



## MEETING MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING:** June 21, 2010  
Seymour Middle School 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ed Strumello, Chairman  
Bruce Baker  
Judith Flood  
James Garofolo  
Peter Kubik  
Fred Stanek  
James Ward  
Yashu Putorti (arrived 8:00 P.M.)

**ABSENT:** Jeanne Loda

**OTHERS PRESENT:** MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Super. of Finance & Operations  
Paul Roy, First Selectman

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

Ed Strumello, Chairman called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:40 P.M.  
Ms. Mascolo introduced Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Belden.

**II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

**A) RECOGNITIONS**

1. Congratulations to Mary Deming and Kelley Garofalo and their students on their very successful recycling event which enabled them to make a monetary donation to the Boys & Girls Club in Shelton.
2. Congratulations to Kelley Garofalo for her successful collaboration with TD Bank and initiating the TD Bank Wow Zone program which teaches students about the concepts of banking and the importance of saving and making investments.
3. Congratulations to Rich Kearns and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Bungay Elementary School on the Outstanding Achievement Award they received for the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) Program. The award was issued by the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and FEMA.
4. Thank you to the Senior Mentors who volunteer their time reading with the students of Bungay School. The staff and students look forward to their presence each week.
5. Congratulations to Gohar Khan and Ethan Iott who organized Bungay School students to try and break the Guinness Book of World Records for head rubbing and belly patting. These two young men initiated this challenge and should be recognized for their efforts.
6. Congratulations to Jacob Drozd for achieving first place in the state championship Decathlon and earning All-American status with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish at the National Championships held in Greensboro, N.C.
7. Congratulations to Amanda Willette for competing in an All Star softball game held on June 19, 2010.

**B) CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Christina O'Hara to Seymour High School Science Department dated June 10, 2010 expressing her sincere gratitude for receiving the generous Olga Paidoussis Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00.

**II) PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Diane Reilly, 20 Rennay Road: Requested intra-district transfer for her children, Samantha and Brooke to remain at Chatfield Elementary School in order to attend day care at Village Strawberry Patch.
2. Stephanie Golebieski, 36 First Avenue: Requested intra-district transfer for her kindergarten child, John Rocco, to attend Chatfield Elementary School instead of home school of LoPresti in order to keep day care arrangements at Village Strawberry Patch intact.
3. Laura Lane, 117 Westfield Avenue, Ansonia: Mrs. Lane, the grandmother of a June, 2010 graduate of Seymour High School, presented a list of twelve questions along with copies of Board of Education policies in reference to activities that took place preceding the high school graduation ceremonies on June 16. She prided the students on their dignity and decorum and expressed congratulations to the honored distinguished graduate. She expressed her unhappiness at events that had taken place at the recent graduation ceremonies held at Seymour High School. Mrs. Lane's concern is that what should be a wonderful memory and celebration of her granddaughter's youth has been marred by events that might have been handled in a different manner. She urged the Board to investigate and consider their actions. At this time, the Board agreed to refer Mrs. Lane's concerns to board counsel before commenting with the intent of addressing these concerns at the next board meeting on July 6, 2010.
4. Jennifer Magri, 16 Union St.: Mrs. Magri, parent of a 2010 graduate also expressed her displeasure at the events preceding the graduation ceremony, adding that her observation included inequitable treatment of female students. She urged the board to review and reconsider policies so that graduates in future years are not subject to such treatment.
5. Kimberly Opotzner, 40 Washington Avenue: Requested intra-district transfer for her kindergarten daughter, Ella, to attend Chatfield Elementary School rather than her home school of LoPresti in order to keep day care arrangements intact at Village Strawberry Patch.

**IV) CONSENT AGENDA**

**10-3005: MOTION:** (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Kubik): to move Item VII, A to the agenda at this time.

Motion withdrawn

**10-3006: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Kubik): to move item VII, C) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Review and possible action on parent requests for intra-district transfers, to the agenda at this time.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3006: MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that all students currently holding intra-district transfers remain at the schools they are currently attending.

**SO VOTED**

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

**10-3007: MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the following students, John Rocco Golebieski and Ella Opotzner attend Chatfield Elementary School.

**SO VOTED**

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

**10-3008: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Ward): to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Romaniello children be denied intra district transfer to Chatfield School due to elevated class numbers.

Discussion: Mr. Ward questioned whether it would benefit families to have a fresh start in a new school. Ms. Mascolo did not think this would be beneficial and alluded to class sizes at Chatfield especially with the upcoming construction project.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

**ABSTAINED:** Mr. Putorti

**10-3009: MOTION:** (Mr. Ward, sec. Mr. Baker): to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to deny the intra-district transfer request for Ariana Wheeler as the classroom issue warranting the request had been addressed.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

**10-3010: MOTION:** (Mr. Ward, sec. Mr. Kubik) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to allow Nina Rosario continued attendance at LoPresti School even though the family has moved to the Chatfield district.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3011: MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Stanek) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to allow Alyson Waldron continued attendance at Chatfield School even though the family has moved to the LoPresti district.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3012: MOTION:** (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Kubik) to move Item VII, A) **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** The Chatfield LoPresti Building Committee recommends the Seymour Board of Education approve the final plans for the expansion project for the Chatfield LoPresti School, to the agenda at this time.

**SO VOTED:**

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

David Stein, representative of Silver/Petrucci + Associates, reviewed the building plans for the Chatfield LoPresti project slated to break ground in October, 2010. They are requesting the Board's approval of the plans in order to forward them to the School Bureau of Facilities to gain approval to begin the bidding process. He introduced Mr. Joe Murto, a representative of the Fusco Corp. who expressed his anticipation of the challenge of the upcoming project. Mr. Kubik, co-chair of the Building Committee commended all involved for their professional and timely manner in meeting all requirements imposed by the committee. Mr. Ward added his thanks. He questioned as to the location of the Special Education offices and was advised that the District Special Education offices would be housed at Central Office. The board questioned whether the pick up and drop off areas for parents and busses had been thoroughly researched and after much consideration the final plans are in place. Mr. Stanek asked if the Building Committee had approved the plans at their last meeting and was advised by Mr. Kubik that they had. The board was advised that the plans fit into the budget that was approved by referendum. Mr. Kubik added that the basic content remains the same. The major change since referendum is the addition of the geo-thermal heating system which is expected to offer cost savings over the use of fossil fuels. Mr. Garofolo questioned as to whether any other school systems were utilizing geo-thermal heating systems. Mr. Stein explained that this

technology has been in existence for many years and is slowly becoming more prevalent due to the increasing demand of fossil fuels. He reported that a test well had been drilled with excellent results. He added that components for the maintenance of this type of system would be readily available. Mrs. Flood inquired as to the time line and it was noted that everything is preceding on schedule with bids out by the end of August, ground breaking in October and estimated occupancy in September of 2012. Mr. Stein also addressed her concerns regarding the generator which will be in the rear of the parcel for the support of life-saving components of the building. This area will not be offensive to residences in the area. Mr. Roy questioned as to whether it would be possible to continue to use Chatfield School as a polling place in the next two election years. He was advised that this would not be possible, with parking being the major issue. Mr. Strumello was assured that the inner courtyard would be put in place and designed for grades Pre-K to 1 and that the ball field that would be razed would be fully restored. Mr. Kubik added that all funding by the state was in place.

**10-3013: MOTION:** (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Flood) **that** the Seymour Board of Education approve the final plans for the expansion project for the Chatfield LoPresti School.

**SO VOTED:**

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

### III) CONSENT AGENDA

**10-3014: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Putorti) to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

**MOTION RESCINDED**

**10-3015: MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Putorti) to accept the Consent Agenda with Items A, C and E removed to V).

**SO VOTED:**

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

### IV) ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

#### A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Board of Education meeting-June 7, 2010

**MOTION 10-3016:** (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mrs. Flood) to accept the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of June 7, 2010 with the following changes: pg. 1, II A 2. Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School-Kathleen Flood-Kane and pg. 3 –At this time, Mr. Strumello requested a brief moment of silence to recognize the passing of Mr. Art Baldwin, who was *Chairman* of the Bungay School Building Committee.

**SO VOTED:**

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

#### C) Staff Resignation-Certified

1. Cafarelli, Laura-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Bungay Elementary School

Mr. Stanek questioned at this time as to if it would be possible to replace this teacher, who is at Step 6 with the hiring of a teacher at a lower step. Ms. Mascolo felt this could be possible and could possibly save the district up to \$11, 000.00.

**MOTION 10-3016:** (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to accept with regret the resignation of Laura Cafarelli, second grade teacher at Bungay Elementary School.

**SO VOTED:**

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

#### E) Staff Hiring-Certified

1. Marino, Joy-Reading Consultant, Seymour Middle School, Step 12, 6<sup>th</sup> year

The board had numerous questions regarding this position. It was inquired of Ms. Mascolo as to the differences between a reading consultant and a reading teacher. It was explained that a reading consultant is also a teacher. This candidate has currently been working at the Middle School in this capacity under Title 1 Grant funds as well as assuming other responsibilities as well. Mrs. Syriac explained that Title 1 Grant funds would continue to fund a portion of the salary of this position. Mr. Putorti was assured that this position had been included in the 0% budget which had recently been approved. Ms. Mascolo noted that a similar position at Seymour High School had been removed. Mr. Garofolo inquired as to the evaluation process involving the reading consultant; if the consultant were evaluated in the same manner as a teacher. Ms. Mascolo explained that the reading consultants were evaluated by Mrs. Lavoie, Curriculum Director. She also noted that the teacher evaluation documentation will be reviewed in the near future. Mrs. Syriac explained that this position would be responsible for teaching 2 classes, working with and coaching teachers, and providing SRBI intervention. The position currently being held by this candidate will no longer exist with the hiring of the Reading Consultant. Mr. Strumello noted that the individual holding this position should also be able to provide some professional development to staff members that it was necessary to remove due to the budget constraints. Mr. Stanek cited that he could not support the hiring of a candidate at a higher step at this time due to the current budgetary crisis.

**MOTION 10-3017:** to approve the hiring of Joy Marino as Reading Consultant at Seymour Middle School at Step 12, 6<sup>th</sup> year.

**SO VOTED:**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Ward, Mr. Baker, Mr. Kubik

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

**V) INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

**A) INFORMATION**

1. Student Representatives-None
2. Spring Season Sport Report- Mr. Strumello inquired as to the number of assistant coaches for softball. It was noted that one position was shared by two individuals.

**B) REPORTS**

1. Committee Reports
  - a) Finance Committee- Mrs. Flood reported that the committee had met earlier this evening and approved the year end review and were prepared to present a discussion of computer bids later this evening.
2. Chairman's Report- Mr. Strumello shared his relief in the passing of the budget and noted at this time his confidence in the figures that were presented by the Board of Education was rewarded and applauded the board members for their efforts.
  - a) Professional Development for the Board of Education-The board members agreed that they would prefer to have a 2 hour training session on policy development.
  - b) Board Member Comments- Mr. Stanek inquired as to what type of policies they would be developing during this training. Mr. Strumello advised that they would provide the trainer with the substance of the policies they would like to develop. Mr. Putorti advised that he had attended the first graduation ceremony at Oxford High School and noted that all went smoothly. His feeling was that it was very similar to the types of recent ceremonies that had taken place in Seymour.
3. Superintendent's Report  
05-18-10
  - Superintendent's Weekly meeting
  - Mrs. Feige coaching session
  - Superintendent's Cabinet

- Board of Finance Meeting
- 05-19-10
  - Mrs. Goodrich coaching session
  - Mr. Freund coaching session
  - Mr. Lucke coaching session
  - Mrs. Briggs coaching session
  - Mr. Olechna coaching session
  - Mrs. Hamad coaching session
  - PAC/parents meeting
- 05-20-10
  - SHS/SMS principals meeting
  - Liaison Committee contract review
  - Mrs. Giordano coaching session
  - SHS Spring Concert
- 05-21-10
  - “Cool Schools”
  - Freedom of Information commission hearing
- 5-24-10
  - Phasing meeting for Chatfield/LoPresti building project
  - Custodians negotiations
- 5-25-10
  - Superintendent’s weekly meeting
  - Referendum vote community center
- 5-26-10
  - Sniffer dogs at SHS
  - Meeting with Paul Roy, Ed Strumello, Colleen Fries, Rick Belden
- 5-27-10
  - Custodians’ negotiations
  - SHS Awards assembly
- 6-1-10
  - Secretaries’ negotiations
- 6-3-10
  - Administrative council
- 6-4-10
  - Bungay class day

Mr. Kubik questioned as to the nature of the coaching sessions with the administrators. Ms. Mascolo explained that during these sessions administration modeled practices for their principals.

**VI) RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**B) Review and approve Personal Computer Bid #10-02**

**10-3018: MOTION:** (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Kubik): to award this bid in the amount of \$126,300.00 to the lowest qualified bidder as recommended by the Superintendent.

Discussion was held as to the necessity of the purchase of 130 computers as well as the new monitors. It was explained that the computers would be utilized in 4 classrooms, 2 at Seymour High, 2 at Seymour Middle and that 15 would be utilized by Paul Lucke’s Personal Finance State of Connecticut Innovation Grant. The specifications were organized by Mr. Lucke and the IT department to fulfill both the classroom needs and requirements necessary for the grant.

**SO VOTED**

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

**D) The Superintendent recommends the teachers who were non-renewed due to budgetary reasons be reinstated for the 2010-2011 school year**

**10-3019: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Kubik): to reinstate the teachers who were non-renewed due to budgetary reasons be reinstated for the 2010-2011 school year.

**SO VOTED**

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

**RECUSED:** Mr. Strumello

**E) The Superintendent is seeking authority to act as the Board's hiring agent during the summer months for open positions**

**10-3020: MOTION:** (Mr. Baker, sec. Mr. Ward) to authorize the Superintendent to act as the Board's hiring agent during the summer months for open positions.

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Putorti, Mr. Garofolo

**F) The Superintendent recommends approval to enroll a foreign exchange student, Alvaro Naya Alba, so he may attend Seymour High School during the 2010-2011 school year.**

**10-3021: MOTION:** (Mr. Ward, sec. Mrs. Flood): to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to enroll foreign exchange student, Alvaro Naya Alba, so he may attend Seymour High School for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Ward noted that the candidate appears to be an upstanding young man.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**ABSTAINED:** Mr. Putorti

**10-3022: MOTION:** to enter Executive Session at 9:40 P.M. inviting MaryAnne Mascolo, Christine Syriac and Rick Belden to discuss strategies and negotiations and take possible action in regard to collective bargaining (Secretaries) and to discuss and take possible action on legal issue regarding teachers impact bargaining.

**SO VOTED:**

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

The board returned from Executive Session at 10:26 P.M.

**10-3023: MOTION:** (Mrs. Flood, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the negotiated secretaries contract as recommended by the liaison committee contingent upon ratification by the secretaries bargaining unit.

**SO VOTED:**

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

**10-3024: MOTION:** (Mr. Ward, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the settlement agreement for case no. TPP-28094 (Impact Bargaining).

**SO VOTED:**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

**RECUSED:** Mr. Strumello, Mr. Stanek

**10-3025: MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello, sec. Mr. Stanek) to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 P.M.

**SO VOTED:**

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

Submitted,

Lisa Willadsen, Clerk