

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

May 4, 2009
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Frederick Stanek
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
James Garofolo
Rhonda Geffert
James Ward 7:50
Jason Buchsbaum

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Rose Marie Yitts
Joseph Kassay
Allie Bachyrycz

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance &
Operations
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Mary Lavoie, Curriculum Director
James Freund, Paul Lucke, Cathy Goodrich, Roque Orts,
Sandy Labacz

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:40 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized the student who will be exhibiting their artwork at Inside Out – the 6th annual Seymour High School Art Student show to be held at Greenwich Workshop from May 6 to May 13, 2009.
2. Ms. Mascolo thanked Mike Gardella, Peter Lynch, John Harkins and Christa Ventura all graduates from Seymour High School who paid a visit to the students during the School to Career program to speak with students about careers in emergency services.
3. Congratulations to Lauren McLean and Aubrey Tan who were selected as Seymour Middle School's Scholar Leaders for 2008-09.

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes

1. BOE meeting – April 22, 2009

B. Staff Hiring Volunteers

1. Jeff Gilbert as Assistant Coach – Boys Baseball at Seymour High School
2. Joseph Musante Assistant Coach – Girls Softball at Seymour High School

D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified Staff

1. Jennifer Winalski – Instructional Paraprofessional – Special Education – Bungay School

E. Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report – March 2009

09-3757 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the Consent Agenda with item C removed as presented.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Brian Cleveland – Head Coach – Girls Basketball – Seymour High School

09-3758 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Brian Cleveland as Head Coach Girls Basketball at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

2. Missy Mendgyrai-Orosz – Head Coach – Girls Swimming – Seymour High School

09-3759 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Missy Mendgyai-Orosz as Head Coach Girls Swimming at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

A. Student Representative Report

Joe told Board Members that the Junior Prom is May 16th. Joe said with the small class sizes next year the juniors and seniors will probably have a combined prom. Joe told Board Members the Take A Stand day is scheduled for May 15, 2009.

Allie told Board Members that AP testing has begun – May 4th and will end on May 15th. The National Honor Society banquet will be held next Wednesday, May 14, 2009. The National Honor Society will induct several new members.

B. The Link Crew program – Seymour High School – Sandy Labacz

Sandy Labacz, Freshman Counselor at Seymour High School, made a short presentation to Board Members about a new mentoring program for incoming freshman at Seymour High School. As one of the Link Crew Coordinators, Sandy explained that the new program will help freshman feel more connected to Seymour High School. The Link Crew Coordinators with the help of about 40 pre-selected junior and seniors, known as group leaders, will go through a series of activities during orientation with the incoming freshmen. During the school year the group leaders will check in on their freshman to see how things are going. Through the use of this program Ms. Labacz hopes to create a positive environment for the freshman at the High School.

C. School Improvement Plan Progress – Cathy Goodrich – Seymour High School

Mr. Freund with the help of Mr. Lucke presented to Board Members the summary of how Seymour High School progressed through the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Freund said that in the following areas Science, Math and Reading the departments created CFAs that were based on goals in a certain area that each department felt needed to improve. The pre-assessment was administered to students in the fall of 2008 and the results were charted to see the students' strengths and weaknesses. The post assessment was administered in the spring of 2009 and again the results were charted. There was improvement in some areas and the assessments also showed areas where more professional development with the staff was needed. Mrs. Goodrich said things are progressing nicely at Seymour High School and they are on track and will be in good shape for the next site visit from the NEASC committee in 2015.

D. Federal Emergency Management Agency's promotional video

The FEMA Student Tips Emergency Planning (STEP Program) video was shown for Board Members' information. Students from Bungay School's fourth Grade, Mr. Cummings, their teacher and Mrs. Feige, the Principal were all featured in the video.

E. School calendars and student newsletters from the districted were for Board Members' information.

F. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee minutes – April 22, 2009 – were presented for Board Members' information

2. Awards Committee minutes – April 23, 2009 – were presented for Board Members' information

The Awards Committee will make the awards recommendations at the May 18th meeting.

3. Liaison Committee – May 4, 2009 – minutes were held for possible discussion during Executive Session

G. Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker said he was disappointed with the number of voters that came out to vote on the budget.

Mr. Baker said they are hoping to finalize contract for the Chatfield/LoPresti School in a week or so for both the construction manager and the architect.

H Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo said letters have been sent home to parents about the Swine Flu. The letters referred parents to the website and stated protocols that the Superintendents were directed to follow.

The Principal interviews scheduled for May 7th were moved to May 6th at 6:15. There will be an expulsion hearing on May 11th at 7:00.

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members that a letter was sent to all staff regarding shutting down their computers in their classrooms or labs every evening. She has already received positive feedback from staff on another way for the school system to be green.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Review and approve the request of Brett and Babette Lasto to have their daughter Jessica continue at Seymour High School as a tuition student for the 2009-2010 school year

09-3760 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request of Mr. & Mrs. Lasto to have their daughter continue at Seymour High School for the 2009-2010 school year as a tuition student at a cost of \$11,000

SO VOTED

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

B) Discussion and possible action on pending SEA grievances.

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION:

09-3761 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to go into executive session to discuss the settlement put forth from the SEA and invite the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

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

The Board resumed the regular session at 9:54p.m.

09-3762 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Liaison Committee's recommendation to respond

to the SEA grievances and proposed settlement agreement as presented.

SO VOTED

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

IX ADJOURNMENT

09-3763 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk