward

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

10-3031: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to rescind Motion 10-3017 of the June 21, 2010 Board of Education motion which denied the hiring of Joy Marino as Reading Consultant at Seymour Middle School at Step 12, 6th year.

Discussion: The board was in agreement regarding the importance of the position as well as the excellent qualifications of the candidate. Mr. Kubik noted the obligations of the board in maintaining budgetary constraints. Mrs. Flood inquired as to any alternatives to funding this position from grant sources, etc. Mr. Strumello inquired as to whether it would be possible to hire a candidate with a 102 certification rather than a 097 certification in an effort to save on salaries. Ms. Mascolo noted that a candidate with a 102 certification would not be able to provide professional support to teachers. She also provided documentation at this time which verified the lack of candidates available with the proper certification. Mrs. Hamad spoke of the qualifications of the candidate and noted that she had already formed a rapport with the teachers at the Middle School. Mr. Ward inquired as to whether this position would be beneficial to SRBI students on Tiers 2 and 3, perhaps avoiding potential problems in high school. It was noted that by parliamentary procedure, the motion to rescind must pass by 5 votes or more.

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward, Mr. Strumello

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

10-3032: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) to hire Joy Marino as Language Arts Consultant at Seymour Middle School at Step 12, 6th year

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Strumello, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward

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

VII) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) To authorize the lapsing of 2010-2011 ARRA SFSF funds the Town General Fund

10-3233: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Ward) to authorize the lapsing of 2010-2011 ARRA SFSF funds to the Town General Fund

SO VOTED:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Kubik, Mrs. Strumello, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward

Mr. Putorti, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Stanek

B) Request for Out of State Field Trip-Cheerleading Coaches Ashly Scharn, Katie Dombrowski, and Stephanie Ciccone request permission for the High School Cheerleading Team to attend a field trip to NCA camp in Honesdale, Pennsylvania from August 15 through August 18, 2010.

10-3234: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Kubik) to approve the request for the High School Cheerleading team along with head coach, assistant coach and volunteer coach to attend a field trip to Honesdale, Pennsylvania on August 15-18, 2010 barring any CAS-CIAC rules that would deny summer practice.

SO VOTED:

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

C) Board of Education Student Representatives-The Superintendent recommends the appointment of Wynonna Anglace and Reba Putorti as Board of Education student representatives for the 2010-2011 school year.

10-3235: MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Reba Putorti as the student representative and Wynonna Anglace as the alternate student representative to the Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year.

Discussion: The board inquired as to how the student representatives to the Board were chosen. It was explained that they are members of the Student Council and were chosen through the elective process.

SO VOTED:

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

RECUSED: Mr. Putorti

D) To waive formal bidding per Town Charter Section 2-268 and authorize the Superintendent to utilize consortiums for the 2010-2011 fiscal year

10-3236: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Putorti) to waive formal bidding and authorize the Superintendent to utilize consortiums for 2010-2011 school year.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

10-3237: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) to waive formal bidding per Town Charter Section 2-268 and authorize the Superintendent to utilize consortiums for the 2010-2011 fiscal year

Discussion: It was noted by Mr. Belden that all large purchases would still be brought before the Board and that the bidding policy of Central Office mirrors that of the town.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3238: MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mrs. Loda) to add to the agenda discussion of the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3239: MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Putorti) to forward to the Athletic Committee of the Board of Education the issue of the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame for further investigation.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3240: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to add to the agenda the Superintendent's request to approve an intra-district transfer for R.J. Hurley, currently attending Bungay School to remain at the school he is currently attending.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3241: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the Superintendent's request to approve an intra-district transfer for R.J. Hurley, currently attending Bungay School to remain at the school he is currently attending provided parental transportation is provided.

SO VOTED:

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

10-3242: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Putorti) to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 PM.

SO VOTED:

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

Submitted,

Lisa Willadsen, Clerk