

## SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING  
Seymour Middle School

May 18, 2009  
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman  
Frederick Stanek  
Judith Flood  
James Garofolo  
Rhonda Geffert  
James Ward  
Jason Buchsbaum

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rose Marie Yitts  
Jeanne Loda

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joseph Kassay  
Allie Bachyrycz

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance &  
Operations  
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent  
Mary Lavoie, Curriculum Director  
Frank Amara, Darlene O'Callaghan, Kimberly Barton,  
Edward L. Strumello, Charles Carey, Jennifer Magri, Jara  
Ciocca, Cathleen Cohen, Monica Briggs

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:55 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Congratulations to the winners of the Community Spirit Art Contest who were featured in a newspaper article in the New Haven Register on May 6, 2009
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Boys track team on their championship in the Naugatuck Valley League Brass Division tri-meet on May 12, 2009
3. Recognition from Bruce Baker to Rich Kearns and all the emergency personnel involved in the Take a Stand event at the high school. It was a job well done.

B) Board Correspondence: Ms. Mascolo reviewed the correspondence.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. BOE meeting – May 4, 2009
2. Special BOE Minutes – May 11, 2009

B. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Scharn, Ashly – Head Coach, Cheerleading, Seymour High School

C. Staff Resignations – Appendix E

1. Kelo, Robert – Assistant Coach, Football, Seymour High School

D. Finance Committee – May 18, 2009

1. Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the Financial Management Summary ending April 30, 2009 as presented
2. Recommendation from the Finance Committee to waive formal bidding per Town Charter 2-268 and authorize the Superintendent to utilize the CREC Consortium, Connecticut Fuel Consortium, PEPPM Consortium, and the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Service Bid Awards and Contracts for purchases for the 2009-10 fiscal year

09-3764 MOTION: (Mr. Buchsbaum, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the Consent Agenda with item D2 removed as presented.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Recommendation from the Finance Committee to waive formal bidding per Town Charter 2-268 and authorize the Superintendent to utilize the CREC Consortium, Connecticut Fuel Consortium, PEPPM Consortium, and the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Service Bid Awards and Contracts for purchases for the 2009-10 fiscal year

09-3765 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve removal of words to “waive for formal bidding per Town Charter 2-268” due to being exempt from Town Charter 2-268 and therefore making it unnecessary.

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

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

INFORMATION

A. Student Representative Report

Allie to Board members about the Student Book Fair talking place on May 19, 2009. Students are encouraged to go down during study hall and English classes to receive books for suggested reading for the summer. Allie reported that Student Elections, Class elections and Student Council Elections will take place on May 20, 2009. Senior Picnic will be May 21, 2009. Students and teachers alike are all excited to participate in this activity. The event takes place at Holiday Hill and features rock climbing, pool, tug of war.

Joe reports to Board members that the School band and choir will be presenting their Spring Concert on May 27, 2009 in the Auditorium at 7:00 and all are invited. Joe also reports that on May 20, 2009 the Awards Assembly will take place. This is where scholarships and local awards and recognitions are presented to Seniors. The Armed Forces recognize Seniors who have joined the military as well.

Mr. Garofolo posed a question to both students on their feelings around the summer reading program. Allie answered that though she did not enjoy it, she benefited from it and it allowed her to keep her skills in reading in writing over the summer. She feels it improved her reading and writing skills. Joe says it's beneficial to the AP students. Personally he feels that summer is the time for other learning and summer reading is tough to complete for the student and teachers. There is no accountability and no one to help you if you have a problem. Students don't complete their work and teachers are frustrated over this. Some students don't take the initiative to grab a book and read without the problem.

B. School Improvement Plan Progress – Frank Amara, Darlene O’Callaghan – LoPresti Elementary School

Mr. Amara with the help of Mrs. O’Callaghan presented to Board Members the summary of how LoPresti Elementary School progressed through the 2008-2009 school year. Mr Amara indicated the students are struggling in the academic areas of Reading, Writing, and Math word problem and the objects of Comprehension, Vocabulary and Decoding. The goal for LoPresti students is to increase their reading comprehension strategies, including the implementation of Storytown. Storytown Benchmarks with Writing Prompts (Sept.08), DRA Levels (May 08, January 08) and Common Formative Assessments- Making Connections (Pre-Dec, Post-February) were all charted. CMT scores were not available as of yet. Most areas charted growth among students tested. Darlene O’Callaghan presented evaluations and indicators of success. She also introduced One School, One Read, a program that develops reading comprehension in students. This program helps develop a love of reading for a life time. Questions were raised on the outcomes of the DRA testing. It was agreed to revisit DRA results when June results are in. These results will be sent to the Board Members for review in September 2009.

MaryAnne Mascolo thanked Frank Amara for his service to Seymour Public Schools. Frank said he couldn’t have done anything without the expertise of the staff at LoPresti.

## REPORTS

### A. Committee Reports

1. Liaison Committee minutes – May 4, 2009
2. Transportation Committee minutes – May 5, 2009  
Mr. Garafolo requested from Ms. Mascolo that the Transportation Committee set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a transportation consortium to place a bid from Seymour, Ansonia and Derby to combine Transportation services in order reduce transportation cost. Ms. Mascolo agreed that a meeting could be set.
3. Nutrition, Health, and Safety Committee minutes – May 5, 2009
4. Finance Committee – May 18, 2009

### B. Chairman’s Report – No remarks from Chairman.

Mr.Baker opened remarks up to Board. Mr. Buchsbaum asked for an update on the memo that went out to all Seymour staff regarding turning off computer at all schools. Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Belden reported that the Custodial staff has been charged with gathering data as to what classrooms have been turning off their computers and which have not. Mr. Belden will email Mr. Buchsbaum and Mr. Garafalo the findings.

### C. Superintendent’s Report -

Ms. Mascolo wanted to invite Board Members to the Evening of Honor’s at Seymour Middle School on May, 19, 2009 from 6-8 pm. Second Expulsion hearings were postponed.

## VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A. Review and approve from the Newcomers and Neighbors of Seymour and Oxford, Inc., the donation of \$1000.00 to be used to purchase books for our school libraries

09-3766 MOTION: (Sec. Ms. Geffert, Mr. Ward) to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept from the Newcomers and Neighbors of Seymour and Oxford, Inc., the donation of \$1000.00 to be used to purchase books for our school libraries.

### SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert , Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garafolo, Mr Ward

B. Review and approve the recommendation from the Awards Committee regarding the chosen recipients of the Brumer Award, the Gallagher Award, and the Kobasa Award

09-3767 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garafalo) to accept the Awards Committee recommendation to approve the chosen recipients of the Brumer Award, the Gallagher Award, and the Kobasa Award.

SO VOTED

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

#### VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION:

09-3768 MOTION: (Mr Garafolo, ) to go into executive to discuss the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire the candidates as the principal of LoPresti Elementary School and Principal of Chatfield Elementary School and invite the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mrs. Geffert

The Board of Education entered executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the hiring of a principal for LoPresti Elementary School and Chatfield Elementary School.

09-3769 MOTION: (Geffert/Buchsbaum) to hire Monica Briggs as the Principal of LoPresti Elementary school.

AFFIRMATIVE- Mr.Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

ABSTAIN- Mr.Garofolo

09-3770 MOTION: (Geffert/Buchsbaum) to hire Jamie Gioradano as the Principal of Chatfield Elementary School

AFFIRMATIVE- Mr. Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mr. Flood, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward

ABSTAIN- Mr. Garofolo

Board of Education came out of executive session at 9:32 p.m.

#### IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

ALL AFFIRMATIVE

Submitted by  
April Judd, Clerk