

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

December 1, 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Frederick Stanek
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Rhonda Geffert
Jason Buchsbaum
James Garofolo
James Ward 8:00

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Rose Marie Yitts
Joseph Kassay
Allie Bachyrycz

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance &
Operations
Mary Lavoie, Director of Instruction
Kristen Bruno, Edward Strumello, Roque Orts,
Jay Brennan

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:35 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions:

1. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Seymour High School Girls Swim Team on their success at the Class S Swim Championships.
2. Ms. Mascolo congratulated David Ponce for being named Athlete of the Week representing Seymour High School Boys Soccer.
3. Ms. Mascolo said she attended a CAS recognition banquet for grades 2 and 5 from Bungay School. They were recognized for their work with the Sister School Project.
4. Mr. Baker congratulated the Seymour High Boys Soccer Team on their successful season. He also congratulated Allie Bachyrycz for her record setting swim.
5. Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Willie Anglace, a Seymour School system bus driver. Willie will be missed.

B) Board Correspondence: Mr. Baker reviewed the correspondence.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of BOE Minutes - November 17, 2008

08-3687 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

A) Student Representatives Report

1. Joe told Board Members the bonfire and powder puff football game has been postponed to December 3rd. The bonfire is at 6:00 and the powder puff football game is scheduled for 6:30p.m.

Joe told Board Members that the Student Council is running a Winter Dance to be held on December 13th.

Allie told Board Members about “Meet Seymour High School” to be held on December 4th. Allie said Eighth Grade students and their parents come to the school to learn about Seymour High School. Students from the National Honor Society give them tours of the building.

B) Curriculum

1. Mrs. Jay Brennan gave Chatfield’s School Improvement Plan presentation for Board Members. Mrs. Brennan said this was a collaborative effort with her staff. The teachers have a stake to make sure all students are learning. They looked at the CMT scores through the years 06, 07 and 08 the students at goal. They were looking for 80% of the students at goal. Then they looked at the cohort scores – measuring the same groups of students over the years. They also looked at DRA scores over the years and the new Story Town benchmarks. What they found was that reading scores seem to be the issue. The team took the CMT’s in reading apart and looked at the different strands. They noticed growth in some areas. Through their discussions the teachers found that a grade level or a teacher may be using a technique in teaching one strand that is working very well that could be used in teaching other strands to help with student understanding. The teachers will be using CFA (Common Formative Assessments) pre assessments and post assessments in reading to determine that the students are moving forward in the areas of concern.
2. Mr. Freund and Mr. Lucke reviewed with Board Members the new class proposals for 2009-10 at Seymour High School. The proposed new classes are Personal Finance for grades 10-12 (semester course), Developmental Band for all grades (full year course) and Music History for grades 11-12 (semester course). Mr. Freund explained some of the changes to courses that they are planning on making for the 2009-10 program of studies. Mr. Freund and Mr. Lucke also explained to Board Members the courses that are to be removed from the program of studies. These courses are Advanced Business Computer Applications, Economics, Entertainment Marketing, Keyboarding, Marketing Trends and Tools I-III.

C) Committee Reports

1. The Finance Committee met on November 17th no action was required.

D) Valley Regional Adult Education

Ms. Mascolo attended the Superintendents’ Meeting held at the Valley Regional Adult Education and brought the presentation packet back for Board Members’ information.

E) Newspaper Articles

Newspaper articles were provided for Board Members’ information

F) Chairman’s Report

Mr. Baker said he checked the web site for the Finance Committee meetings. The Finance Committee is looking at a zero budget.

Mrs. Geffert asked how the search for the Principal at LoPresti is going. Ms. Mascolo said there is a small pool of applicants. They are looking for a strong instructional leader and it will be an entire day event for the candidates.

Mr. Stanek said since Coach Sponheimer was retiring a tribute to Coach would be nice. They could do three minutes at half-time, but Mr. Stanek said Mr. Sponheimer does not want this type of venue. Mr. Baker said tomorrow (December 2nd) is the first play-off game it is against Rocky Hill and will be played at home.

G) Superintendent's Report -

Ms. Mascolo said she received a letter from Chief Metzler regarding the canine unit running drug checks at Seymour High School. Ms. Mascolo said she feels a policy must be in place before any searches can take place. Mr. Garofolo asked how much of a priority should they make this. Ms. Mascolo said they need to have a firm policy in place. Mr. Baker said it was a high priority. Mr. Stanek thought it is a good thing they can search a person or a car. Mr. Buchsbaum said to proceed cautiously. They need to have a full evaluation of the policy as well as legal opinions.

VII RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A) School Calendar 2009-2010

The Superintendent submitted for Board approval the 2009-2010 school calendar.

08-3688 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar.

SO VOTED

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

B) BOE Meeting Schedule 2009-2010

08-3689 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Board of Education meeting schedule.

SO VOTED

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

08-3690 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add item VIIC Renewal of CL&P ISO Demand Response Program.

SO VOTED

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

08-3691 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add to the agenda as item VIID the approval of the three new courses submitted Seymour High School administration.

SO VOTED

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

C) Renewal of CL&P ISO Demand Response Program

08-3692 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) To authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Connecticut Light and Power to participate in the ISO – New England 30 Minute Demand Response Program for the period of January 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011.

SO VOTED

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

D) Approval of Three new Courses at Seymour High School

08-3693 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the following three new courses as submitted by Seymour High School administration: Personal Finance- grades 10th – 12th; Developmental Band – All grades; Music History – grades 11th and 12th.

SO VOTED

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

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

IX ADJOURNMENT

08-3694 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Ward) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk