

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour High School

May 5, 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joe Kassay
Allie Bachyrycz

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Patti Kassay, Ed Strumello, Aaron Pawluk, John McCasland,
Mike Kearny

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 Jessica Biercevicz and Caitlin Eastwood, Seymour High School Seniors, as being named New Haven Tap-Off Club Scholar-Athletes.
2. Ms. Mascolo thanked the Connecticut Peacemakers Quilt Guild for their generous contribution of \$3,000 to benefit Seymour Middle School's Student Council, Girls Softball and Boys Baseball.
3. Ms. Mascolo congratulated John Murphy, Seymour High School Junior, for being named Connecticut Post Athlete of the week.
4. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Chris Renzoni, Seymour High School Junior, for being named Republican American Athlete of the week.
5. Ms. Mascolo introduced Rachel Dorosh, Seymour Middle School Student Government President to Board Members.

08-3554 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on April 7, 2008 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence. Mr. Stanek asked that Board Members talk about Mr. Koskelowski's letter later in the meeting.

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Mr. Kearny, the Commander of the American Legion Post 10, told Board members he is concerned with the decrease in interest in the Boys State program. This is a program for students interested in government. There is also an oratorical contest where students speak on the Constitution. Mr. Kearny said The American Legion has scholarship money available to students. He was wondering if the students were made aware of these opportunities. Ms. Mascolo said that students are made aware of these opportunities. Mr. Kearny said students could go to www.legion.org to find more information.

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. The Pawprint Student Newspaper – April 2008 – Mrs. Goodrich submitted the student newspaper for Board Members' review.
2. Nutrition Services – Ms. Cindy Brooks submitted her Financial Report for March 2008 for Board Members' information. Mr. Belden told Board Members of the new software the Nutrition Services will be acquiring to work with the student program already in place.
3. The district schools submitted their May calendars for Board Members' review.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report –

Allie told Board Members that 49 students registered to vote during voter registration held at the High School on April 22nd. The National Honor Society held a blood drive on April 29th and 8 gals. of blood were donated. The parents will be hosting a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on May 7th before school. AP Testing will begin this week and there will be an assembly for juniors and seniors called “Hard Truth” on May 7th about drinking and driving.

Joe told Board Members there will be an honors breakfast on May 8th during the first three periods. The NVL Leadership Conference will be held on May 13th at the Colonial Tavern. The National Honor Society Induction Banquet is on May 14th. There will be 37 new members added to the 60 members already part of the National Honor Society. Mr. Kearns runs the “Take a Stand Day” which will be held on May 15th. The Junior Prom is May 16th at the Aqua Turf with the Post Prom Party at Seymour High School going on into the early hours of Saturday morning.

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker said the Chatfield Building Committee will be meeting with the architect on May 8th to discuss what they are looking for in a building.

Mr. Baker told Mr. Stanek it was a good time to talk about Mr. Koskowlowski's letter Mr. Stanek said he was a member of the Future School Needs Committee in 2005 when the committee recommended purchasing land for a future LoPresti School and renovating Chatfield School. Mr. Stanek feels that in conjunction with the Chatfield project they should also seriously consider acquiring land in the LoPresti district for a future school. Mr. Stanek said he understands these are difficult economic times, but this is also a time when land values have fallen and in the future it is only going to be much more costly for the town to acquire land. As land continues to develop if the town were to wait fifteen or twenty years to acquire another parcel the town might have to acquire homes as well because there will be future expansion. The committee in 2005 did identify two parcels and upon the recommendation of Mavis and Young the parcel at 149 Maple Street was thought to be the suitable for a future school. Mr. Stanek suggested that a presentation in the future be made to the Board of Selectmen with regard to this issue and talk about the possibility of at least forming a committee to negotiate to see if there is any interest by the owner or owners of these parcels to sell to the town. Mr. Stanek said we are going forward with a referendum for Chatfield School and we talked in the Athletic Committee about bleachers and a press box at the High School. Maybe this could be added to the referendum as a question as well as the acquisition of land for a future school. There could be more than one question on the referendum. Mr. Baker said he shares Mr. Stanek's concerns.

Mr. Buchsbaum said an issue arose at the last meeting concerning the role of the Student Representative on this Board and he requested that in the by-laws of the Board sec. **9160 Student Representative** the roles be defined by the entire Board. Mr. Buchsbaum requested that this matter be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Buchsbaum requested that the Superintendent e-mail to all members a copy of the policy so the members can review it.

VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Finance Committee met on April 7th no action were required.

VId Superintendent's Report –

Committee meetings

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| 5/15/08 | Curriculum Committee at Central office |
| 5/7/08 | Honors Breakfast at Seymour High School |
| 5/28/08 | Senior Awards night |

VII OLD BUSINESS: –

VIIa Review and possible action on 2008-2009 budget revision

Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Belden reviewed the revisions of the 2008-2009 budget with Board Members.

08-3555 MOTION: to approve the revised budget for the 2008-2009 school year of \$29,117,491 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Appointments

1. Jennifer Batterton – Mathematics Teacher, Seymour Middle School, replacement for Lynn Jachimowski (Step 4, Masters)

08-3556 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent, of Jennifer Batterton as a Mathematics Teacher at Seymour Middle School (Step 4, Masters)

SO VOTED

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

2. Steve Tilki – Assistant Baseball Coach – Appendix E Position – Seymour High School

08-3557 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Steve Tilki as Assistant Baseball Coach at Seymour High School (Appendix E Position).

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Volunteers

1. Brian Moir – Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, Seymour High School

08-3558 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to acknowledge Brian Moir as a volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Alfred Signore – Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, Seymour Middle School

08-3559 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge Alfred Signore as Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach 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

VIIIc Staff Resignations

1. Norma Jean Desrosiers – Special Education Paraprofessional, LoPresti Elementary School.

08-3560 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Norma Jean Desrosiers as Special Education Paraprofessional at LoPresti School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Laura George – School Psychologist - Seymour School System

08-3561 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Laura George as School Psychologist.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIId Request for Out of State Field Trip

Mr. Pawluk and Mr. McCasland are requesting approval for Grade 11 and possibly Grade 12 Modern American History/Civics students to attend a trip to the Inauguration Ceremonies in Washington on January 18, 2009 to January 22, 2009.

08-3562 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Buchsbaum) to grant permission for Seymour High School Grade 11 (and possibly Grade 12) Modern American History/Civics students to go to the Inauguration Ceremonies in Washing D.C. 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

VIIIe Request for Out of State Field Trip

Miss Ciccone is requesting approval for the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to attend Cheerleading Camp in Equinunk, PA from August 18, 2008 to August 21, 2008.

08-3563 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to grant permission for Seymour High School Cheerleading team to attend Pine Forest Cheerleading Camp in Equinunk, PA as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

08-3564 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Ward) 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 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk