

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Paul E. Chatfield Elementary School

January 14, 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joe Kassay

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent
Chris Kaszeta, John Panasci, Lynn Jachimowski,
Pamela Finkle, Bernadette Hamad, Ed Strumello,
Gene Stec, Patti Kassey, Kristine Bourret

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

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

RECOGNITION:

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized Heather Brown, from the High School, for being a speaker at the Social Studies BEST Support Seminar.
2. Ms. Mascolo recognized Tyler Gargano, Angel Rodriguez, Noelle Milia, Samantha Larkin, Noah Pastore and Shelbie Taylor, all LoPresti School Grade 3 students, for their art work in the Drug Prevention calendar published by Griffin Hospital.
3. Ms. Mascolo recognized Mark Melilli, a grade 12 student from the High School, as a recipient of a \$500 Scholarship from Miller-Ward Funeral Home. Mark's essay not only won the contest, but also entered him in the National Contest.
4. Ms. Mascolo recognized the High School Boys' Basketball Team for their volunteerism in collecting toys for TEAM Inc. The toys were presented to TEAM Inc. at a recent Basketball game.
5. Ms. Mascolo, Mr. Stanek and Mr. Belden all attended the High School Music Department's Winter Concert held on December 18th. The students did a wonderful job.

08-3477 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on December 17, 2007, with the following corrections: Mrs. Flood did not make motion 07-3459.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Garofolo

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence. Mr. Baker read a letter concerning statements he made during the December 14, 2007 meeting.

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS: NONE

08-3478 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to move items VIIIc, VIIIId and VIIIE up on the agenda

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc Request for Out of State Field Trip

Mrs. Hamad, Mrs. Finkle and Mrs. Jachimowski are requesting approval for all Grade 7 students to take an overnight field trip to Boston MA.

08-3479 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to grant permission for Seymour Middle School Grade 7 students to attend a field trip to Boston, MA

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

Mrs. Ciccione is requesting permission for the Ski and Snowboard Club to visit Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, VT

08-3480 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to grant permission to Seymour High School's Ski and Snowboard Club to attend a field trip to Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, VT.

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

Mrs. Hamad, Mr. Olechna, Mr. Panasci and Mrs. Kaszeta are requesting permission for all Grade 8 students to visit Philadelphia, PA.

08-3481 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to grant permission to Seymour Middle School Grade 8 students to attend a field trip to Philadelphia, PA.

SO VOTED

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

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Nutrition Services – Mrs. Brooks submitted the November 2007 financial report for Board Members' review.
2. New Haven Register – Ms. Mascolo provided a copy of the New Haven Register's December 27, 2007 article on the establishment of a building committee for Chatfield School for Board Members' information.
3. School Calendars – The district schools submitted their January 2008 school calendars for Board Members' information.
4. ACES – Mr. Baker shared with Board Members and article concerning Teacher of the Year for ACES. He also told Board Members Ms. Mascolo has forms if they would like to sign up for a Conversation with the Commissioner of Education to be held on January 31st. Mr. Baker and Ms. Mascolo will be attending.

REPORTS:

Via Student Representative Report

Joe Kassay told Board Members that the Student Council is holding a school song contest. Students will have the opportunity to rewrite the school song and win \$150.00. This is another effort of student council to increase school spirit.

Student Council will be holding its annual Love Bug fundraiser. Students will complete the survey during their lunch period.

Mid-term exams will be held Thursday and Friday of this week and Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

Joe said some of the students have concerns with the budget. There are items, like the TV studio, that get put into the budget every year then get taken out. Is there a way to keep these items in the budget? Mr. Belden said the Board of Education understood his frustration and it would be helpful if they could mobilize the voting population at the High School.

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Garofolo said that he read in the Board of Education Bylaws 91-32a, b & c permanent Board Committees and the selection of the committees will be done by Board Members. Mr. Baker said that the Chairman has always done the selection of Board Committee members. Mr. Garofolo asked Mr. Baker if he would reconsider putting the membership of the committees to the full board or asking Board Members what committees they would prefer. Mr. Stanek said he feels Mr. Garofolo is more qualified to be a member of the curriculum committee and he would yield his place to him.

VIc Board Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met on December 17th and January 14th. Action was taken on the December 17th meeting on December 17th. Action is needed on the January 14th meeting.

08-3482 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the business manager's report as presented.

SO VOTED

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

The Finance Committee met on January 7th to discuss the 2008-09 budget.

The Policy Committee met on January 10th and 14th Mrs. Loda gave a review of the meetings.

08-3483 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Flood) to accept the policies as presented and to go over the legal aspects with council.

After much discussion

08-3484 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the action on regulation until the Board hears comments from the attorney.

SO VOTED

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

VId Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo said based on her e-mail from January 7th she has set up two CABA Workshops for Board Members. Workshops on March 5th 7:00 – 9:30 will discuss 10 common mistakes made by Board of Educations and April 3rd 7:00-9:30 will talk about facilities. Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Belden will be speaking the elementary school at Bungay School on February 7th about the budget.

VII OLD BUSINESS: - NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Hiring

1. Kevin Boken – Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach, High School

08-3485 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Kevin Boken as Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach at the High School

SO VOTED

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

2. Christopher Pagliaro – Advisor, Model United Nations program (Appendix E position) – High School

08-3486 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Christopher Pagliaro as Advisor, model United Nations Program (Appendix E Position) 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

3. Aimee Tkacz-Casini – Dance Team Coach (Appendix E Position) High School

08-3487 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Aimee Tkacz-Casini as Dance Team Coach (Appendix E Position) at the High School

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Geffert

4. Karen Fisher – Mock Trial Leader (Appendix E Position) Seymour High School

08-3488 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Karen Fisher as Mock Trial Leader (Appendix E Position) 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

VIIIb Staff Resignations

1. Judith DeRosa – Teacher – Seymour High School

08-3489 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Judith DeRosa, a Teacher 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. Edward L. Strumello – Principal – Bungay School

08-3490 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Loda) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance, with regret, of the resignation of Edward L. Strumello as Principal at Bungay School.

SO VOTED

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

3. Debra Syrett – Paraprofessional – Chatfield School

08-3491 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Debra Syrett as Paraprofessional at Chatfield School.

SO VOTED

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

4. Albert Tramontana – Teacher – Seymour Middle School

08-3492 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Albert Tramontana a Teacher 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

5. Diane Trevelin – Teacher – Chatfield School

08-3493 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Flood) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Diane Trevelin a Teacher at Chatfield School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc, VIId and VIIE Request for Out of State Field Trips

All were voted on earlier in the minutes

VIIIIf Request to be removed from consideration of job

Nicholas Aprea is requesting permission to be removed from consideration for the Assistant Weightlifting Coach at Seymour High School

08-3494 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to grant permission to have Nicholas Aprea removed from consideration for the Assistant Weightlifting Coach at the High School.

SO VOTED

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

08-3495 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. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk