

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Paul E. Chatfield School

January 20, 2009
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rose Marie Yitts

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Frank Amara, Patricia Sabatini, Mary Lavoie, Cathy & Samantha Katrenya, Mary Sue Feige, Kim Keegan Turlis, Sue Dowdell, Kelly Lubanda, Pat & Frank Lubanda, Rebecca & Kiersten Sirowich, Kristen & Anthony Bruno, Jillian & Karen Murphy, Bernadette Hamad, Edward L. Strumello

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Baker asked for a moment of silence for Loraine Petrocelli a paraprofessional from Chatfield School.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Kristen Rychalsky, Valedictorian, Class of 2002 at Seymour High School, on receiving her doctorate degree from Connecticut School of Pharmacy where she was also the Valedictorian.
2. Ms. Mascolo thanked the Seymour High School Cross Country team who picked up 8 bags of litter from the roads around the high school where they usually run.
3. Ms. Mascolo recognized Jess Braccia, Ryan Fletcher, Michael Godette and Alex Rice on their auditions for the Southern Regional Music Festival. They will be performing on January 17, 2009.
4. Ms. Mascolo recognized Christine Cretella as the athlete of the week.
5. Ms. Mascolo thanked the Valley Parish Nurses

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Strumello asked for an update on the Chatfield/LoPresti school. Mr. Baker said of the 15 architects that applied 4 were selected for the committee to interview. This is also true of the 10 construction managers. They will read the proposals and come back with four to be interviewed. Mr. Baker said he is very optimistic and things are going very well.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special BOE Meeting January 5, 2009, 1:30 p.m.
2. Special BOE Meeting January 5, 2009, 3:40 p.m.
3. Special BOE Meeting January 5, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
4. Special BOE Meeting January 7, 2009
5. Special BOE Meeting January 8, 2009
6. Special BOE Meeting December 16, 2008

B. Staff Resignation – Certified Staff

1. Pam Finkle – Teacher – Seymour Middle School
2. Regina Fischer – Teacher – Seymour Middle School
3. Lois Peck – Reading Specialist – Seymour Middle School/Chatfield School

C. Nutrition Services

1. Financial Report – November, 2008

D. Finance Committee – January 20, 2009

08-3699 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

A) Approval of minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – December 15, 2008

Mr. Stanek said there was a spelling error in the minutes – page 2 it was Mr. Harkins that made comments during the public comment portion of the meeting

08-3700 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Loda) to approve the minutes of December 15, 2008 as corrected.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Buchsbaum

B) Staff Resignations

08-3701 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add to the staff resignations to accept the resignation notice with regret.

SO VOTED

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

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

A) People to People Trip to Australia – Aubrey Tan, Grade 8, Seymour Middle School

Aubrey Tan told Board Members of his trip to Australia through the People to People Program. Aubrey was the Student Ambassador to Australia. He said it took about nine months to prepare for the trip. Each month the students that had been selected for the trip had a meeting and learned about the money, traveling, safety issues and food. The students had to fund the trip themselves. Aubrey said he learned the art of Bonsai from his Grandmother and used this to earn money for his trip. The three week trip took him through many parts of Australia. He said he saw the Great Barrier Reef, a wildlife sanctuary, he hand fed a dolphin. They stayed on a farm in the outback, visited the aborigines who taught them music and how to throw a boomerang. Aubrey showed Board Members his souvenirs.

B) Student Representatives Report - NONE

C) School-wide Read – Sue Dowdell, Library Media Specialist, Bungay School

Mrs. Dowdell and several students from Bungay School told Board Members of their school-wide read “The Tales of Desperaux”. The students in fifth grade had a video conference with students from a school in Danbury that was reading the same book. Anthony Bruno explained to Board Members of the game his class in second grade had made. The students wrote questions about the book and the other students had to answer

them to move on the board. Three students from Grade three told Board Members how their class used visualization to redraw a scene from the movie. The students also did a chart where they showed comparisons and contrasts between the movie and the book. Two students from the fifth grade showed the posters they had made of different characters showing their character traits. Mrs. Dowdell said reading the book brought the school together and made students excited about reading. She is looking to do another school-wide read after the April vacation.

Mrs. Loda said she has attended the Bungay School concert at the Middle School the other day. She said Miss King does a fantastic job. The students were wonderful.

D) Curriculum

Mrs. Syriac showed Board Members the new Science Forensics text books the Middle School is asking permission to purchase. Mrs. Hamad said the 8th grade students would study this unit during the last quarter. She is hoping the excitement the students get from this unit will continue into high school. Mrs. Syriac told Board Members that this is a highly engaging science unit for all 8th grade students.

E) Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met on December 15th and January 20th there was nothing to report
The Liaison Committee met on December 16th there was nothing to report

F) School Newsletters and Calendars for January, 2009

The district schools submitted their calendars and newsletter for Board Members' review.

G) Student Newsletter

The Seymour High School student newsletter, The Pawprint, December 2008 issue was submitted for Board Members' information.

H) Chairman's Report

Mr. Baker showed Board Members the program from the Golden Trowel Award with pictures of Seymour Middle School.

Mr. Garofolo told Mr. Baker of the snowmobile tracks on the practice field at the high school. Mr. Belden said he would look into this and have the police monitor the fields. Mr. Garofolo asked about the bus run for Bungay Road for the High School students. He asked if the bus that picks up students at 6:45 a.m. was managing its time. Ms. Mascolo said she would look into the matter. Mr. Garofolo also asked about the attempted robbery of gasoline at the bus company. Mr. Belden said this was a police matter.

Mr. Baker said they would be looking into the letter from Chief Metzler.

Mr. Baker said for the Finance Committee meeting the tentative time for Board Members to attend is 8:00 p.m.

I) Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mascolo said she received a letter about the fundraiser at Seymour High School where the proceeds will go to the Cancer Society this was for the Boards' information.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) Review and approve Ansonia High School Athletic Director, Luba Soldra's request to have two students participate on Seymour High School's wrestling team as a one man team.

08-3702 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Ansonia High School students, Nick O'Connor and Dennis Danley participation on Seymour High School's wrestling team as a one man team.

SO VOTED

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

B) Review and approve Seymour Middle School's Middle School's Textbook request for the purchase of a text book entitled "Forensic Science".

08-3703 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase of the textbook entitled "Forensic Science" as requested by Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

C) Review and approve Seymour High School's request to raise the yearly student parking fee from \$20 to \$180 for a full school year and a \$90 fee for students who want to obtain a parking permit during the second half of the year.

08-3704 MOTION: (Mr. Buchsbaum, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Administrators' recommendation to approve the increase in student parking fees at Seymour High School from \$20 to \$180 for a full school year and a \$90 fee for students who want to obtain a parking permit during the second half of the year.

SO VOTED

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

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

08-3705 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to add early retirement incentive plan extension as item VIID to the agenda.

SO VOTED

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

DISQUALIFIED: Mr. Stanek

D) Early Retirement Incentive plan extension

08-3706 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the early retirement incentive plan to February 23, 2009.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

IX ADJOURNMENT

08-3707 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk