



## MEETING MINUTES

### REVISED

### REGULAR MEETING

Seymour High School

June 7, 2010

7:00 P.M.

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Strumello, Chairman  
Bruce Baker  
Frederick Stanek  
Judith Flood  
James Garofolo  
Yashu Putorti  
Peter Kubik  
Jeanne Loda

#### ABSENT:

James Ward

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Kristiann Kassay  
Stephanie Walsh

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Christine Syriac, Assoc. Superintendent  
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of  
Finance & Operations  
Paul Roy, First Selectman

\*\*Due to tonight's Awards Recognitions, many administrators, faculty and staff of the Seymour Public Schools were present.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Ed Strumello, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 P.M.  
Mr. Schneider's choral group provided an a capella rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

#### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

##### A) Awards Recognitions

##### 1. Principal's Awards

- a. Brianna Ouellette
- b. Jamie Yakushewich
- c. Melissa Anelli
- d. Sandra Labacz/Erin Scozzafava
- e. Aaron Pawluk
- f. Joe Perucci
- g. Mary Deming

##### 2. 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School-Kathleen Flood-Kane

3. Retiring Staff Members
  - a. Bunny Gondola-bookkeeper, Central Office
  - b. Brian Hourigan-teacher, Seymour High School
  - c. Barbara Junko-grade 3 teacher, Chatfield School
  - d. John Panasci-technology, Seymour Middle School
  - e. Lucille Robillard-secretary, Seymour High School
  - f. Sharon Rowe-media center, Seymour High School
  - g. Paul Sponheimer-Business education, Seymour High School
4. 25 Years of Service-
  - a. Jennifer Anthony-Bogue
  - b. Deborah Baldarelli
  - c. Anita Cardona
  - d. Fran Messier
  - e. Louellen Pagliaro
5. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award- Gary Freeman
6. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award
  - a. Cheryl Welch-Elementary
  - b. Ernie DiStasi-Seymour Middle School
  - c. Heather Brown-Seymour High School
7. Thomas J. Petrundy Memorial Education and Environment Award  
Rebecca Martin, Marissa Esposito and Sarah Cedarbaum
8. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award-Gina Wendland
9. Recognition of Awards Advisory Committee-Gene Coppola, Mortimer Conlon, Terri Ferrara, Suzanne Garman, Laura Stec, Ed Strumello, Kristiann Kassay and Fred Stanek
10. Recognition of Former Graduate-Matthew Deming
11. 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year-Bruce Deming
12. National Honor Society-34 new members, 21 2 year members, 25 year members—  
total membership: 80
13. High School Honor Roll Breakfast-41 12<sup>th</sup> graders, 47 11<sup>th</sup> graders, 41 10<sup>th</sup> graders,  
and 36 9<sup>th</sup> graders achieved honors
14. Middle School Evening of Honors-79 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 92 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 101 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
were honored
15. With Gratitude to Frank Warecke-for numerous contributions to Seymour High  
School and the community
16. CABA Student Leadership Awards (SMS)-Daniel Foster and Pallavi Kasturi
17. CABA Student Leadership Awards (SHS) –Kristiann Kassay and Connor Shugrue
18. Harvard Book Award-Divya Shibu
19. Yale Book Award-Lauren Almonte
20. St. Michael's Book Awards-Kimberly Ferris and Tyler Morrow
21. Wellesley Book Award-Kayla Bleau
22. Michael's Jewelers Watch Awards-Lauren Almonte and Peter Cunniff
23. Smith Book Award-Brittany Guard
24. Rensselaer Medal Award-Lauren Almonte

25. Governor's Scholar Semi-Finalist-Lauren Almonte
26. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representatives-Kristiann Kassay and Stephanie Walsh
27. Mt. Holyoke Book Award-Margaret Crocamo

The meeting was adjourned for a short break to honor the recipients at 8:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15 P.M.

B) Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Music Department staff and students on the excellent performance at the 2010 Spring Concert on May 20, 2010.
2. Congratulations to Bungay School staff, parents, and students who participated in the Shelton River-walk to raise money for the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club. A total of \$500.00 was raised.
3. Congratulations to the staff and students of Seymour High School who did an excellent job of representing the school for the Cool Schools segment of the news on May 21, 2010.
4. Congratulations to Jenna Geffert and Nicholas Giordano who were named County winners in the 2010 CHET Dream Big Award.
5. Congratulations to Jenna Geffert who had her Apollo Ohno Potato Head art displayed at "Soupstock" in Shelton.
6. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School Lady Cougars who were named the 2010 Junior Naugatuck Valley League Champions on May 28, 2010.
7. Congratulations to Katie Petroski and Courtney Hassenfeld, the winners of the annual Memorial Day essay contest. They marched in the Memorial Day parade and presented a wreath in a ceremony at the reviewing stand. They were recognized this evening by representatives of a local Seymour VFW post for their outstanding essays.
8. Congratulations to Rick Belden on being elected Vice President of CASBO (Ct. Assn. of School Business Officials)

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.

C) Correspondence

1. Chatfield -LoPresti School Building Committee minutes-May 26, 2010
2. Letter from Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education to MaryAnne Mascolo dated June 1, 2010 acknowledging our Phase 2 application for the Race to the Top grant.
3. Letter from Paul Lucke, president, SSAA (Seymour Schools Administrators Association) offering a one day furlough from each administrator for the 2010-2011 school year.

### III. Public Comment

1. Bill Kovacs, former member Seymour Board of Finance, presented the board members with an article detailing co-op insurance plans being instituted by several Connecticut towns for their perusal.
2. Cindy Dionne, 18 Carriage Dr., requested that the Board add discussion of the budget to the evening's agenda in the hopes that the information provided would dispel numerous rumors in the community concerning the board of education's budget.
3. Michele Proto, SRBI (Scientific Research Based Intervention) teacher, Bungay/Chatfield School spoke about the strengths of the SRBI program, the advantages it has provided to the students of Seymour and the necessity of keeping the program and its school teams intact.
4. Mallory Zenkus, grade 1 teacher, Bungay School reiterated the comments of her colleague as to the merits of SRBI.
5. Kristen Bruno, Administrative Intern, Bungay-stressed the importance of the teams that have been put in place for SRBI and the need to keep them intact for the benefit of the students.
6. Andrea Lund Texeira-Language Arts teacher, Bungay School-spoke for need to keep the literacy teams in place at the elementary schools.
7. Ingrid Conlon, Brooksvale Road, spoke of the successes achieved by her son in the SRBI program.
8. MarySue Feige, Principal, Bungay School-asked the Board to keep all staff intact.
9. Regina Fitzgerald, Evergreen Terrace-parent-stressed the importance to students of keeping consistency of staff in the Seymour Schools.
10. Heather Fitzgerald, Bridal Path Lane, asked the board to please take into consideration the construction slated to take place at Chatfield School if necessary to consider eliminating positions.

### IV. Consent Agenda

#### A) Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE meeting-May 17, 2010

#### B) Staff Resignation-Non-certified

1. Karen Pollard
  - Instructional paraprofessional, Chatfield Elementary School

#### C) Staff Hiring-Non-Certified

1. Kara Buell
  - Clerical paraprofessional, LoPresti Elementary School

#### D) Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report-April, 2010

10-2998: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.  
SO VOTED

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

## V. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

### INFORMATION:

#### A) Student Representatives

1. Report on Senior Picnic Holiday Hill June 4, 2010
2. Senior Banquet to be held at Aqua Turf June 9, 2010

Ms. Kassay reported that all enjoyed the picnic at Holiday Hill and were looking forward to the banquet and the activities coming up with graduation. She also thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as representative for the past year.

#### B) Connecticut Public Act 10-13-Continuation of Group Health Insurance Coverage

#### C) Health Care Reform Informational Series-Shipman & Goodwin

#### D) E-rate Online

\*\*all provided by Mr. Belden for the board's review

#### E) Sniffer Dogs Drill-Mr. Kearns reported drill was successful. Pictures provided for the board's review.

### REPORTS:

#### A) Committee Reports

1. Curriculum Committee minutes-May 26, 2010

Mr. Stanek reported that the charge of the committee was to review and recommend the purchase of textbooks at Seymour High School. Mr. Garofolo questioned as to whether e-books had been considered as a cost savings measure. Mr. Freund noted that most companies did provide them but at an additional cost. Mr. Garofolo requested that in the future with the advent of new technologies that future queries into textbooks consider e-books.

#### B) Chairman's Report

1. Board of Education Professional Development-Mr. Strumello noted that due to the current budget concerns professional development for the board has been put on hold at this time.
2. Board member's comments-none at this time

#### C) Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo deferred her report until the next meeting.

## VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A) The Curriculum Committee recommends the Seymour Board of Education approve the following textbooks for Seymour High School: The Lessons of The Viet Nam War by Gerald Starr, Chemistry 10<sup>th</sup> Edition by Raymond Chang, and The Thinking of Psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Charles Ware and Randy Ernst.

10-2999: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Garofolo) to approve the following textbooks for Seymour High School: The Lessons of the Viet Nam War by Gerald Starr, Chemistry 10<sup>th</sup> Edition by Raymond Chang, and the Thinking of Psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Charles Ware and Randy Ernst.

SO VOTED

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

B) 10-3000: MOTION: (Mr. Putorti, sec. Mr. Stanek) to take off the table the May 6, 2010 approved motion “to table further discussion of any further cuts until the budget is approved.”

SO VOTED:

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

C) 10-3001: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Putorti) to rescind the approved motion of May 6, 2010 “to table further discussion of any further cuts until the budget is approved.”

SO VOTED:

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

D) 10-3002: MOTION: (Mr. Kubik, sec. Mr. Baker) to add to the agenda a motion to discuss and take possible action on the 2010-2011 Board of Education Budget.

SO VOTED:

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

At this time discussion ensued regarding the clarification of MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement). It was the board’s opinion that enough clarification (2 written legal opinions, as well as correspondence from the State Dept. of Education) had been provided for the board’s understanding of the numbers. The board concurred that the public needs to be aware of the ramifications in the event the budget is defeated once again.

Ms. Mascolo reminded all present that the number one goal of the district is to regard the best interest and safety of its students and to save all possible jobs. She took this opportunity to review the new Budget Road Map. Following her presentation, the board presented questions and comments.

Mr. Kubik questioned whether the SRBI program would be adequately funded for the upcoming year. Ms. Mascolo explained that due to lower kindergarten numbers at Bungay School, it would be possible to share one kindergarten teaching position at Bungay with the SRBI Interventionist position at Chatfield School. She did note that the elementary principals would choose to have tutors returned to their budgets in the event it became a possibility.

Mr. Putorti asked for clarification regarding the language arts consultant positions in the district. Ms. Mascolo and Mrs. Syriac highlighted the responsibilities entailed including working with students,

coaching and supporting faculty and staff and presenting professional development. They noted that Mrs. Lavoie, Director of Curriculum, would be assisting with professional development at Seymour High School this year.

Mr. Strumello noted that although the freshmen sports programs had been added back to the budget, some savings could be possible as some schools in the NVL do not have girl's teams which would provide fewer transportation and referee costs for the girls' freshmen teams.

Mr. Kubik inquired as to the status of teachers being replaced. Ms. Mascolo noted that the budget had been crafted in order to protect as many jobs as possible focusing on the needs and safety of the students of Seymour.

Mr. Garofolo inquired as to the cost of professional development being provided in the budget. Ms. Mascolo noted the amount of \$35,000.00 and advised that a neighboring town was able to provide a professional development budget of \$180,000.00.

Mr. Baker expressed the fact that the maintenance budget had been cut precariously low and expressed his concern in funding repairs should the need arise.

Mrs. Flood asked why the late bus had been removed at Seymour High School but not at the Middle School. It was explained that although the bus was used at SHS, it was used less frequently than at the middle school.

Ms. Mascolo explained that the special assignment teacher being hired for the construction at Chatfield School would be a two year position. It is anticipated that this hire would then be able to assume a full time kindergarten position at the new Chatfield-LoPresti School. Mr. Baker noted that at the last building committee meeting, the contractor had stressed the importance of this position toward maintaining a safe, professional atmosphere during the construction process.

Mr. Kubik questioned how the duties of the athletic director would be assumed pending the loss of this position. It was explained that the duties would be assumed by the assistant principals at the high school, although this would impact their other duties, first and foremost being instruction. It was noted that the high school administrators would prioritize this position in the event funds became available in the budget.

Ms. Mascolo addressed Mr. Putorti's question regarding the stipends being provided in the high school Learning Lab positions.

Mr. Stanek addressed the removal of several Appendix E positions at Seymour High. Ms. Mascolo explained the clubs (i.e., FBLA, French Club) were not meeting on a regular basis and attendance numbers were low. Mr. Stanek and Mrs. Flood both expressed their concern that these positions should be retained; the programs reorganized; and that the importance of providing extracurricular activities for students be recognized. In the event that monies were to be returned to the budget, Mr. Baker expressed that other areas were in greater need.

Mr. Stanek directed questions as to the assumption of the athletic director position by the assistant principals in regard to time constraints. Mr. Strumello, having previously held the position of athletic director, advised that although this would not be an ideal situation, using strategies such as flex time, would help make the reorganization possible.

10-3003: MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to accept the Superintendent's Budget Road Map as amended and presented.

Discussion: The board held additional discussion regarding the return of \$30,000.00 in funds to the budget should this become a possibility. Mr. Putorti considered returning the Appendix E positions. Mrs. Loda deferred to Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Belden who advised that the elementary principals would choose the return of tutors to the budget and that the high school administrators would choose the return of the athletic director to the budget. Mr. Garofolo inquired as to whether there would be any savings possible in the hiring process to replace the grade 3 Chatfield position, the technology position at SMS or the library media position at SHS. Ms. Mascolo explained that one position was being filled by someone returning from leave of absence. It was possible that perhaps savings could be found in the filling of one position. Mr. Stanek expressed concern that the elimination of the Appendix E positions, the tutors and the athletic director would greatly affect the students of Seymour. Mr. Belden was questioned as to whether there were any funds from the current year that could be moved forward. He noted that this was not possible and added that in his twelve years with the Seymour School District this had been the most challenging budget he had faced. Mr. Strumello received clarification that with this proposed budget no teachers would lose their jobs with the exception of the athletic director. Mr. Baker urged caution to all present to be mindful that all unions had agreed to a 0% wage increase for the upcoming year, but would most likely not continue in the future.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

ABSENT: Mr. Ward

10-3004: MOTION: (Mr. Baker, sec. Mrs. Loda) To enter Executive Session inviting MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools, Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent of Schools, and Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to discuss strategies and negotiations with regard to collective bargaining.

SO VOTED

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

Ms. Mascolo urged those in attendance to let others know the information they had gained at tonight's meeting and asked anyone with any questions remaining to contact the district office at any time.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 10:51p.m.



MOTION: (Mrs.Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) Add to the agenda the approval of the custodians' contract as presented

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mrs Loda, sec. Mrs. Flood) to approve the custodians' contract as presented

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec. Mr. Baker) to adjourn the meeting at 10:53

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

Submitted,

Lisa Willadsen, Clerk