

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

August 18, 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Frederick Stanek
Jason Buchsbaum
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Rhonda Geffert
Rose Marie Yitts

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
James Ward

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance &
Operations
Paul Sponheimer, Kathy Guerra, Kristen Bruno

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:32 p.m.

RECOGNITION:

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized Abigail Furfaro, Fifth Grade Student from Bungay School, for her work in setting up a bottle and can drive for her friend Mia Zito who is undergoing treatment for advanced melanoma.
2. Congratulations to Mr. Kearns for obtaining a \$900.00 grant from Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to support the High School's "Take a Stand" program.
3. Seymour's "Take a Stand Day/Making the Right Choices!" program was one of fifty programs across the nation to receive the National Organization for Youth Traffic Safety.
4. LoPresti School will pilot a program along with 29 other schools across the six New England states. The program called STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning) will be implemented this school year.
5. Mike Roy and Sean Simoneau visited Washington DC as participants in a youth leadership program.

08-3629 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 16, 2008 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Ward

08-3630 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on August 7, 2008 as presented.

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence.

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Mr. Sponheimer asked Board Members if the Public Comments were edited. Mr. Baker said sometimes the comments are too long and are summarized. Mr. Sponheimer said it seemed like that had happened at one of the previous meetings to comments he made. Mr. Baker said that was not the intention.

V. DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Seymour High School Newsletter – Mrs. Goodrich, Principal of Seymour High School, submitted the High School newsletter for Board Members' information.
2. Curriculum review and update – Mary Sue Feige and Christine Syriac gave Board Members' an update of where they are with the current curriculum. Mrs. Syriac has been working with the High School and Mrs. Feige has been working with the teachers at the Elementary and Middle School levels.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report – NONE

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker told Board Members of the Chatfield Building Committee meeting with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. They are hoping to schedule a referendum for the second week in October the target date is October 7th. They will be bringing to the town a proposal for a combined Chatfield/LoPresti School. Mr. Stanek said it is important to communicate to the public even though it is a larger school the objective of the Board of Education is to maintain class sizes. Mr. Baker said the school is designed around class sizes, it will save the town money and they will get the students of LoPresti into a new school earlier.

The Superintendent's performance review has been set for September 24 at 7:00 at Central office.

VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Athletic Committee met on July 17th. Mr. Stanek reported on this meeting. The committee discussed "Pay for Participation" for sports and decided to study this further before bringing it to the full Board in November. The Athletic Committee will meet again September 4th at 7:00.

The Facilities Committee met on July 17th. Mr. Ward gave Board Members an update from this meeting.

The Finance Committee met on July 17th and August 18th. Mr. Ward reviewed both meeting with Board Members.

08-3631 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the proposed line item transfers from 6/30/08 totaling \$596,481.00.

SO VOTED

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

08-3632 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to authorize the Superintendent or their designee to enter into an agreement with ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company for the provision of Third Party Administrator Services for the Seymour Board of Education 403 (b) Tax Sheltered Annuity program.

SO VOTED

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

VId Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo said Chatfield School has 34 Kindergarten students registered for this year and she would like to have one full day Kindergarten with 17 students and 1 ½ day Kindergarten with 17 students. She would use the same standards as LoPresti School.

Ms. Mascolo said Mr. Kearns asked about raising the parking fees for students at Seymour High School to \$100.00. Ms. Mascolo said she is uncomfortable with raising the parking fees at this time, since students would not be prepared for this expense. Ms. Mascolo suggested if Board Members decided that parking fees prices had to be raised – raise it to \$50 then go to \$100 next year.

The Valley United purchased coats, shoes, outfits and school supplies for approximately 200 Seymour students. There will be a presentation to students at LoPresti School on Thursday, August, 21st at 2:00.

The Liaison Committee will meet August 20 at 2:00 at Central Office to discuss the Paraprofessional Contract. The Liaison Committee will meet on September 30 to review Wayne Natzel and Cynthia Brooks' contracts.

Ms. Mascolo invited Board Members to opening day ceremonies for teachers at Seymour Middle School on Monday, August 25, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Teacher of the Year, Mary Deming, will be one of the speakers.

Ms. Mascolo said 71 students qualified for Spanish at the Middle School, but there are only 50 spots. All 50 spots have been filled on a first come basis. 15 of the remaining students would really like to take this class and Mrs. Hamand is working on accommodating these students.

VII OLD BUSINESS: – NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Appointment

There were 5 staff appointments all were replacements. Tamresa Brody Special Ed., Allison Calvert Spanish Teacher, Stacey Glanz Special Ed., Kristen Ramadon grade 1 and Rebecca Trzaski grade 3.

08-3633 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge the following appointments as submitted by the Superintendent: Tamresa Brody – Special Ed – Seymour High School; Allison Calvert- Spanish Teacher (Part time) Seymour Middle School; Stacey Glanz – Special Ed – Seymour High School; Kristen Ramadon – Grade 1 – LoPresti School, and Rebecca Trzaski – Grade 3 – LoPresti School

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Staff Hiring

Christina Crescimanno – Instr. Paraprofessional (P/T) replacement at Chatfield School

08-3634 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge the hiring of Christina Crescimanno as submitted by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc Staff Resignations

1. Brian Cleveland – Boys Soccer Coach, Seymour Middle School
2. Ernie DiStasi – Boys Basketball Coach, Seymour Middle School
3. Debbie Glatzhofer – Clerical Paraprofessional, Seymour High School
4. Donna Hamilton – Inst Paraprofessional, Bungay School

08-3635 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignations of Brian Cleveland, Ernie DiStasi, Debbie Glatzhofer and Donna Hamilton.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIId Parent request for intra-district transfers

1. Theresa Markovic is requesting that her child be allowed to attend LoPresti School
2. Mary Beth Otero is requesting that her child be allowed to attend LoPresti School

08-3636 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to grant the requests for the 2008-2009 school year providing parents continue to transport students to and from school. The parents must reapply next year in order for consideration to be given to Amber Markovic and Joel Otero for the 2009-10 school year.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIe Notice of Intent to Home School – Barker Family

The Barker family as informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school their children for the 2008-09 school year.

08-3637 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge receipt of this form and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIf Notice of Intent to Home School – Gardecki Family

The Gardecki family has informed the Board of their intent to home school their child for the 2008-09 school year.

08-3638 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge receipt of this form and render no opinion as to appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIg Request to attend Seymour Schools as a non-resident

1. Peter Bonilla and David Gonzalez – recommend registration in Seymour Schools per policy.

08-3639 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for registration of Peter Bonilla and David Gonzalez in Seymour Public School per the non-resident policy with their parents supplying their own transportation.

SO VOTED

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

2. Brandon and Griffin Tomas – recommend registration in Seymour Schools per policy.

08-3640 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for registration of Brandon and Griffin Tomas in Seymour Public School per the non-resident policy

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Ward

08-3641 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mr. Stanek) to add item VIIIh acknowledge receipt of home schooling.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIh Request for home school from the Muzyka family

08-3642 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge receipt of this form and render no opinion as to appropriateness of the planned program.

SO VOTED

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

08-3643 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to add item VIIIi request to attend Seymour Schools as a non-resident

SO VOTED

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

VIIIi Kohli family – recommend registration in Seymour Schools per policy

08-3644 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to give permission for registration of the Kohli family per the non-resident policy.

SO VOTED

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

08-3645 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk