

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

December 17, 2007
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Rhonda Geffert
Frederick Stanek
James Ward
Jeanne Loda
Jason Buchsbaum

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Judith Flood
Rose Marie Yitts

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joe Kassay

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

John & Sue Shugrue, Robert & Patty Wilson, Lisa Andrzejewski, Melissa Drozd, Doris Petrakopoulos, Jason Wearing, Carmela Burns, Patti Kassey, Scotta, Sean & Mike Simoneau, Patricia & Richard Luby

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 Middle School students Vincent Recine and Kylie Semler and High School students Deirdre Sponheimer and Peter Tomlinson for receiving the Superintendent's Award of Excellence at the 22nd annual CAPSS dinner held at the Inn at Villa Bianca. Also honored at the dinner was Seymour's Teacher of the Year, Barbara Junko.
2. Ms. Mascolo recognized Mr. Kearns and Griffin Hospital Valley Parish Nurses for providing Family & Friends CPR Anytime Program to all 9th grade students at Seymour High School.
3. Ms. Mascolo recognized Mr. Kearns, Officer DeFelice, Youth Office Denigris, Investigator Youth Office Ditria and Allstate Insurance Company for providing the Drive Right Program for our 11 and 12th grade students.
4. Mr. Kearns, through a grant, will provide students in Grades 9 & 10 with a program called "Charting Your Course".
5. Ms. Mascolo recognized Scholar Athletes Sean Simoneau and graduate Kevin Mariano.
6. Mr. Ward thanked Mrs. Snopkowski for meeting with him and reviewing the IEP report. Mr. Ward said it was a very good presentation.

07-3459 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on December 3, 2007 with the following corrections: page 3 under Mr. Stanek's concerns it should read We will continue... and under Mr. Baker said it should read taken. Also, Mr. Ward noted he said teacher absentee rate was low at Chatfield on the Strategic School Profile.

SO VOTED

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

07-3460 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting held on December 3, 2007, as presented.

SO VOTED

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Baker reviewed the correspondence.

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Mr. Sponheimer requested on behalf of the Seymour Kick-Off Club that the Board of Education make a contribution towards awards to the football players for the State Championship win. The Kick-off Club will then ask the town for matching funds. The Kick-off Club needs to raise \$12,200 to purchase the awards. Mr. Baker said it was Board policy not to do this. They are proud of the Football Team for their accomplishment this year. There are many athletic teams in Seymour and if the BOE does this for one it must be done for all the teams and there is not enough money for this. Mr. Sponheimer said this has never been done before and happens so infrequently. Mr. Wilson said it is a good thing to support the team. The kids work hard. A little money would help out. Julie Hamilton said the boys need recognition for what they did. The Kick-off Club has done as much as they can any other help would be great. This is a big deal and they would like the boys to know this. Mr. Baker said Seymour has no internal policy for this type of request. It would need to be referred to the Policy Committee. Mrs. Wilson said the kids received no recognition from the school. Mr. Sponheimer said he is asking for support of the kids. Ms. McClean from the Kick-Off Club said this is a huge added expense for the club, but they wanted to recognize the kids. Athletics make the kids do better in school. Student involved in sports need to keep their grades up.

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Bungay Afterschool Program – Lisa Andrzejewski explained the PTA sponsored program to Board Members.
2. The district schools submitted their January calendars for Board Members' review.
3. The Seymour High School Newsletter "The Pawprint" was submitted for Board Members' information.
4. Mrs. Goodrich, Principal, along with Mr. Freund and Mr. Lucke, Assistant Principals, reviewed the high school's School Improvement Plan with Board Members.
5. Ms. Mascolo reviewed the Strategic School Profile with Board Members.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report

Mr. Kassay reported that the Boys' Swimming and the Girls' & Boys' Basketball teams have started their season. Student Council will be selling Carnations for Christmas during this week of school. Mr. Kassay asked about the electronic message board at the high school. Maybe they could add another message board one at the entrance and one in the cafeteria. Each could show dates and times of meetings etc. Joe told Board Members of the Winter Concert at the high school on December 18th at 7:00.

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

07-3461 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to add the Athletic Award to the agenda.

SO VOTED

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

After much discussion the following motion was made

07-3462 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to refer the issue of an Athletic Award to the Policy Committee.

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

VIc Board Committee Reports

The Curriculum Committee met on December 12th.

07-3463 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept and approve the course proposals for the 2008-09 school year as recommended by the Curriculum Sub-Committee.

SO VOTED

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

The Finance Committee met on December 17th. Mr. Ward reviewed this meeting.

07-3464 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mr. Ward) to accept the Business Manager's report as presented.

SO VOTED

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

07-3465 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to waive formal bidding and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Centris Group, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 to purchase the IEP Direct Special Education Software at a cost of \$10,725.00 and to purchase annual software licenses and software maintenance support under the terms and conditions of their proposal dated 12/10/2007.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

Vid Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members of Professional Development with CABA & CAPPS. Mr. Baker and Mrs. Loda feel it is important for Board Members to attend seminars. Ms. Mascolo asked Board Members to e-mail her with dates that are not good with each of them. Based on the e-mails she will put together a schedule.

Ms. Mascolo gave Board Members a follow up on the PTA fundraiser link – the PTA link would only go to Great American. They would not have a link to any profit making enterprise. Board Members said it would be okay to move forward.

VII OLD BUSINESS: - NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Hiring

1. Isabel Bertram – Secretary (replacement for Cindy Morosko) – Seymour Middle School

07-3466 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Loda) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Isabel Bertram secretary at Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

2. Harry Geary – Assistant Coach Weightlifting (Appendix E Position) Seymour High School

07-3467 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Ward) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Harry Geary as Assistant Coach Weightlifting (Appendix E Position) at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

3. Tamara Gordon – Volunteer Girls' Basketball – Seymour Middle School

07-3468 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Ward) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Tamara Gordon as Volunteer Girls' Basketball at Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

4. Michael Sirowich – Head Coach Weightlifting (Appendix E Position) Seymour High School

07-3469 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Buchsbaum) to accept the hiring as submitted by the Superintendent of Michael Sirowich as Head Coach Weightlifting (Appendix E Position) at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Staff Resignations

1. Laura Coleman – Special Ed Teacher – Seymour High School

07-3470 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Laura Coleman as Special Ed Teacher at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Gayle Kukta – Instructional Paraprofessional – Seymour High School

07-3471 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Gayle Kukta as Instructional Paraprofessional at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc Parent request for intra-district transfer

1. Mr. & Mrs. Horlick request an intra-district transfer for their daughter Dakota for the 2008-09 school year.

This request was tabled and will be done in the spring with the other requests.

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members that a letter was sent to Mr. Koskelowski, First Selectman, requesting the establishment of a building committee for Chatfield School.

07-3472 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk