

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

March 17 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Rhonda Geffert
Frederick Stanek
James Ward 7:45
Jason Buchsbaum
Judith Flood
Rose Marie Yitts
Jeanne Loda

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

James Garofolo
Joe Kassay

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Lori & Daniel Robinson, Anne, Ken & Austin Crisanti, Rachel Meier, Joy Carde, Marcia & Michael Figueroa, Allison Acquavella, Gail, Raymond & Bethany Catlin, Mary Sue Feige, Kristen Bruno, Leslie Anne Milia, Raeanne Geffert, Jillian, Caitlyn and Karen Murphy, Patti Kassay, Jay Hatfield, Sandra Gesek, Sean & Scotta Simoneau, Gretchen Robinson

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

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

RECOGNITION:

1. Mr. Baker recognized Joe Kassay as "Mr. Seymour".
2. Mr. Stanek recognized Allie Bachyrycz for the great job she did as Joe's escort for Mr. Seymour. He also recognized the student for the funds they raised for a needy family in town.
3. Mr. Stanek recognized Coach Sponheimer as Chapter Coach of the Year.
4. Ms. Mascolo recognized Board Members for Board Appreciation Month.

08-3531 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education held on March 3, 2008 as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Yitts

08-3532 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on March 5, 2008.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Loda, Mr. Stanek

08-3533 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on March 12, 2008.

SO VOTED

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence. Mr. Baker shared a letter he had received with Board Members and Ms. Mascolo shared an e-mail she had received.

08-3534 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to move item V 1 & 2 up on the agenda to become items III f & g.
SO VOTED

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

1. Six Traits of Writing - Rachel Meier and Michael Figueroa, Grade 5 students from Bungay School, presented their technology project about the Six Traits of Writing to Board Members.
2. Monthly Newsletter – Lindsay Barton, Bethany Catlin, Jillian Murphy and Daniel Robinson, Grade 4 students from Bungay School, presented their Language Arts project the Monthly Newsletter for Board Members information.

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Mr. Baker told people attending the meeting that if the budget was approved the Machine Shop Program would not go away. Mr. Warecke will come back and do the program on a part-time basis. Mrs. Crisanti said 11 boys were enrolled in the program. They all enjoy the program it is their reason for coming to school. Mrs. Crisanti's son is looking for an internship because of this program. Some of the students when they graduate are ready to go into a trade. The Machine Shop Program has given the students a direction. Mr. Baker said he knows the program because his company has hired students from Seymour as well as donated equipment to the program. Mr. Crisanti is concerned the Machine Shop Program will get cut and his son will not get the opportunity to finish the course. He understands there are alternatives – trade schools – some of those students are not as good as the students that come from the high school. It will be a shame to lose the class and a shame not to finish the program. Marie Chamer is from Oxford. Her son wanted to go to Seymour High School for the Machine Shop Program. This program has given him direction. She would like him to be able to finish the program. Mike Doyle said he has heard a lot about programs being cut and the alternatives. Mr. Doyle asked if research had been done to find alternative funding. He said you don't want to continue to cut and pit people against each other. Mrs. Crisanti asked if the Community College have a machine shop program could they rent the space or something to offset the cost. Mr. Baker said Mr. Warecke talked to the Community College. Mr. Baker said they are talking budget items they won't cut anything if people come out to vote. He said we need everyone to support the budget. Mr. Chavo asked about the financial part – capital from the sale of equipment. Mr. Baker said he is not sure if they could make money from the sale of the equipment.

Mr. Baker said he is not able to tell what the cuts would be. It would depend on the budget cut and how big it is. Ingrid Conlon asked if the budget on-line would be updated before they go to vote. Ms. Mascolo said the budget on line would be updated before the vote.

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

3. BOE Computer System – Michael Skott and Eric Laurentius reported to Board Members on the recent server crashes and the process of the recovery efforts.
4. Graustein Memorial Grant Award – a summary of the Graustein Memorial Grant which was recently awarded to the Valley communities. This information was provided for Board Members' review.
5. Kindergarten Inventory Fall 2007 – Report from Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education for Board Members' information.
6. Progress of our ELL Students – ELL targets have been met and Seymour has been commended by the Connecticut State Department Education for our ELL Students' progress. This information was provided for Board Members' review.
7. School Calendars/Newsletters - March 2008 – The district schools submitted their monthly calendars and newsletters for Board Members information.
8. The Pawprint Student Newspaper – Mrs. Goodrich submitted the Seymour High School's March 2008 newspaper for Board Members information.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report –

Allie Bachyrycz told Board Members about the outcome of the Mr. Seymour contest. 3rd runner up for Mr. Seymour was Stefan Behunak, 2nd runner up for Mr. Seymour was Peter Durante and Joe Kassay was the winner of the Mr. Seymour contest.

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker said the Board of Finance would be meeting on March 18th at 7:00 at Seymour Middle School.

VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Athletic Committee met on February 28th. Mrs. Flood reported on this meeting.

The Awards Committee met on March 4th. Mr. Stanek reported on this meeting.

VIId Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo said the Senior Semi was a success and she was impressed with the students. Ms. Mascolo gave Board Members a schedule of tentative dates for meeting coming up in the next couple of weeks.

VII OLD BUSINESS: – NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Machine Shop Certification Program – Seymour High School

Anne Crisanti – Discussion occurred during public Comment.

VIIIb Staff Hirings

1. Valerie Kennedy – Special Education Instructional Paraprofessional – Seymour High School (replacement for Gail Kukta)

08-3535 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Valerie Kennedy as Special Education Instructional Paraprofessional at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc Spring Weightlifting

Ed Rostowsky is requesting the Winter Weightlifting program continue as a Spring Weightlifting program.

08-3536 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to deny the request to add a Spring Weightlifting Program as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIIId Record Board – Seymour High School

Tom Lennon is requesting approval to mount a record board to display school records of past and present athletes on the storage shed adjacent to the track. The purchase would be funded by the Track and Field Parents club.

08-3537 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the request to mount a record board on the storage shed adjacent to the track as recommended by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIe Request for out of state field trip

Mrs. Alcutt, Ms. Dorosh and Mr. Carey are requesting approval for Gr. 5 at LoPresti School to go on a field trip to visit Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA

08-3538 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Stanek) to grant permission for LoPresti Gr. 5 students to go to Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA on a field trip.

SO VOTED

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

VIII f Non renewal of teachers

The Superintendent recommendation of teachers for nonrenewal

- 1) Ryan Konochik (PE/Health teacher)
- 2) Megan McDonough (PT Kindergarten teacher)
- 3) Jessica Strumello-Ruggerio (School Counselor)

08-3539 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 110-151, the Seymour Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of Ryan Konochik, Megan McDonough and Jessica Strumello-Ruggerio at the end of the 2007-2008 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Ryan Konochik, Megan McDonough and Jessica Strumello-Ruggerio and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Flood

VIII g Superintendent Progress report

Superintendent Progress report

This item needs to be better defined and will be discussed at another time.

08-3540 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, 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

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk