

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

July 6, 2009
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Frederick Stanek
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Rose Marie Yitts
James Garofolo
James Ward 7:45
Jason Buchsbaum 8:00

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rhonda Geffert

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance &
Operations

Mary Lavoie, Curriculum Director

Joe Kassay, Jennfer Batterton, Kim Leoni, Nancy Staab, Paul Sponheimer, Jessica Strumello

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:35 p.m. After the pledge there was a moment of silence for Mr. Petruny. Several Board Members made comments about Mr. Petruny's service to the Seymour School district and how they thought he was a great person who always had the best interest of the students.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Recognitions

1. Thank you to Pete Klarides for donating \$3,000 to purchase championship rings for the Girls' Softball Team.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Josh Roman, Seymour High School Boys Track for being named as the Republican-American Athlete of the week (June 10, 2009).
3. Congratulations to the NVL Scholar-Athletes, Joe Kassay and Colleen Garman.
4. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Class of 2009 on their display of maturity and sense of responsibility during the graduation ceremony on June 19th. Mrs. Loda congratulated all the administrators especially Mrs. Goodrich for their fantastic job with the graduation ceremony. She said it went off like clock-work.

B. Board Correspondence: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified

1. Theresa Dunlop – Instructional Paraprofessional, Special Education at LoPresti School

C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Heather Brown – HOPE Club Advisor, Seymour High School
2. Brandt Schneider – Pep Band Advisor, Choral Director, Seymour High School

09-3790 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the Consent Agenda with items A removed to Item V as presented.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Minutes

1. BOE Regular Minutes – June 15, 2009

09-3791 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the BOE Regular Minutes of June 15, 2009 with the following corrections: Mr. Garofolo was present and Mrs. Geffert was absent. Dennis Rozum name was misspelled.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

INFORMATION

A. School Improvement Plan

1. Seymour Middle School – Bernadette Hamad

Mrs. Hamad reviewed the Fall School Improvement Plan and showed Board Members what Seymour Middle School has done to meet their goals and what strategies they have put in place to keep making progress. Mrs. Hamad said the Language Arts strategies were in place and reading and writing occurs every day. Some CMT skills have been incorporated into the Unified Arts. Teachers have been working with CFA and targeting areas of the CMTs that need improvement. Mrs. Hamad said the teachers have also been trained on holistic scoring of prompts.

B. Report on Use of ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) Funds

1. ARRA Funds – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac explained to Board Members that the second half of the ARRA Funds are connected to the IDEA Grant from Special Education. There is approximately \$500,000 stretched out over a two year period. These funds are to be used for new programs. One program is to help students transition back to Seymour Middle School and Seymour High School. They will also work to keep students from going to an outside placement. A behavioral consultant will be available to work with student and teachers as well as having a social working available to work with the students. The students will have a room in the building and will gradually be released back to their classes. Another part of the grant money will be used for a second SRBI position to be shared between Chatfield and Bungay School.

C. Virtual High School Report – Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac gave an update on the Virtual High School. Mrs. Syriac said time management seemed to be an issue with the students. The school counselors work with the students to make sure they understand what is involved in the course and if it will work for them. The program is open to students in grades 11 & 12. All the courses are electives and not offered at Seymour High School.

D. Professional Development Report – Christine Syriac

This was put on hold until the August 2009 meeting

E. Updated Curriculum – Christine Syriac

The three elementary school counselors Mrs. Staab of Bungay School, Mrs. Leoni of LoPresti School and Ms. Strumello of Chatfield School talked to Board Members about the Connecticut State Counseling program and how it was tied with the goals of the district. The counselors explained what they taught and that they were in the classrooms twice a month.

REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee of June 15, 2009 – This meeting was reviewed during the June 15th meeting.

B. Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker said the teacher negotiations would begin on July 7th. Mr. Baker said the Chatfield-LoPresti Building committee is coming along. There is a web site that members of the town can go into to see how the building committee is doing.

Mr. Stanek brought forth an e-mail questioning why at the graduation the different honors and distinguished recognitions were not noted in the program after students' names with asterisk as has been done in the past. Ms. Mascolo said Mrs. Goodrich is aware of this and is planning different things for next year. Mr. Stanek also said he feels that a member of the Board of Education should speak at graduation.

E Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo said there has been work on the district web page and information has been moved over to the new page and tweaking is still being done. Ms. Mascolo said she spoke with Mr. Koskolowski and he will be joining them for the teacher negotiations.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

09-3794 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to add item VII C – Accept a gift check from the Superintendent in the amount of \$4,295.

SO VOTED

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

09-3796 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to add to the agenda item VIID to give authorization to the Superintendent for summer hires.

SO VOTED

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

A) Award of bid #10-01 for personal computers as recommended by the Superintendent.

09-3792 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation award bid 10-01 for personal computers

SO VOTED

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

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

B) Review and approve Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual

09-3793 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual

SO VOTED

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

C) To accept a gift check in the amount of \$4,295 representing the Superintendent's commitment to return her 2009-10 salary increase to be used for the purchase of technology.

09-3795 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the gift check in the amount of \$4,295 representing the Superintendent's commitment to return 2009-10 salary increase for the purchase of technology for students and teachers.

SO VOTED

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

09-3797 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to give authorization to the Superintendent to hire for open positions over the summer.

SO VOTED

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

09-3798 MOTION (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to go into Executive Session to discuss the Nurses' contract and discuss pending litigation and invite the Superintendent, the Associate Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and Seymour Middle School Principal.

SO VOTED

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

Board Members and all those invited entered into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

The group came out of Executive Session at 10:36 p.m.

09-3798 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the Nurse's Contract as presented.

SO VOTED

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

IX ADJOURNMENT

09-3799 MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Flood) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk