



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2015
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Jay Hatfield
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Julian Falcioni, Student Representative
Daniel Robinson, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling
Theodora Klarides

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Asst. Super., Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Charles Daniel, Computer Technician
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Corey Tomasella, School Resource Officer
Deborah Bennett
Siobhan Walters
Michael Del Re
Donna Del Re
Sophia Rountos
Nick Lifrieri

Tammy Lifrieri
Viji Karunakaran
Dawn Sudimick
Gerald Sudimick
Lori Robinson
Kim Del Re
Kristen Bruno
Katie Bruno
Jim Geffert
Natalya Chernova
Jamie Yakushewich
Theresa Conroy
Matt Bronson
Ken Pereiras

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Dante Criscio (Grade 8) who qualified to advance to the state level in the Math Counts competition on March 14, 2015. Dante ranked 15 out of 140 students.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Special BOE Meeting – February 11, 2015

B. **Finance Committee Meeting – March 2, 2015**

1. Financial Management Summary - ending January 31, 2015

C. **Nutrition Services Financial Report – January, 2015**

D. **Out of State Field Trip**

1. Seymour High School
 - Business Classes - Grades 9,10,11,12
 - New York City Financial District
 - April 27, 2015
2. Seymour High School
 - Dance Team - Competition
 - Braintree High School, Braintree, MA
 - March 7, 2015

E. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Scheck, Darrell
 - Head Coach, Girls Tennis
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Missy Orosz

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

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. REPORTS

A. **Bungay School Coding Club – Kris Boyle and Students**

Mr. Boyle, Assistant Principal of Bungay School brought the Coding Club students to demonstrate what they have learned. Students Aila Chin, Lauren Lifrieri, Camryn Sudimick, McKenna Walters, Shea McDaniel, Kiana Tan, Michael Bouzolin, Katie Bruno, Nikki Karagiannis, Justin Bennett, Akhil Karunakaran, Victoria Del Re, Kaya Banka, and Chrysta Brantley were on hand to talk about why this club is something they want to be a part of this club. Each student picked a member of the Board of Education, an Administrator, and or a parent to share their individual projects. Mr. Strumello said he was amazed to hear that these students were graduating in the year 2022. Mr. Putorti thanked Mr. Boyle and the students for the excellent presentation and invited them back at the end of the year to share their completed projects. Mr. Hatfield said thank you for taking time to come to the meeting tonight.

B. **Chairman's Report**

1. Chairman's Report
None
2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield shared that he had a snow day at Platt today and that made it possible for him to fill in for Mr. Miller to read aloud to the students at Bungay School in honor of Dr. Seuss. He read to four third grade classes. He said the kids were wonderful; they were working hard when he arrived and got right back to work when he was done reading. Mr. Stanek voiced concern over the condition of the roads in the area of the schools, saying they are very narrow in spots. He asked Mr. Putorti if he might contact Public Works to request work be done in these areas saying he was very concerned. Mr. Putorti said he would make some calls.

Mr. Hatfield said he had heard the sidewalks at the middle school were very snowy this morning. Mr. Belden explained that the parents drop their students off right at the door so the custodians clear the sidewalks in front of the door and several feet back from them however, they do not clear all of the sidewalks initially since they like to concentrate on areas where students/staff actually walk. Once they were done clearing the main areas, they went back and cleared the area Mr. Hatfield indicated as an area of concern. Mr. Belden visited all of the schools this morning to assess the conditions and said given the time they had to do the work; he felt the schools were in fairly good condition. Mr. Strumello wanted to give kudos to the Public Works department. He reminded everyone that those guys work long hours on very little sleep in order to get the roads in order.

C. Superintendent's Report

None

D. High School Student Representatives

1. High School Student Representatives Report – Julian Falcioni, Daniel Robinson
Mr. Falcioni reported that the Connecticut Music Educators Festival was held on February 7. Sharon Yang and Aidan Vrluk were in the top tier and qualified for All State. On February 15 the high school had an assembly with Drew Bergman who is currently a successful college student, but he suffered from depression in his teenage years. On February 21 the Seymour High School cheerleaders competed in the NVL competition and placed 5th. Students attended a band festival at UCONN on February 21. On February 25 there was a parent informational session on Naviance. On February 28, the Dance team qualified for the regional competition. The Decades Show is on Friday, March 6 and the Mr. Seymour Contest was postponed and will now be held on March 13. There are currently six students participating. Mr. Robinson talked about the Spread the Word to Stop the Word program. He and Ms. Keeffe will have a wooden hand that says I love you in sign language which will hang in the cafeteria. March 4 is the National Spread the Word to End the Word Day. He distributed a write up on the program and asked all the Board members to sign the pledge. Ms. Hamad, Principal of Seymour Middle School asked if she could share some good news; the Middle School Geography Bee was held and James Engmann qualified for the state championship round.

E. Softball Lighting Project – Representative Theresa Conroy, Ken Pereiras

Mr. Ken Pereiras talked about the softball lighting project, which has grown to become a full fixing up project and distributed the "wish list" for the high school softball field. He introduced two members of the committee, Mr. Matt Bronson and Mr. Jim Geffert. Mr. Bronson talked about some of the fundraising that is planned which includes selling personalized bricks that will pave the way to the flagpole. He said they will be approaching companies for donations. Mr. Putorti asked if they have any funds already and Mr. Bronson said they have raised about \$50,000. Ms. Conroy talked about how she was approached after the turf field project and was happy to become involved. She said she felt it would help with Title IX that we improve the girls' softball field in addition to the football field which is used mainly by boys. She is pushing to secure funds from the State Bonding Commission and she was very hopeful that there would be news in April. Mr. Putorti thanked them for the update and wished them good luck.

F. School Resource Officer Cory Tomasella – Nancy Snopkowski

Mrs. Snopkowski introduced our school resource officer, Corey Tomasella. Officer Tomasella has eight years on the force and always wanted to work with kids. Mrs. Snopkowski said she often sees Officer Tomasella interacting with the kids when she is in the schools. Officer Tomasella thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and said he was very excited to be in this position. He said he feels it is "all about the kids". Mr. Stanek asked him to attend the Safety, Health, and Nutrition meeting next month. Mr. Strumello asked if he had gone through the School Resource Officer training and he confirmed they are working on it and hopes to go through the training within a month or two. Mr. Hatfield thanked Officer Tomasella for coming to the meeting and thanked him for all he does for the district. Officer Tomasella commended the principals saying they had been great and very welcoming to him.

G. Update on Workers' Compensation Meeting – Yashu Putorti, Rick Belden

Mr. Putorti said they met with town officials with regard to Workers' Compensation. Mr. Belden said Workers' Compensation is an area of concern this year. Mr. Belden attended the Board of Finance meeting and the auditors recommended that an internal services fund be established. He noted that this appeared to be well received by the Board of Finance members. This fund would allow us to consolidate and coordinate funds. He said we will know our full exposure in April or May. Mr. Hatfield wondered if this fund was only for Workers' Compensation and Mr. Belden confirmed that it was. Mr. Hatfield asked what the resolution for the Workers' Compensation situation was and Mr. Belden said the town will set up the fund and we will provide information in April or May regarding our needs with regard to any deficit. He said a process will be developed with regard to how the fund will be addressed in our budget. Mr. Hatfield said he felt we needed to be very careful when describing this fund so there is no confusion that it is for Workers' Compensation only. Mr. Belden said the process for charging back has not been determined. He said the balance will roll over from year to year if any funds are left. Mr. Putorti said by establishing this fund, it will allow us to take the Workers' Compensation line item out of our budget. Mr. Belden said that currently we have budgeted \$127,000 for Workers' Compensation that would be used first. Mr. Hatfield said he felt we need to get this in writing. Mr. Putorti said the town is creating the fund now. Mr. Belden said that everything will be put into a process on how it works and that would be shared with the Board of Education. He confirmed that it would be a multi-year process to "beef up" this fund. He said he will report back to the Board when the process is in place. Mr. Stanek said when he brought up the idea of a contingency fund, people disagreed with him. He said we are relying on the Town to handle our deficit and he is very concerned about this. He said he felt it was time to begin to think about other contingencies. Mr. Belden said this could be looked at if we have extra money and after our line items have been covered. Mr. Stanek said he agreed with Mr. Hatfield that we need some assurances from the Town and he felt that we need a legal opinion on the co-mingling of funds. Mr. Putorti said he will check with the attorney. Ms. Magri said we are talking about the Workers' Compensation internal services account at this time. We will have all the same information available to us. Mr. Putorti said Town officials have agreed that they will cover our Workers' Compensation deficit. Mr. Hatfield reiterated that he feels there is a need for a formal agreement with the Board of Finance.

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. Finance Committee – February 11, 2015
2. Community Advisory Committee – February 19, 2015
3. Awards Advisory Committee – February 23, 2015
4. Facilities Committee – February 23, 2015

C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Gilbert, Jeffrey
 - Assistant Coach, Baseball
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Sandy Osieski

D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified

1. Murphy, Karen
 - Kitchen Staff
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective February 12, 2015

2. Sadowski, Martha
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective last day of school

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Non Renewals

1. Non Renewal of Non-Tenured Elementary School Teachers

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew two non-tenured teachers, Jan Daly and Barbara Giannettino, at the end of the 2014-15 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statues Section 10-151

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek,

Mr. Stanek explained that he would be opposing this motion because he feels we should not be cutting teachers and would rather see other solutions to our budget problems.

2. Non Renewal of Long Term Substitutes who covered extended leaves of absences for certified teachers

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew four non-tenured teachers, Rachel Battino, Lori Calabrese, Michelle Cisiewicz, and Sally Lauro, at the end of the 2014-15 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statues Section 10-151

SO VOTED

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

B. Student Representatives – Awards Advisory Committee

1. Emily Curina

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the High School Student Council and the Awards Advisory Committee to appoint Emily Curina as the student representative on the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

2. Scott Walkinshaw

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the High School Student Council and the Awards Advisory Committee to appoint Scott Walkinshaw as the student representative on the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Stanek said he is very pleased to have these two young people serve on the Awards Advisory Committee. He said he is impressed with them so far. He noted that they were juniors so they will serve on the committee for two years. Mr. Hatfield said it is a great thing to have students who serve on this committee.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk