

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

July 16, 2007
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Rhonda Geffert
Rose Marie Yitts
Judith Flood 7:34
Arlene Brumer 7:40
James Garofolo
Frederick Stanek
James Ward 8:25

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Criscuolo
MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Sryiac, Assistant Superintendent
Richard Belden, Business Manager

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Baker asked for a moment of silence for Kevin Murphy. Mr. Baker said Kevin had worked for the Board of Education for the past 9 years. It was a new position at the time and he did a phenomenal job of raising the levels of the physical plant of Seymour School systems. He took it on himself and set his own standards. He did a marvelous job. Besides that he was just a great guy. Mr. Stanek echoed the comments made by Mr. Baker. Mr. Stanek said that Mr. Murphy's passing was a great loss to the Seymour School system. Mr. Stanek said that Kevin was always there for the staff, trying to meet their needs. He had always heard positive comments about Kevin from the staff over the years. Beyond all that he touched our students in a very special way not only what he did through his job, but his interest in the athletic programs. Kevin will be missed. Mr. Stanek suggested that a copy of the minutes be sent to Mrs. Murphy.

RECOGNITION:

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized Ernie DiStasi and twelve members of the Middle School Student Council for their participation in the Town Government Day at Town Hall.
2. Mr. Kearns has been awarded a thousand dollar grant from the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council and Seymour High School was also recognized as the only High School in CT for taking proactive steps in education our students in traffic safety that centered on the "Take a Stand" Program. Out of the 50 programs across the Nation, Seymour was the only town in CT to received this award and a plaque sponsored by Allstate Insurance Company.

07-3295 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on June 14, 2007, with a spelling correction.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert

07-3296 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec. Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on June 25, 2007 with the correction – Mr. Baker was not present at the meeting.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Yitts, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo

ABSTAINED: Mrs. Flood, Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek

07-3297 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Education held on June 25, 2007 as presented.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Stanek

III. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

IV. COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS: NONE

V DEMONSTRATIONS AND INFORMAL DISTRIBUTIONS:

Va Class of 2007 commendation – Mrs. Goodrich

Mrs. Goodrich sent a letter to the students and parents of the Class of 2007 commending them on a very successful graduation.

Vb Class of 2007 Commendation – Mr. Thomas Petruny

Mr. Petruny wrote a letter commending the students in the Class of 2007 for their behavior during their graduation ceremony.

Vc Biennial School Facilities Survey

Mr. Belden submitted for Board Members' information on the feasibility of Tools for Schools Program for use in the District with the assistance of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Health District.

Vd Student Advisory Proposal

Mrs. Goodrich introduced Karen Studley, Seymour High School Social Worker, to explain the Advisory group program. She explained to Board Members the objectives of the program what is expected of the staff as well as what the students can expect from the program.

REPORTS:

VIa Student Representative Report – NONE

VIb Board Chairman's Report – NONE

VIc Board Committee Reports –

The Liaison Committee met on June 25, 2007. The minutes are submitted for Board Members' information.

The Joint Meeting of the Liaison and Finance Committees met on June 25, 2007. The minutes are submitted for Board Members' information.

The Liaison Committee met on July 12, 2007. Mr. Garofolo reviewed the meeting. After much debate and discussion the new position was not recommended at this time.

07-3298 MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to move item VIc(2) to Executive Session per the request of the Business Manager.

SO VOTED

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

VIId Superintendent's Report –

Policy Committee & Transportation Committee - August 1st at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office

VII OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VIII NEW BUSINESS:

VIIIa Staff Appointments

1. Eric Shulick - Math Teacher (2nd Step BA) – replacing Rema Fayad – Seymour High School
2. Joel Knecht – Music Teacher (1st Step BA) – replacing Phil Waselik – Seymour High School
3. Tammy Magnano – Spec. Ed. Teacher (1st BA) replacing Debbie Baldarelli – LoPresti School
4. Allison Acquavella – Grade 1 Teacher (1st Step MA) – replacing Alison Whittemore – Bungay School
5. Mallory Zenkus – Grade 1 Teacher (1st Setp BA) – new position – Bungay School
6. Gina Viveiros – Spec. Ed. Teacher (1st Step BA) – replacing Susan Connelly – Seymour Middle School
7. Nur Carvajal-Clarke – part-time Spanish Teacher (1st Step/adjusted for PT) replacing Victoria Morrison – Seymour High School
8. Laura Harrison – Spec. Ed Teacher (1st Step MA) replacing Kim Wright – Seymour High School
9. Deborah Baldarelli – K-12 Inclusion Facilitator – replacing Kristen Bruno – System Wide

07-3299 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to acknowledge the appointments of Eric Shulick - Math Teacher-Seymour High School, Joel Knecht – Music Teacher – Seymour High School, Tammy Magnano – Special Ed Teacher – LoPresti School, Allison Acquavella – Gr. 1 Teacher – Bungay School, Mallory Zenkus – Gr. 1 Teacher - Bungay School, Gina Viveiros – Spec. Ed. Teacher – Seymour Middle School, Nur Carvajal-Clarke – PT Spanish Teacher – Seymour High School, Laura Harrison Spec. Ed. Teacher – Seymour High School, Deborah Baldarelli K-12 Inclusion Facilitator – System Wide.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIb Staff Resignations

1. Michael Lavieri – Language Arts Teacher – Seymour Middle School
2. Roxanne Lindgren – Part-time Biology Teacher, Seymour High School
3. Michael Fritz – Custodian – Seymour Middle School
4. Millie Gonzalez – Cheerleading Coach (Appendix E position) – Seymour Middle School
5. John Panasci – Unified Arts Team Leader (Appendix E position) – Seymour Middle School
6. Karen Stanek – Mock Trial Team Advisor – Seymour High School

07-3300 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to ratify the resignations of Michael Lavieri, Language Arts Teacher; Roxanne Lindgren Biology Teacher; Michael Fritz, Custodian; Millie Gonzalez, Cheerleading Coach; John Panasci, Unified Arts Team Leader and with regret Karen Stanek, Mock Trail Team Advisor.

SO VOTED

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

DISQUALIFIED: Mr. Stanek

VIIIc Staff Hiring

1. David Cofrancesco – Instructional Paraprofessional – replacing Marci Basso – Bungay School

07-3301 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of David Cofrancesco as Instructional Paraprofessional at Bungay School.

SO VOTED

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

2. Norma Jean Desrosiers – Instructional Paraprofessional – replacing Lois Cacchilo – LoPresti School

07-3302 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Norma Jean Desrosiers as Instructional Paraprofessional at LoPresti School.

SO VOTED

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

3. Patricia Boyle – Secretary – replacing Joan Costabile – Seymour High School

07-3303 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Patricia Boyle as Secretary at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

4. Michael Collins – Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach (Appendix E Position) – Seymour High School

07- MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for hire of Michael Collins as Head Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach (Appendix E Position) – Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Baker

VIII d Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award Modification

Mr. Stanek reviewed and discussed the possibility of modifying the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award.

Mr. Stanek suggested modifying the way a teacher is chosen for this award by having the students in the senior class nominate the teacher. It was decided that the Curriculum Committee would discuss Mr. Stanek's suggestion and get back to the full Board.

VIII e Request for Family Medical Leave

Mrs. Rotatori is requesting another unpaid leave of absence with no benefits pending Board approval and a memorandum of understanding from the Union.

07-3304 MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Flood) to grant Mrs. Rotatori's request with a memorandum of understanding from the Union.

SO VOTED

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

VIII f 2007-2008 Board of Education Scheduled Meeting Dates

The proposed 2007-2008 Board of Education meeting dates are submitted for Board action.

07-3305 MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to accept the revision/changes to the 2007-2008 Board of Education meeting dates as submitted by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIII g Revision of 2007-2008 District-Wide School Calendar

The 2007-2008 district-wide school calendar needs to be revised due to changes with high school mid-term exam dates and possible Board of Education meeting date changes.

07-3306 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to ratify revision/changes to the 2007-2008 District-wide School Calendar as submitted by the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIh Healthy Food Certification Statement

The CT State Dept of Education is requesting for public schools to complete an ED099, Health Food Certification Statement which states whether school districts will or will not meet the CT Nutrition Standards.

07-3307 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to not have the Seymour Public Schools participate in the Healthy Food Certification Statement.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIi Boys & Girls Club Request

Michael Cotela, Director of Operations, is seeking permission to pick up children, who have registered for the club, after school and transport them to the club.

07-3308 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to grant permission to transport students to the Boys & Girls Club who are registered with the Club.

SO VOTED

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

VIIIj St. Augustine Church Request

Cindy Hannon, Director of Religious Education, is requesting the use of classrooms for the 2007-2008 school year beginning in September.

Anna L. LoPresti School – Mondays – 3:45 to 4:45

Paul E. Chatfield School – Tuesdays – 3:05-4:05

07-3309 MOTION: (Mr. Stanek, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to grant permission for the use of LoPresti and Chatfield Schools to St. Augustine Church for their religious education the times will be at discretion of the Superintendent.

SO VOTED

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

07-3310 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Garofolo) to enter into Executive Session inviting the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Business Manager to discuss the Business Manager's contract as requested.

SO VOTED

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

Entered into Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Resumed Regular Session at 9:45 p.m.

07- 3311 MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo, sec., Mrs. Yitts) to approve the Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations as presented.

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Ward

07-3312 MOTION: (Mrs. Yitts, 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 9:47.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk