

## SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING  
Seymour Middle School

November 19, 2007  
7:30 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce Baker, Chairman  
John Criscuolo  
Judith Flood  
Rhonda Geffert  
James Garofolo  
Frederick Stanek  
James Ward

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Arlene Brumer  
Rose Marie Yitts

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

Allie Bachyrycz

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent  
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent  
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent  
Jason Weaving, Kim & Stephen Murzin, Kristen

Bruno, Jay Brennan, Harry Gagliardi, Jr., Ed Strumello, Bernadette Hamad, David Olechna, Peter D'Antona, Jill D'Antona, Lauren McLean & Family, Jay Hatfield, Mary Sue Feige, Jennifer Severio, Trisha Pasnault, Nancy Snopkowski, Autumn & Family, April Barbeeti, Carl & John D'Antona, Carol Babson, John & Marilyn D'Antona

**PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:**

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

**RECOGNITION:**

1. Mr. Baker recognized and thanked Mrs. Brumer and Mr. Criscuolo for their service to the Board of Education.
2. Mrs. Hamad mentioned seven students for receiving recognition from Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Nicholas D'Antona's name has been submitted to the state level for his work with "Swim Across the Sound".
3. Mrs. Syriac told Board Members of the various Veterans' Day activities within the schools. Mr. Baker commended students at the Middle School for their behavior during the flag raising ceremony.
4. Mr. Kearns delivered First Responder Emergency Response Bags to all school nurses.
5. Mr. Kearns recognized Christian Bonanni, of the Middle School, for his first place poster to help raise awareness about teen runaway prevention.

07-3433 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Ward) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on November 7, 2007 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Criscuolo, Mrs. Brumer

**III. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

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

Mr. Murzin brought up security and how the lockdown procedures work. He said he thinks they may need to look over the procedures. He said he has heard the best thing for students to do during an emergency is to get

out of the building instead of hiding in the building. Mr. Baker said he would bring this to the attention of the Security Director. Mr. Murzin said he thinks the security camera at the front door is a great idea and feels there should be one in the office of the Security Director at the High School. Mr. Baker said their attorney has recommended this not be done. Mr. Murzin told Ms. Mascolo he has filed an FOI document releasing all documentation of the hiring of the Security Director.

Jason Weaving brought to Mr. Baker's attention that he might need to re-read the town charter. Mr. Weaving thought one of the Board Members was not sworn in and should not have voted at the last meeting. Mr. Baker said the Board Member has since been sworn in.

It was brought to Board Members attention that comments were missing from the last minutes that were made by a person named Denise. Denise told Board Members that she was glad that Oxford's High School opened this year and her son did not have to attend Seymour High School. She said his time there with the Director of Security was a nightmare.

Diane Reilly asked if Board Members would reconsider the decision to discontinue the shuttle bus. That bus is the only bus that goes from LoPresti School to Village Strawberry Patch. Ms. Mascolo said the shuttle bus was started during the time of swing streets and there are no longer any swing streets. Ms. Reilly asked what working parents are to do for daycare. Ms. Reilly said they would be looking at higher incidents, in the LoPresti area, of latch key kids.

Mrs. Murzin asked if the bathrooms at the high school are still locked. Ms. Mascolo said that the bathrooms were closed during the beginning of the school year due to vandalism. The bathrooms are now open during 5<sup>th</sup> period and during class time. Mrs. Murzin said her child has a chronic illness and needs to go during class time. Ms. Mascolo said to call her and she will get Mrs. Murzin to the right person at the high school for help.

Robin asked when the vote or decision to drop the shuttle bus happened. Mr. Baker said it was the decision of the Board and done as a cost savings measure. Ms. Reilly asked if their children could be switched to one of the other schools that have buses that go to Village Strawberry Patch. Mr. Baker said parental requests to have children attend another school in the district are discussed at the first meeting in August. He cannot make any promises each request is considered on an individual basis.

Mr. Murzin asked if a staff member falsifies an application are they terminated. Mr. Baker said he would have to review the policy.

07-3434 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Stanek) to move item VIa Student Representative Report up on the agenda.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Criscuolo, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Brumer

VIa Student Representative Report –

Allie told Board Members about the Homecoming events that have happened. The Homecoming Dance was amazing. Students were having a concert set up by Mr. Sweats at the High School on Monday night – 11/19. The pasta dinner and volleyball game are scheduled for Tuesday night. The big football game is Wednesday night. The alumni tent will open at 5:00 and serve free hot chocolate and coffee. The game will start at 7:00.

Allie said the bon fire was good and the Powder Puff game held on Friday night went well.

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Invitation from the Special Education Dept announcing parent meetings on 11/15, 1/10 and 3/8 for Board Members' information.

2. Invitation from the Direction of Instruction, Mary Sue Feige, announcing a meeting to learn more about the Language Arts program on 1/8 with a snow date 1/10 for Board Members' information.
3. The Principals from Bungay, Chatfield and LoPresti Elementary Schools gave a PowerPoint presentation for Board Members telling them about their 2007-2008 School Improvement Plan. The presentation touched on curriculum, technology and communication.

Mrs. Hamad, the Principal from Seymour Middle School, presented her 2007-2008 School Improvement Plan to Board Members. Mrs. Hamad's PowerPoint presentation showed Board Members the areas where they will be building upon students' strengths and what they will do to improve areas of concerns.

#### REPORTS:

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker told Board Members of a workshop at CAFE on December 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked all interested Board Members to contact the Superintendent to sign up for the workshop. Mr. Baker said he felt it would be beneficial for all Board Members to attend.

Mr. Baker told Board Members that in the town charter there is a code of ethics form. Mr. Baker suggested that the Board Members submit this form. He said the packet could be picked up at town hall or downloaded through the town web site.

The next Board meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup> will begin at 8:00 p.m. due to the swearing in of Board Members.

Mr. Stanek asked that at the next facilities meeting with the Facilities Director they discuss energy and green issues.

Mr. Garofolo asked that a greater effort be made to communicate to parents the agenda for sub-committee meetings.

VIc Board Committee Reports –

Finance Committee meeting was held on November 19<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Criscuolo reviewed the meeting with Board Members.

07-3435 MOTION: (Mr. Criscuolo, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Assistant Superintendent's Financial Report for October 2007 as presented.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Criscuolo, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Brumer, Mr. Stanek

07-3436 MOTION: (Mr. Criscuolo, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to award bid #08-02 for computer equipment to Advanced Office Systems, 211 Shunpike Road, Cromwell, CT 06416 in the amount of \$101,567.00 and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a purchase agreement with Advanced Office Systems per the bid specifications.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Criscuolo, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Brumer, Mr. Stanek

07-3437 MOTION: (Mr. Criscuolo, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to waive formal bidding and utilize the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services Contract #071TZ0112 to award deployment and disposal services to Jenesis Computers, 31 West Main St., Plainville, CT 06062 in an amount not to exceed \$6,250.00. Further, to authorize the Superintendent to enter into purchase agreement with Jenesis Computers to provide deployment and disposal services.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Criscuolo, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Brumer, Mr. Stanek

VId Superintendent's Report –

Ms. Mascolo told Board Members that meetings could be held over the phone or through e-mail but a special meeting must immediately follow. The meetings would still need to be posted and advertised.

VII OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Mr. Criscuolo & Mrs. Brumer left the meeting.

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Discussion of Superintendent's Performance

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

07-3438 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Ward) to go into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's performance regarding oversight of High School Security and invite the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

The Superintendent of schools reviewed her oversight of high school security as well as her compliance with Board policy and school district procedures.

07-3439 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Flood) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Submitted by  
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk