

## SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING  
Seymour Middle School

March 16, 2009  
7:30 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce Baker, Chairman  
Frederick Stanek  
Judith Flood  
Jeanne Loda  
Jason Buchsbaum  
James Garofolo  
Rose Marie Yitts

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Rhonda Geffert  
James Ward

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

Joseph Kassay  
Allie Bachyrycz

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

Mary Lavoie, Curriculum Director  
Richard Rossik, Nancy Taylor, Liz Tift, Bernadette Hamad

**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 congratulated two high school students who will be recognized at the CAS 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Banquet. Pamela Gibson will be recognized for her ability in the Visual Arts and Ryan Fletcher will be recognized for his contribution to the music program through the Performing Arts.
2. Ms. Mascolo recognized Robert Anastasio as one of 30 local scholar athletes honored for scholarship excellence and citizenship at the 49<sup>th</sup> Gene Casey New Haven County Chapter of the National Football Foundation.
3. Ms. Mascolo thanked the Seymour High School Cheerleaders for performing a CMT Pep Rally at LoPresti School.
4. Mr. Baker said he and Mr. Stanek attended the banquet honoring Coach Sponheimer. Mr. Baker and Mr. Stanek said it was quite a tribute to Mr. Sponheimer.

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

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Rossik said his son is having difficulty with his school work and he is finding it hard to help him because most of his work is done through the computer and not with a textbook. Mr. Rossik said he is not very good with computers; he is better with text books. Mr. Baker said they are heading toward using computers more and textbooks less. Mr. Baker said he is sure if asked, the principal would get Mr. Rossik help to learn more about computers so he would be able to help his son.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A) Approval of Minutes**

BOE Meeting – March 9, 2009

**B) Staffing Hiring – Appendix E**

Steve Tilki – Boys Baseball Coach Seymour Middle School

**C) Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

Michael Collins – Girls Basketball Coach at Seymour High School

D) Nutrition Services

Financial Report – February 2009

E) Finance Committee report moved to item V

09-3727 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the consent agenda with item E Finance Committee report removed.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

A) Finance Committee – March 16, 2009

1. Financial Management Summary Ending February 2009

09-3728 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the Financial Management Summary.

SO VOTED

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

09-3729 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Buchsbaum) to add to the agenda items VIIIf – Middle School field trip, VIIg – High School field trip and item VIIh Volunteer Baseball coach

SO VOTED

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

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

A) Presentation – SyAM Power Management Software

Mr. Michael Mazzariello from SyAM Power Management Software made a presentation to Board Members as to how the SyAM Software would benefit the Seymour Public Schools. The power management software would automatically shut down PCs and reduce desktop energy costs by 30% - 40%. The district would also see a savings through the CL&P CEEF program. Robert Miller of the New Cannan Public Schools and a resident of Seymour is a user of this product and said the New Cannan Public Schools has seen a savings in the cost of utilities with this program. Board Members asked Mr. Belden to see what savings they would see if desktops and printers were shut down throughout the schools systems manually or through the current system without spending money on new software.

B) Student Representatives Report

Joe told Board Members that the senior semi held on Friday night went smoothly. There were about 200 students in attendance.

Allie told Board Members there would be Students vs. Teachers Volleyball Tournament on March 18, 2009 at the High School. The cost is \$5.00 adults and \$3.00 for students. The money raised will go towards cancer research. Allie also said the Mr. Seymour contest would be held on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. The students will be judged in the following categories – swim suit, formal wear and talent. It is a fun event and five other valley schools will participate in the Mr. Valley Competition coming up.

09- 3730 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to move items VIIIf and VIIg up on the agenda

SO VOTED

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

Item VIIIf - Seymour Middle School extended day trip to the Bronx Zoo in New York

09-3731 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the request of the Blue and Red team at Seymour Middle School for an extended day trip the Bronx Zoo in New York.

SO VOTED

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

Item VIIg – Seymour High School trip to West Point – Hyde Park, New York

09-3732 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the request of Seymour High School to take an extended day trip to West Point in Hyde Park, New York.

SO VOTED

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

C) School-Based Practices Profiles – Nancy Snopkowski

Mrs. Snopkowski, Director of Special Education and Deborah Baldarelli, Inclusion Facilitator, presented to Board Members the comparison of results of surveys done during the 06-07 and 07-08 school years. The surveys were completed by facility and parents of the special education students. Mrs. Snopkowski and Mrs. Baldarelli said the survey spoke to three tiers – Initiation, Implementation and Institutionalization. The results showed that there had been growth in all of the schools.

D) Committee Reports

The Athletic Committee met on March 9, 2009 – this meeting was covered during the March 9, 2009 regular Board of Education meeting.

Finance Committee agenda – March 16, 2009 – no actions required

E) Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker said there is the potential for a couple of budget proposals 1) to go with zero increases and have a .25mil increase in taxes or 2) lower the current budget by \$330,000 to have a zero tax increase. Mr. Baker said not to come up with that budget proposal for # 2 unless told to do so by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Garofolo asked about damage done by snow plows to curbing at the High School. He wants to know who is responsible for fixing the damage. Mr. Belden said he would ask Mr. Natzel to follow up with the town to see who is responsible for fixing the damage.

F) Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo said she had attended the Finance Board's meeting along with Mr. Belden and Mrs. Syriac. Mr. Koskolowski said he would like to see a zero tax increase and the Board of Ed will need to lower their budget. Ms. Mascolo said on March 19<sup>th</sup> the Board of Finance would be discussing the Board of Education's budget. Ms. Mascolo also pointed out to Board Members Mr. Miller's ideal of looking at what is best for the students of his district. She said that seems to be the culture that district has.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Review and accept the contract ratified by the Paraprofessionals Union

09-3733 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Buchsbaum) to ratify the paraprofessionals bargaining unit contract for 2008-2011 as negotiated by the Liaison Committee

SO VOTED

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

B) Review and approve the proposal to install an Athletic Scoreboard.

09-3734 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the Army National Guard's proposal to advertise (per Board Policy) on a scoreboard provided and owned by them at the High School softball field, with the condition that the arrangement for advertising can be terminated at the request of either party and the Army National Guard would remove their scoreboard.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Yitts

C) Review and approve proposal for Student Accident and Athletic Insurance for the 2009-2010 school year.

09-3735 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Bollinger Insurance, Short Hills, New Jersey, for Student Accident and Athletic Insurance for the period beginning

09/01/09 and ending 08/31/10. The annual cost of insurance shall be \$17,632.00.

SO VOTED

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

D) Review and approve an out of state field trip request from Ms. Stephanie Ciccone to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to the New England Regional Competition at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH.

09-3736 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the out of state field trip requested by Ms. Stephanie Ciccone to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to the New England Regional Competition at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH

SO VOTED

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

E Review and accept the proposal from SyAM Energy Management Software

09-3737 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) Recommend to the full board to waive formal bidding and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Integrated Financial Systems for the SyAM Power Management software per their proposal dated January 15, 2009 and utilize payment option 2 (pay over two budget years). Further, to authorize the Superintendent to apply for funding through the CL&P CEEF program.

MOTION DID NOT CARRY

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

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

VIIh Staff Hiring

Christopher Lampart – Volunteer Boys Baseball coach – Seymour High School

09-3738 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve Christopher Lampart as Volunteer Baseball Coach at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

IX ADJOURNMENT

09-3739 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek  
The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Submitted by  
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk