

## SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING  
Seymour Middle School

June 16, 2008  
7:30 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

Joe Kassay

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

Operations

Guy, Paul, Hannah and Jacob Sussman, Sue, Connor & John Shugrue, Patti Kassay, Donna, Missy & Becky Miles, George Adams, Saher Kargi, Cindy Brooks, Peg Maziuk, Bob Kelo, Carmela Burns, Kathleen Matthews, Jeanne Reichelt, Kolin Matthews, Gary & Mellissa Drozd, Janice Bierciewicz, Michele Guilett, Roque Orts, Arthur Guilett, Tom Lennon, Paul Sponheimer, Bill Ferris, James & Dianne Tyer, Robert Reichert, Amy Ganim, Ingrid, Mort, Mike & Billy Conlan, Harry Gagliardi, Jessica Popik, Harvey Catlin

**PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:**

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

**RECOGNITION:**

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized Cindy Brooks who was recently interviewed on Business Week TV about the rising costs of school lunches.
2. Ms. Mascolo recognized Mrs. Kaszeta and Mr. Catlin for their help in coordinating the 2008 Seymour Memorial Day Parade Essay Contest.
3. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Emily Baldwin and Michelle Williamson for being selected as winners of the 2008 Seymour Memorial Day Parade Essay Contest.
4. The New Haven Register did an article on the Civil War Re-enactment which took place at Seymour Middle School
5. Ms. Mascolo recognized Seymour High Schools' Track and Field Team for winning the Class M Championships.
6. Mr. Strumello commended Joe DeNigris, Steve Ditria, Kelly Grimme and Rich Kearns for volunteering to teach a Junior Achievement Unit to classes at Bungay School.
7. Ms. Mascolo congratulated the Bungay School Band and Chorus for their fine program on June 3<sup>rd</sup> held at the Middle School.
8. The Republican-American newspaper did an article on Nicholas D'Antona for his efforts to raise money for St. Vincent's Swim across the Sound.
9. The Take a Stand 08 program held at Seymour High School on May 15<sup>th</sup> has received recognition from state and federal officials.
10. The Valley Substance Abuse Action Council and the Seymour Police Dept presented several programs to the Seymour Public School through the Tobacco Mini Grant.
11. Mr. Stanek gave a tribute to Tim Russert who passed away. Mr. Russer was part of the program "Meet the Press" and asked tough questions.

08-3588 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on June 2, 2008 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence.

#### IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Mrs. Reilly said she had requested her daughter go to another school and was told request would be discussed under new business. Mrs. Reilly then asked about having access on the computer to the reading program. Ms. Mascolo said she would have to get back to her. Mr. Gagliardi recognized the LoPresti School PTA for raising money for the playground. Mr. Doyle asked about freshman sports. Mr. Baker said they would talk about freshman sports later, but funding for freshman sports was not in the budget. Mr. Baker said an additional \$40,000 was needed to put it back into the budget. Mr. Doyle asked if there was alternative money. What could be done to bring money back into the budget to have freshman sports? Mr. Baker said they are looking for creative ways to pay for the oil and gas that has been increased. Mr. Doyle asked if they had looked at grants for the sport programs or could they raise the money themselves. Mr. Conlon requested the Board reconsider funding freshman sports. Ms. Gamin asked Board Members to reconsider busing from Village Strawberry Patch to LoPresti School. Laura Chase spoke to wrestling. Her son is a coach – there are no try-outs, you don't have to excel at the sport to participate. Mrs. Drozd said her children participated in sports year round. They can't get in trouble and they get a great work ethic from participating in sports. Mrs. Drozd asked the Board to reconsider their decision. Ms. DePietro said that not all boys fit into the cookie cutter sports, wrestling is more individual than the other sports. Her son would have been captain next year and that has been taken away from him. Ms. DePietro said wrestling builds character and she hopes the Board reconsiders. Mr. Baker said the budget is down about a million dollars and the Boards' main responsibility is to academics. Board Members need to find a way to balance the budget. The Board did not desire to do this; they understand the importance of sports.

#### V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Student Project Demonstration – Eighth grade students from Seymour Middle School presented culminating projects from their English classes.
2. Presentation of Laptop Computers – Cindy Brooks, Nutrition Services, presented two laptop computers to Kevin McGuire and David Wong. Both students are college bound seniors.
3. Nutrition Services – Ms. Brooks submitted her Financial Report for the Nutrition Services for May 2008 for Board Members information.
4. Healthy Food Certification – Ms. Brooks explained to Board Members the Healthy Food Certification and why it is will not work for the Seymour School district.
5. New Playground Project LoPresti School – Mr. Gagliardi, Principal of Anna LoPresti School commended the PTA for their work in fundraising for the new playground at that school.
6. Administrative Professional Development – Mrs. Syriac presented for Board Members' information the professional development for teachers and administrators that was held during the 2007-08 school and what would be coming up for the summer of 2008.
7. SyAM Software – Mr. Belden presented a new software package that shuts off computers that have been left on saving the district money in electricity for Board Members' information.
8. School Calendars/Newsletters – The district schools submitted their June calendars for Board Members review.

08-3589 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add to the agenda item VIII i Health Food Certification.

SO VOTED

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

## REPORTS:

### VIa Student Representative Report –

Joe Kassay told Board Members the Seymour High School graduation would be Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. If it were to rain the graduation would be held in the Seymour Middle School gym. Joe asked why the students' dues were used to pay for the graduation gowns and diplomas. Mr. Belden said a portion of the money for the gowns and diplomas comes from the students' dues. Joe told Board Members what an exciting event it was to see the Seymour High School Track and Field team take the Class M State Championships.

### VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Garofolo asked when Board Members should expect to receive, review and discuss criteria for the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Mascolo said June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Garofolo said he is curious to know whether or not based on the bus study that the Board has approved if the study had resulted in any savings to the Board by fewer buses being used to accommodate the students or with the enhancement of the bus routes. Mr. Baker said that a transportation committee meeting should be scheduled.

### VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Athletic Committee and the Finance Committee met on June 9, 2008

08-3590 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Loda) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending May 31, 2008.

SO VOTED

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

08-3591 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) 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 9/1/08 and ending 3/31/09. The annual cost of the insurance shall be \$17,632.00.

SO VOTED

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

08-3592 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Flood) to reinstate all freshman sports.

After much discussion the following was voted

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Loda

The motion failed.

### VIId Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo gave Mr. Stanek and Mrs. Geffert copies of the curriculum draft to review before the curriculum committee meeting. The Liaison Committee will be meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mascolo said she would e-mail the facilities, transportation, athletic and finance committees to see what dates are good with them for meetings.

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members she would make a decision by 2:00 as to whether the graduation would be held outdoors at the High School or indoors at the Middle School. The Pre-graduation reception will be held in the Library at 5:00 p.m. to honor the Distinguished Alumnus.

## VII OLD BUSINESS: – NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Tuition Student 2008-09 school year

1. Mr. & Mrs. Lasto request the continuation of education for their daughter, Jessica, at Seymour High School as a tuition student for the 2008-09 school year.

08-3593 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept Jessica Lasto as a tuition student for the 2008-2009 school year with tuition costs of \$11,000 as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Chatfield School Building Project

Mr. Belden reviewed the Chatfield School building project with Board Members. Mr. Belden said the education specs need to be done and formally approved by the Board at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Belden told Board Members that the upgrade to the High School auditorium is the last act of the High School Building Committee.

VIIIc Staff Resignations.

1. Harry Gagliardi – Principal – LoPresti School – effective January 30, 2009.

08-3594 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the resignation of Harry Gagliardi as Principal at LoPresti School as recommended by the Superintendent.

AMENDMENT: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add with regret to the motion.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION 08-3594 to accept the resignation, with regret, of Harry Gagliardi as Principal of LoPresti School was voted.

SO VOTED

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

2. Elizabeth Geloso – Instructional Paraprofessional – Seymour Middle School

08-3595 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Geloso as an Instructional Paraprofessional at Seymour Middle School as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

3. Christie Hull – Assistant Cheerleading Coach – Seymour High School

08-3596 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the resignation of Christie Hull as Assistant Cheerleading Coach at Seymour High School as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

4. Jenny Viera – Science Teacher – Seymour High School

08-3597 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the resignation of Jenny Viera as Science Teacher at Seymour High School as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIII d Staff Appointments:

1. Laura Pepe – School Psychologist – Chatfield & LoPresti (Step 1, Sixth Year) (pending certification)

08-3598 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge the appointment of Laura Pepe as School Psychologist at Chatfield & LoPresti (Step 1, Sixth Year) as submitted by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

2. Juliann Moskowitz – Library Media Specialist – Seymour Middle School (Step 11, Sixth Year)

08-3599 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mr. Ward) to acknowledge the appointment of Juliann Moskowitz as Library Media Specialist at Seymour Middle School (Step 11, Sixth Year)

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

VIII e Staff Hiring

Suzanne O'Hara – Instructional Paraprofessional – Seymour Middle School (replacement for Judith Simpson)

08-3600 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Suzanne O'Hara as Instructional Paraprofessional at Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

VIII f ACES-ECA Enrollment

ACES Education Centro for the Arts – enrollment of 13 students for the 2008-09 school year.

08-3601 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to authorize the enrollment of students in ACES-ECA for the 2008-2009 school year.

SO VOTED

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

VIII g Foreign Exchange Student

Enrollment of a Foreign Exchange student in Seymour High School for the 2008-09 school year.

08-3602 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to authorize the enrollment of a foreign exchange student in Seymour High School for the 2008-09 school year.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIh Parent Requests for intra-district transfers

Review and act on parent requests for intra-district transfers

08-3603 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Loda) to grant requests for the 2008-09 school year providing parents continue to transport students to and from school. Parents must reapply next year in order for consideration to be given to each child for the 2009-10 school year.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Yitts

VIIIi Health Certificate Program 2008-09 school year.

08-3604 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Loda) to deny the Health Certificate Program for the 2008-09 school year.

SO VOTED

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

08-3605 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. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by  
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk