

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

November 16, 2009
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
James Garofolo 8:00

James Ward
Rhonda Geffert
Rose Marie Yitts
Jason Buchsbaum

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

Frederick Stanek
Kristiann Kassay
Stephanie Walsh
MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of
Finance & Operations

Bill Pascht, Dave Olechna, Harry Catlin, Caroline, Tom & Julia Flaminio, Liz Tift, Mary Sue Feige, Joseph Cole, Kristen Bruno, Mary Lavoie, Allison Acquavella, Kar & Ken Fusco

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:35 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Recognitions

1. Mrs. Geffert recognized the Seymour High School Girls' swim team on taking 2nd place at the NVL's.

Board Correspondence: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes –

1. BOE meeting – November 4, 2009

B. Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report July – September, 2009

C. Staff Resignations – Certified

1. Charles Carey, Grade 5 Teacher, LoPresti School

D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Sandy Guard – Part time Clerical Paraprofessional – Bungay Elementary School
2. Deborah Ricard – Instructional Paraprofessional – Seymour High School
3. Lisa Stowe – System Wide Bookkeeper – Central Office

E. Appendix E Positions

1. John Johnson – Assistant Coach Indoor Track – Seymour High School
2. Thomas Lennon – Assistant Coach (split position with Brandt Schneider) – Indoor Track – Seymour High School

F. Volunteers

1. John Panasci – Ski Club Advisor – Seymour Middle School

09-2888 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

INFORMATION

A. Student Representatives:

Kristiann told Board Members that the High School's Vietnam Class and a Civic class took a trip to French Park on Veterans' Day and two students participated by carrying a wreath up to the memorial. Mrs. Brown sponsored a drive at the high school for personal hygiene items and clothing to be brought to the VA Hospital. Mr. Glands spoke to students about the different things they did in Iraq during his last tour.

Stephanie said the Powder Puff game between the senior and junior girls with the bon fire before the game will be held on November 23rd and the Thanksgiving Football game will be a home game on Wednesday, November 25th vs. Woodland High School.

B. Blue Jeans for Babies - Allison Acquavella

Jennifer Fusco and Joanna Flaminio, from Seymour Middle School student council, made a PowerPoint presentation for Board Members explaining the March of Dimes - Blue Jeans for Babies system-wide fundraiser. The students told Board Members that staff can purchase a button for \$5.00 and get to wear blue jeans to work on November 19th. The girls said that \$.77 of every \$1.00 goes towards research.

Jennifer told Board Members that the Student Council was also able to make a donation of \$300 towards Mrs. Deming's Breast Cancer awareness drive.

C. Seymour Middle School Improvement Plan – Bernadette Hamad

Mrs. Hamad and Mr. Olechna presented Board Members with their school improvement plan. Mrs. Hamad did a quick review of where they were at the end of the 2008-09 school year. She then shared with Board Members their goals for the 2009-2010 school year. Some of the changes for this school year are extended time block in Language Arts, revisions to the curriculum, more independent reading, SRBI, Afterschool program aimed at helping students in areas that have been identified by their teachers. Mrs. Hamad will use the Literacy Coach to help teachers with instruction and model lessons.

Mrs. Hamad said from the needs assessment survey sent to parents one of the focuses will be on communication and creating a school climate where students feel empowered and safe. They have created a blog and newsletter and hope to have family nights in the future.

09-2889 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to move item VIIA Request for Out of State Field Trip up on the agenda.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

VIIA

Request for Out of State Field trip – Mr. Harvey Catlin, trip organizer, requests approval for 8th grade students to attend a field trip to Gettysburg, PA and Philadelphia, PA on April 28 through April 30, 2010.

09-2890 MOTION; (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Loda) to approve the request for grade 8 Seymour Middle School students to attend a field trip to Gettysburg, PA and Philadelphia, PA on April 28 through April 30, 2010.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

D. Enhancing Education through Technology Grant – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac told Board Members they had received a technology grant and it will be used in two ways. Teachers at Seymour High School will be trained to help students do quality research on the internet. Teacher will be able to show students what sites to go to and how to get information. The other award will be used for the entire district. Mrs. Syriac hopes to use this as a group of workshops held on Election Day and teachers will be able to choose different workshops that are of interest to them.

E. Policy Review – MaryAnne Mascolo

The following policies had been approved by Board Members at a previous meeting

0521.2 Religious Neutrality

5145.122 Search and Seizure – Use of trained sniffer dogs....on school property.

F. School Calendars and Newsletters and Newsletters

The Seymour High School submitted the Newsletter and the Pawprint – the student newsletter for Board Members' information.

REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee agenda – November 16, 2009

B. Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker acknowledged Board Members that will be leaving:

Mrs. Yitts - 10 years on the Board and Correspondence Secretary for 8 years. Mrs. Yitts served on many committees as well as was Chairperson on many of the committees.

Mrs. Geffert – 3 years on the Board and served on many committees and Chairperson.

Mr. Buchsbaum – 2 years on the Board and served on many committees

Mr. Ward – 8 years on the Board and Vice Chairman of the Board at this time. He has served on many committees and was Chairperson on several of them.

C. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo submitted her Superintendent's Report for Board Members' information.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Request for Out of State Field trip – action was taken earlier in the meeting.

09-2891 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to go into Executive Session to discuss the possible action of contract extension for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent of Finance and Facilities and to invite the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

09-2892 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the extension of the Superintendent's contract.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

OPPOSED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

The motion did not carry.

09-2893 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve a year extension on the Superintendent's contract and to negotiate a percentage increase above the 2010-2011 base salary.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

OPPOSED: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

09-2894 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the extension of the Associate Superintendent's contract.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

OPPOSED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

The motion did not carry

09-2895 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve a year extension on the Associate Superintendent's contract and to negotiate a percentage increase above the 2010-2011 base salary.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

OPPOSED: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

09-2896 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the extension of the Assistant Superintendent's contract.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

OPPOSED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

The motion did not carry

09-2897 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve a year extension on the Assistant Superintendent's contract and to negotiate a percentage increase above the 2010-2011 base salary.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

OPPOSED: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

09-2898 MOTION (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk