



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2015  
Seymour Middle School  
Library Media Center  
7:30 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Saundra Gesek  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield (arrived 7:45 pm)  
Theodora Klarides (arrived 7:45 pm)  
Jennifer Magri  
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Falcioni, Student Representative  
Daniel Robinson, Student Representative  
Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services  
Rob Dyer, Systemwide Technology Coordinator  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Roxanne Melaragno, Assistant Principal, CLS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the 230 Chatfield-LoPresti students were recognized for their perfect attendance for the first marking period. Students who have perfect attendance each marking period will be receiving certificates, along with pencils which also acknowledge their excellent attendance
2. Congratulations to Bungay School students Camille Grandy, grade 4 and Gabriel Sand, grade 5 for their winning posters in the 2014 Fire Prevention Poster Contest for Seymour Elementary Schools. The winners will be given a ride to school on a fire truck on Wednesday, December 17. The runners-up are Ella Opotzner, Sofia Farmer, Katie Bruno and Sabryna Rogers. Congratulations to all the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for their incredible artwork

#### B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated December 16, 2014 to First Selectman Kurt Miller from Christine Syriac inviting him to the Budget workshops on January 8, 2015 and January 12, 2015
2. Letter dated December 16, 2014 to Board of Finance Chairman Bill Sawicki from Christine Syriac inviting him to the Budget workshops on January 8, 2015 and January 12, 2015

3. Letter dated December 5, 2014 to Consortium Members from Edward Arum confirming the purchase of oil from East River Energy
4. Letter dated December 5, 2014 to Consortium Members from Edward Arum confirming the purchase of diesel from East River Energy

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting – December 1, 2014

**B. Finance Committee Meeting – January 5, 2015**

1. Financial Management Summary - ending November 30, 2014

**C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – November, 2014**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

Mr. Stanek asked why the minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting were not included on the consent agenda. Mrs. Syriac said that historically, committee minutes have not been approved by the Board. They have been presented as information only. She said it was the decision of the Board if they would like to approve committee minutes in the future. After a brief discussion it was decided to continue as it has been and present minutes as information on future agendas.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**VI. REPORTS**

- A. MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to move Item **IV C Middle School Glee Club** – Short Performance out of order

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Mrs. Hamad explained that the Glee Club is a new club at Seymour Middle School and introduced Mr. Dobas said three students submitted a proposal to form a Glee Club and it was accepted. The students who participate are the highest scoring auditions. The Glee Club practices one time a week. Mr. Dobas introduced the first song “Say Something.” After a round of applause, Mr. Putorti requested a second song which the Glee Club enthusiastically agreed. Mr. Dobas thanked the Board of Education for allowing them to perform and hoped to return at a later date.

**B. Chairman’s Report**

1. Chairman’s Report

None

2. Board Member Comments

Mrs. Harmeling said the Board should start thinking about what kind of presentation we should do this year to present the budget. She watched the webinar from last year. She asked that the Board members begin to think about what the Board’s values are and said that two that comes to her mind is small class sizes and prudent spending.

**C. Superintendent’s Report**

Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that she would be bringing names forward for non renewal on the February agenda. The majority of the non renewals will be long term substitutes. There will also be some non tenured teachers who will be non renewed based on final budget approval. She let the Board know that she will be sending information regarding her budget proposal tomorrow. This is in preparation for the Special Board of Education meeting on Thursday.

**D. Student Representatives**

1. High School Student Representative Report

Chris Falcioni reported the following:

1. Mid term exams are beginning, half days, 2 exams per day.
2. Update on Sports
3. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visitation – entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade visited the high school during the day, their parents visited in the evening
4. Birmingham Health Center visit to sing Christmas Carols
5. Several students have been accepted into college

The student representatives left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

**E. NEASC Update – Jim Freund**

Mr. Freund reported that after meeting with the NEASC representative, he is pleased to report we are in good shape and well ahead of the game. Mr. Strumello asked Mr. Freund if he knew the status of the Waterbury Schools entering the NVL. Mr. Freund said they are waiting to see what the schedule would look like

**F. Building Use by Outside Organizations – Christine Syriac**

Mrs. Syriac wanted to share with the Board a problem that has been uncovered with a couple of outside agencies using our facilities before or after school. This started with an issue with SONCCA and a space conflict. This conflict has been resolved however; Mrs. Syriac has found that there is no Building Use Agreement in place for SONCCA for their before/after school program or for TEAM who uses the building at times when we are shut down. Mr. Putorti said he felt we should have an agreement with them. Mr. Hatfield said he sits on the Board of TEAM and is not sure if they have agreements with other school districts. Mr. Hatfield wondered if this should be referred to the Policy or Facility Committee. Mr. Putorti said we should just take our standard building use agreement and modify it. After more discussion it was decided that since there is no change in policy, Mrs. Syriac can modify the building use agreement and issue it to SONCCA and TEAM.

**G. Discussion of Associate Superintendent Position Posting**

Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that she would like to post the Associate Superintendent position in early February which would allow for interviewing in March and a hire in April. Mr. Putorti asked if there were plans to change the position. Mrs. Syriac said she would prefer that the job description not be changed. This person is the second in command; the Superintendent's designee. Mr. Putorti said he felt there was a problem with the title for this position. Mrs. Syriac said in anticipation of this discussion, she did some research and distributed a list of possible titles for the position. Ms. Harmeling asked if the title changed would this job be in the administrators union. Mrs. Syriac said she felt it would not. Mr. Hatfield asked if this should be referred to the Policy Committee. Mr. Strumello asked where Mr. Belden's position fell within the hierarchy and if a 092 is required for the position. Mrs. Syriac said the Associate Superintendent is second in command and Mr. Belden's duties are quite different from the Associate Superintendent. Ms. Harmeling said she was in favor of Assistant Superintendent. She explained that if we take the "superintendent" out of the title, we will not attract the caliber of candidates that we need to hire in order to grow them into Superintendent in the future. If the position is filled internally, it may be viewed as a step up but to outside candidates who may already have the title of director will view the job as a lateral move and may not apply. Mr. Putorti said changing the title may alleviate some of the problems we have had in the past with passing the budget. Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that the policy allows for the use of Associate Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations or School Business Manager so changing the titles will not require a policy change. Mrs. Syriac said she was uncomfortable with changing the title of Associate Superintendent and leaving the "superintendent" in Rick's title. Doing so would confuse people with regard to the hierarchy. Ms. Magri said she felt it was not the Associate Superintendent title that was the problem. She felt the problem was with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations title that is the problem. This job should really be identified as a School Business Manager. She suggests once Rick retires, this title be changed.

Mrs. Syriac said the last time we posted the position, we asked for a 093 certification because the state was going to require it. She was not sure why that requirement was postponed. Mrs. Harmeling said she felt the position should be a 093 position. Mrs. Syriac said she would not mind having both certifications in the posting. This would allow for the hiring of an 092 certification but willing to grow to a 093. Mrs. Syriac suggested the posting to begin at the base salary minus \$5000. After more discussion, it was decided to keep the titles the same at this time.

## **VII. INFORMATION**

### **A. School Activities and Recognitions**

1. Middle School (see attached)
2. Bungay School (see attached)
3. Chatfield-LoPresti School (see attached)

### **B. Committee Reports**

1. Facilities Committee – December 16, 2014

### **C. Staff Retirement – Certified**

1. Kelo, Robert
  - Math Teacher
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective June 30, 2015
2. Sypniewski, Carol
  - Elementary Teacher
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective June 30, 2015

### **D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

1. Ricard, Deborah
  - Instructional Paraprofessional
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Effective December 16, 2014

### **E. Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

1. Orosz, Missy
  - Head Coach
  - Tennis Team
  - Seymour High School

### **F. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Driscoll, Amber
  - Best Buddies Advisor
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective December 16, 2014

## **VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

### **A. Staff Hiring – Pending Certification**

1. Goldstein, Zachary
  - Special Education Teacher
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Replacing Gina Sweet

Mrs. Gesek asked if the instructional paraprofessional who left the district to become a Special Education teacher in another district was considered for this job. Mrs. Syriac confirmed she was interviewed and Mrs. Tagliatela said she was interviewed but accepted another position before the interviewing process was completed. Mr. Stanek asked if there were candidates from Seymour considered. Mrs. Tagliatela confirmed that no Seymour residents applied for the middle school position.

Mr. Stanek asked why we were hiring someone without their certification and Mrs. Syriac said his certification will be in tact within the next two weeks. Two superintendents called to inquire if we are hiring Mr. Goldstein because if we were not, they were going to extend an offer. Mr. Strumello noted that he has a background in tennis and we are in need of a girls tennis head coach.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Zachary Goldstein pending receipt of his certification for the position of Special Education Teacher at Seymour Middle School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**B. New Positions (Grant Funded)**

1. Instructional Paraprofessional – CLS

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to create a grant funded Instructional Paraprofessional position at Chatfield-LoPresti School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

2. Part Time IT Data Support Technician – District

Mrs. Syriac said the job description was sent to the Board Members. She explained that it has been very difficult to support the data requirements of the state. Mary Lavoie did some of this work and it has been difficult to pick up the pieces since she left. This position will be funded through a grant. It will be 25 hours a week and is considered part time. Mrs. Syriac has set aside \$40,000 for this position. This position requires technical experience, cannot get what we need at \$10.00 an hour. Ms. Harmeling said the full time rate for this position would be around \$53,000. She asked if we thought we can find someone. Mrs. Syriac said we can try. Ms. Gesek asked if the grant was a one year grant. Mrs. Syriac said this particular grant is a recurring grant. Mr. Stanek voiced his distain with all the state mandates that end up costing us money as a district. He said he was simply tired of it. Ms. Harmeling said she agreed with the burdens that the state places on us. She said she felt this person will be an asset to the district by freeing up administrators and others who currently struggle with the data management.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to create a grant funded Part Time IT Data Support Technician for the district

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Klarides, Mr. Stanek,

**C. Team of One Request**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director to allow Emmett O'Brien Technical High School student Jake Wronski to participate with the Seymour High School Wrestling team as a team of one

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**E. BOE Committee Meeting Schedule – January, 2015 – January, 2016**

Mr. Putorti pointed out that by posting these committee meetings, after 30 days they become regular meetings and the agendas can be changed if needed. A couple of changes to the proposed posting were made and agreed upon.

**MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling)** to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the revised proposed BOE Committee Meeting Schedule for January, 2015- January, 2016

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**F. Dedication Plaques – Chatfield-LoPresti School**

Mr. Hatfield said Mr. Belden did a good job on the plaques saying the wording fully embodied the spirit of the people being honored.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to purchase dedication plaques as presented for the Vincentena Kobasa Playground and the Kenneth Ewaskie Library Media Center at Chatfield-LoPresti School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**\* G. \*Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations Contracts**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) move that the board enter Executive Session for discussion and possible action on the contracts of the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations. The Board invites Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Belden into the Executive Session

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**\* It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded.**

Into Executive Session at 9:08 pm

Out of executive session at 10:34 pm

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to extend the contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations through June 30, 2018

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to increase the salary of the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations by 2% for the year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Mr. Hatfield noted that he felt like previous boards have created a cycle that we can't get out of and we are perpetuating it.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Gesek

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to extend the contract for the Superintendent through June 30, 2018.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to increase the salary for the Superintendent by 2% for the year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to approve that the amount to be deferred into an elected tax sheltered annuity remain unchanged for the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Gesek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk