

## SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING  
Bungay School

March 9, 2009  
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman  
Frederick Stanek  
Judith Flood  
Jeanne Loda  
Rhonda Geffert 8:15 p.m.  
Jason Buchsbaum  
James Garofolo  
James Ward  
Rose Marie Yitts

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joseph Kassay

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Mary Lavoie, Curriculum Director

Mary Sue Feige, Kristen Bruno, Edward Strumello, Jay Hatfield

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:30 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Mike Godette and Jess Braccia on their auditions for the All-State Music Festival. Jess Braccia made the final cut and will be performing as part of the All-State Concert Choir.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Seymour High School Indoor boys and girls track teams for their outstanding effort. The boys' team brought home the Class M Championship.
3. Carmella Burns, a parent volunteer from Bungay School, has been recognized by CAS for their Parent-Volunteer Recognition Award.
4. The Grade 2 students in the district were presented a program on when to call 911 by Mr. Kearns, Seymour PD Youth and Community Police Divisions and Griffin Hospital Valley Parish Nurses.
5. Student in Grade 11 & 12 saw a presentation from the nationally recognized "Making the Right Choices Teen Safe Driving Program.
6. Ms. Mascolo called to Board Members attention that the parents of Oxford students purchased a full page ad in this year's yearbook thanking everyone on behalf of the last Oxford students to attend Seymour High School.
7. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Jillian Murphy, a Grade 5 student from Bungay School, for qualifying for the state finals of the National Geographic Bee.
8. Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Stanek said the Beatles show at the High School was outstanding. Mr. Letts did a great job with the students.
9. Mr. Baker said the Cheerleaders won their competition on Saturday night.
10. Mr. Kassay said 5 students qualified for Indoor Track Nationals and one student will be going to Boston for the New England Regionals with his high jump.
11. Mr. Stanek mentioned that another member of the Seymour School District had passed away and asked for a moment of silence for Erin Coughlin.

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. BOE Meeting – February 2, 2009

B. Staffing Hiring – Non-Certified

1. Julie Horan, Instructional Paraprofessional – Special Ed at Chatfield School
2. Jill Soricelli, Instructional Paraprofessional – Special Ed at Bungay School
3. Connie Wolfe, Instructional Paraprofessional – Special Ed at Bungay School

C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Missy Orosz, Interim Boys & Girls Swim Coach at Seymour High School
2. Tom Lennon, Boys Football Coach Seymour High School

D. Volunteers

1. Patrick DiCaprio, Interim Statistician Boys & Girls Swim Team at Seymour High School

E. Staff Resignations – Certified

1. Tammy Magnano – Special Ed Teacher at LoPresti School
2. Carol Upshur - Math Teacher at Seymour Middle School
3. Kathryn Van Stone – Science Teacher at Seymour High School

F. Staff Termination – Non-Certified

1. Josephine Guliuzza – Instruction Paraprofessional at Bungay School

09-3716 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) move to remove item D2 and approve the remainder of the consent agenda.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Volunteer

1. Shelby Slie, Pitching Coach Girls Softball Team at Seymour High School

09-3717 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the minutes of the Special BOE meeting held on January 15, 2009 as corrected.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Geffert

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

A) Student Representatives Report –

Joe said the Volleyball Tournament will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The money raised will go to benefit local cancer patients. The Mr. Seymour Contest will take place on March 20<sup>th</sup> and proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. The HOPE Club is also selling 1,000 Cranes for Mrs. Paidoussis during lunch.

Joe said the boys Indoor Track team won NVL's on February 17<sup>th</sup> and they went to the Indoor Track State Championships on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The Wrestling team 4 students went to the State Opens and 1 student went to the New England Regionals.

Joe said the Beatles show that the students put on at the High School was phenomenal. Joe also said the Senior Semi will be held on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Waterview.

B) Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met on February 2, 2009 – there was nothing to report

The Awards Advisory Committee met on February 3, 2009 – there was nothing to report

The Athletic Committee met on March 9, 2009 – Mr. Stanek said the committee would like the full board to vote on retiring Coach Sponheimer's # 87 Jersey as a tribute to the Head Football Coach.

09-3718 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Flood) to retire Jersey #87 as a tribute to Coach Sponheimer.

SO VOTED

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

C) School Calendars and Newsletters

The district school calendars and newsletters were submitted for Board Members' information.

D) Chairman's Report

Mr. Baker said the Chatfield Building Committee would be meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee will be selecting an architect and a construction manager to recommend to the Board of Selectmen on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

E) Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo said she spoke with Ms. Danka from the Board of Finance. Mr. Koskolowski will be presenting to the Board of Finance his budget. Ms. Mascolo, Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Belden will attend this meeting. The Board of Education's budget will be reviewed sometime in the next two weeks. Ms. Mascolo said the positions that have been posted are replacement position and have been accounted for in the budget presented to the Board of Finance.

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members that several Wrestling parents called. They would like to gift to the Board an amount of money needed to run the Wrestling Program again.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Review and approve the request of the Athletic Director to have Dara Sok, Jr. represent Seymour High School as a team of one in Boys Tennis with Woodland High School pending their board's approval.

09-3719 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mr. Ward) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request to have Dara Sok, Jr. represent Seymour High School as a team of one in Boys Tennis with Woodland High School.

SO VOTED

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

B) Approve the request of the Athletic Director to have possibly three students represent Seymour High School as a team of one in Boys Golf with Ansonia High School pending their board's approval.

09-3720 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the request to have Joe Toth, Christopher Ringeback and a possible third student represent Seymour High School as a team of one in Boys Golf with Ansonia High School.

SO VOTED

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

A) Approve an out of state field trip request from Mr. Knecht to take Concert Choir, Concert Band and Chorale to Trills and Thrills Music Festival in Agawam, MA.

09-3721 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the out of state field trip request of Mr. Knecht to take Concert Choir, Concert Band and Choral to attend the Trills and Thrills Music Festival at East Longmeadow High School, East Longmeadow, MA and Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA.

SO VOTED

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

- B) Approve an out of state field trip request from Mr. Knecht to take Concert, Choir, Concert Band, Chorale and Music Theory class to see the Phantom of the Opera in NYC.

09-3722 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the out of state field trip requested by Mr. Knecht to take concert Choir, Concert Band, Choral and Music Theory class to attend a performance to the Phantom of the Opera at the Majestic theatre, in New York City, NY.

SO VOTED

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

- C) The Superintendent is recommending the non-renewal of two non-tenured teachers (Joel Knecht and Brian Cleveland) at the end of the 2008-09 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. This recommendation has been made due to the loss of position to another teacher and no other available positions for which these teachers are certified and qualified and budgetary considerations.

The following motions made by Board Members are made due to the budget and with regret.

09-3723 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Joel Knecht and Brian Cleveland at the end of the 2008-09 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Joel Knecht and Brian Cleveland and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut general Statutes Section 10-151.

SO VOTED

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

- D) The Superintendent will recommend the non-renewal of nine non-tenured teachers (Megan Kinsman, Daniela Librandi, Megan McDonough, Noelle Milano, Kristen Ramadan, Kathleen Riordan, Rebecca Trzaski, Frank Warecke and Kristine Yoxall) at the end of the 2008-09 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. This recommendation has been made due to the elimination of position based on budgetary considerations.

09-3724 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Ward) Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Megan Kinsman, Daniela Librandi, Megan McDonough, Noelle Milano, Kristen Ramadan, Kathleen Riordan, Rebecca Trzaski, Frank Warecke and Kristine Yoxall at the end of the 2008-09 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to of Megan Kinsman, Daniela Librandi, Megan McDonough, Noelle Milano, Kristen Ramadan, Kathleen Riordan, Rebecca Trzaski, Frank Warecke and Kristine Yoxall and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151.

SO VOTED

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

- E) The Superintendent will recommend the termination on one tenured teacher (David Kania) at the end of the 2008-09 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. This recommendation has been made due to the loss of position to another teacher and there is not another position for which he is both certified and qualified in the Seymour School system and other due and sufficient causes, more specifically budget considerations.

09-3725 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Seymour Board of Education terminate the teaching contract of Mr. David Kania at the end of the 2008-09 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the board in writing to David Dania and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151.

SO VOTED

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

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

IX ADJOURNMENT

09-3726 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by  
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk