

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING
Anna L. LoPresti School

November 7, 2007
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Criscuolo
Arlene Brumer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Joe Kassay

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent,
Finance & Operations
Mary Estock, Liz Tift,
Scotta Simoneau

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:38 p.m. Hannah Meier from Seymour Middle School sang the National Anthem.

RECOGNITION:

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized Mr. Kearns for coordinating a prevention program called "Take Control USA" at the Middle School for 10th grade students and all students at the Middle School.
2. The Automatic External Defibrillators are in all the schools for Board Members information.
3. Mr. Kearns sent a thank you for being considered for the Town of Seymour Public Recognition Award.
4. The Elementary Schools and the Middle School have all had successful emergency bus evacuation drills.
5. Ms. Mascolo thanked Mr. Kearns and the Seymour Police Department for their actions during the bomb scare incident at Seymour High School.
6. Caroline Sweeney and Fran Messier thanked all who came out to the Benefit Pasta Dinner for Michelle Gibson. The HOPE club raised over \$10,000 for the Gibson family.
7. The State of Connecticut recognized the highly trained teachers who served as BEST Portfolio Scorers this summer.
8. Ms. Mascolo recognized the Girls' Swim Team for their NVL win.

07-3417 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on October 15, 2007 as presented.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward

07-3418 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on 10/30/07

SO VOTED

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

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

07-3419 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on 10/30/07 with the following correction – Mr. Stanek was not present for the last two motions.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Ward

07-3420 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Flood) to move item VIIIg Anna L. LoPresti playground restoration project up on the agenda.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIg Request approval to begin a restoration project on the upper playground and surrounding area at LoPresti School

07-3421 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the request of the Anna L. LoPresti PTA to begin a restoration project on the upper playground and surrounding area at LoPresti School.

SO VOTED

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Yitts reviewed the correspondence

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Ms. Estock said her son told her there were cameras on the school bus. She asked if a camera could be put in Security Office at the High School. Mr. Baker said he did not feel it was right to talk about an employee if that person was not present. Mr. Garofolo said that the parent has the right to express their opinion. They have the right to say what they wish. Mr. Ward asked what the proper forum would be to discuss this situation. Ms. Mascolo said they followed the policy to a T. She feels that it is highly inappropriate to talk about personnel when they have no representation.

Mrs. Simoneau said she is concerned with the high school security. She has cautioned her child not to say anything. She feels it is difficult to learn in this type of environment. Mr. Garofolo said in the past parents have been advised to see the building principal on building issues then if they needed more clarification or were not happy to go to the Superintendent. If they still want more where do they go? Ms. Mascolo said she would have to look at the policies. Mr. Baker suggested they might want to get advice from Board council.

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. The district schools submitted their attendance numbers for the Meet the Teacher Nights for Board Members information.
2. MRSA Infections information was shared with student athletes. A copy of the packet was provided for Board Members' information.

3. Ms. Cindy Brooks, Director of Food Services, submitted the July-September, 2007 Nutrition Services report for Board Members' review.
4. The district schools submitted their November calendars for Board Members information.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report –

Joe told Board Members that the Homecoming events are scheduled for the third week in November. On Friday Night there will be a Pep Rally, bon fire and the Powder Puff Football game featuring the senior girls vs. the junior girls. The Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday night. Monday night there will be a concert. Tuesday night there will be the Pasta Dinner and Volleyball Tournament and finally Wednesday night is the Woodland vs. Seymour Football game.

Joe also congratulated the SHS Girls' swim team for their NVL win. He also recognized the Cross-country teams the girls' team took second place in the NVLs and the boys' team took 3rd.

VIb Board Chairman's Report –

Mr. Baker congratulated the Board Members that were voted on to the BOE Tuesday night.

Mr. Baker said he was planning on attending CABE's CAPS Convention in New London. One of the things he would like to learn is how to handle the Media. He will also like to see what other things school boards are doing.

VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Finance Committee met on October 15th. The minutes were submitted for Board Members' review.

The Athletic Committee met on October 18th. The minutes were submitted for Board Members' review.

The Transportation Committee met on October 22nd. The minutes were submitted for Board Members' review.

VIId Superintendent's Report –

Curriculum Committee meeting 11/12/07 Central Office 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mascolo said the Strategic School Profile would be discussed at the first meeting in December and at the next meeting the Elementary and Middle Schools Principals will present their School Improvement Plans.

VII OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Hirings

1. Michael Campanelli – Head Wrestling Coach Varsity (Appendix E position – replacing Joe Perrucci)
SHS

07-3422 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Michael Campanelli as Head Wrestling Varsity Coach (Appendix E position) at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Jamie Yakushewich – Instructional Paraprofessional In-School Suspension (replacing Lauren Abate)
SHS

07-3423 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Jamie Yakushewich as Instructional Paraprofessional In-School Suspension at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Volunteers

1. George Adams – Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach – SMS

07-3424 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge George Adams as Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach at Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Joseph Deptula, IV – Volunteer Assistant – Football – SHS

07-3425 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Flood) to acknowledge Joseph Deptula, IV as Volunteer Assistant Football at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

3. Kristi Tokarz – Volunteer Cheerleading Coach – SHS

07-3426 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to acknowledge Kristi Tokarz as Volunteer Cheerleading Coach at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIc Staff Resignations

1. Donna Ragaini – Special Education Paraprofessional – SHS

07-3427 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Donna Ragaini as Special Education Paraprofessional at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

2. Erin Naugle Scozzafava – Co-head Coach – Girls Tennis – SHS

07-3428 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to ratify the Superintendent's acceptance of the resignation of Erin Naugle Scozzafava as Co-head Coach Girls Tennis at Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Garofolo was not available for the next two motions.

VIIIId Request for out of state field trip

Ms. Tropeano and Ms. Silva, Seymour High School, are requesting permission for grades 9-12 French and Spanish classes to visit the United Nations in New York on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

07-3429 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to grant permission to Seymour High School's grades 9-12 French and Spanish classes to attend a field trip to the United Nations in New York City, NY.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIe Request to organize After Prom event

Mrs. Lavorgna, on behalf of P.A.R.T.Y, is requesting permission to organize a Post Prom event on May 16-17, 2008 at Seymour High School.

07-3430 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the request of Tari Lavorgna on behalf of Parents Advocating Responsible Teen Years (P.A.R.T.Y) to organize an after prom event.

SO VOTED

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

VIII f Request to Replace Mock Trial Program with Model United Nations Program

Mrs. Goodrich seeks permission to replace the Mock Trail program with a Model United Nations Program at Seymour High School.

07-3431 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) the Board accepts the request of Mrs. Cathy Goodrich to add a Model United Nations Program at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

07-3432 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk