



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2015

Seymour High School

Cafeteria

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman

Saundra Gesek

Kristen Harmeling

Jay Hatfield

Theodora Klarides

Jennifer Magri

Allison Sobieski-McAndrew

Fred Stanek

Ed Strumello

Chris Falcioni, Student Representative (left at 7:46 pm)

Daniel Robinson, Student Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac

Nancy Snopkowski

Rick Belden

Rob Dyer

Cindy Brooks

Jim Freund

Paul Lucke

Tara Yusko

Bernadette Hamad

Ernie DiStasi

Mary Sue Feige

Kris Boyle

David Olechna

Cathy Guerra

Harvey Catlin

Louellen Pagliaro

Marcie Slie

Bob Kelo

Chris Pagliaro

Carol Sypniewski

Stefanie Slie

John Maiorino

Clair Maiorino

Donald Reidy

Elain Lonergan

Barbara Kearney

Patricia Duke

Laura Lane

George Bashura

Michael Kearney

Tom Gabinelli

Kimmy Hom

Austin Fraser

John Popik

Steve Hom

George Wityak

Chuck and Carol Babson

Missy Orosz

Jackie Inzero

Tracy McCormick

Haley Addis

Jordan Addis

Dina Zygmunt

Casinin Zygmunt

Mary DeAngelis

Linda Sacham

Pamela Waldron

Robert Magri

Joshua Magri

Kim Falcioni

Margaret Carvalho

Jim Geffert

Rhonda Geffert

Marlene Pudim

Jennifer Batterton

Sharon Brezina

A. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Awards Recognitions

1. 2015 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School
2. Retiring Staff Members (Pin Presentation)
3. 25 Years of Service (Pin Presentation)
4. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award
5. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award
6. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award
7. Thomas J. Petrundy Memorial Education and Environment Award
8. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative
9. 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year
10. CABE Student Leadership Award
11. Top 10 Students – Class of 2015

Mr. Putorti called for a break at 7:46 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 pm.

III. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Seymour Memorial Day Essay Contest
Congratulations to the winners of the Memorial Day Essay Contest. Nikki Karagiannis (1st Place), Madison Sheehan (1st Place), Sierra Cripps (2nd Place), and Grace Rennison (3rd Place) read their essays entitled *What Memorial Day Means to Me* on the reviewing stand of the Memorial Day Parade on May 24, 2015. After reading their essays, they were presented with plaques from the Memorial Day Parade Committee.
2. Middle School Evening of Honors – May 28, 2014
Grade 6: 94 students
Grade 7: 80 students
Grade 8: 91 students
3. Board Members Recognitions:
 - a. Ms. Magri said she would like to recognize Daniel Robinson who won a HALO award for Best Standout Performance in an Ensemble. Congratulations, Dan!

B. Correspondence

1. Note dated May 12, 2015 to the Board of Education from Kenneth Ewaskie thanking the Board for naming the Chatfield-LoPresti Library Media Center in his honor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Minutes – May 4, 2015

B. Finance Committee Meeting – May 4, 2015

1. Financial Management Summary – ending April 30, 2015
To approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept the April 30, 2015 Financial Management Summary as presented

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – April, 2015

D. Staff Hiring – Certified

1. Casuccio, Jamie
 - Math Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Monica Fasciano

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

SO VOTED

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

Ms. Gesek asked about page 4 of the Regular Meeting minutes on May 4, 2015 "changes to health insurance."

It says 15¢. Mr. Belden confirmed that it should read 15%.

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. REPORTS

A. Washington DC Presentation – Harvey Catlin and Students

Mr. Catlin and some of the students who went on the Washington DC trip presented an overview to the Board of Education. Mr. Catlin said that 90% of all 8th graders were able to attend. The students talked about all the destinations they were able to visit including the American History Museum, the National History Museum, the National Archives, the World War Two Memorial (which was a favorite), Ford Theatre - where they saw a play, Newseum, Air and Space Museum, Vietnam Memorial Wall, the Lincoln Monument, Arlington National Cemetery – where they saw JFK's Eternal Flame and the Tomb of the Unknown and the Capitol. A highlight of the trip was meeting with Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy on the steps of the Capitol. Mr. Catlin praised the students for their behavior and for the quality of the questions they asked the Senators.

B. Chairman's Report

a. Chairman's Report

Mr. Putorti said thank goodness the budget passed on the second referendum.

b. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield asked Mrs. Syriac to send thank you notes to Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy. He asked if Mrs. Syriac could present the Mandates Report in July. He also congratulated and thanked Mrs. Snopkowski for her years of service.

C. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac informed the Board that her review would be on June 22, 2015. She thanked Lee-Ann Dauerty for her work on the Awards Presentation. She said Ms. Tagliatela, Special Education Director, will be out on maternity leave during the summer and Mr. Boyle, Assistant Principal of Bungay School, will be the interim Special Education Director. He has the experience and background to be able to step into this role. Ms. Tagliatela and Mr. Boyle have already met to discuss the needs. This means there will be no Assistant Principal at Bungay School. Ms. Tagliatela hopes to be back by the end of September.

D. High School Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson

Mr. Robinson reported on several high school activities that happened during the month of May.

E. Discussion of Possible Future Merger of Building & Maintenance Department – Kurt Miller

First Selectman Miller was in attendance to ask the Board for support of the next step in the quest to merge some departments of the Town and the Board of Education. He would like to put together a proposal to merge the Board of Education Director of Facilities position with the Town. If the Board is open to the idea, he will begin to research how to do this. Mr. Hatfield pointed out that doing this with the Technology Director has been very successful. He suggested this be presented through the Facilities Committee or maybe an ad hoc committee. Mr. Stanek said he remembered this was tried in the past but not successful and asked Mr. Miller if he knew why it failed. Mr. Miller said it was a different game back then. He would like to set it up so it was more permanent and would not necessarily be tied to the person in office. Mr. Stanek asked what buildings would be covered with the merge and Mr. Miller said it would be town hall, the community center, the police department, the fire department and the library. Mr. Stanek said the BOE could save some money with this plan, Mr. Miller said it would be more in productivity. Mr. Stanek said we are looking for hard dollar cost savings. Mr. Strumello said he liked the idea of having an ad hoc committee. Ms. Magri reminded the Board that Mr. Natzel was currently under contract and we would need a plan and would also need to have more dialogue with Tony and Wayne.

Mr. Putorti agreed and said there needs to be a plan. He told Mr. Miller to put together a plan and come back to the Board; "we will listen." Mrs. Syriac said Mr. Natzel was unable to attend the meeting tonight. She confirmed that Mr. Natzel is under contract and it is a different situation than with Ms. Yusko and Mr. Dyer. They were both told at the time they were hired that their responsibilities may change. Ms. Yusko was aware that she would be taking over the Athletic Director position and Mr. Dyer was aware that the Technology position might be merged with the Town. Mr. Natzel will need to be involved in the conversation. Mr. Miller said he would put together a plan and come back to the Board of Education in a month or so. He would like to have this plan set in six months or so.

VIII. INFORMATION

A School Activities and Recognitions

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

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee – May 4, 2015

C. Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Bialek, Mary
 - Secretary
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 30, 2015

D. Staff Resignation – Appendix E

1. Kelo, Robert
 - Head Coach, Baseball
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 17, 2015

IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. 2015-16 Board of Education Budget

Mr. Strumello asked for a further explanation of what we were doing with the budget. Mrs. Syriac walked the Board through the road map and the changes to the budget. Mr. Stanek asked about declining enrollment in the world language classes and stated his concern about students losing interest in world languages. Mrs. Syriac said she sees where the world language classes come and go and she is certain that the position will go back to full time at some point in the future. She also said she and Mr. Freund are looking at possibly bringing in another language. Mr. Hatfield said he had concerns regarding losing a teacher and adding a secretary at Central Office. Mrs. Syriac explained that it was actually a cost saving to replace the Accounting Supervisor position with a secretary. It was necessary to have a secretary bookkeeper added because the work that the Accounting Supervisor did is still there and still needs to be done. Another piece is the need to have backup for payroll. Currently there is no backup for payroll and the secretary bookkeeper will be trained to do payroll. Mr. Belden said we are currently working with less staff than in 1998. He said it's necessary to segregate the duties of jobs. One person should not be doing all facets of a job. Ms. Harmeling said losing a teacher at Bungay School does not impact class size. Mr. Strumello said this budget shows we are listening to the public's concerns.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the budget adjustment of \$164,718 to the 2015-16 Board of Education for a total of \$32,582,447 as presented

AMENDED MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the budget adjustment of \$164,718 to the 2015-16 Board of Education for a total of \$32,580,447 as presented

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

B. Reinstatement of Non Renewed Teachers

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to reinstate Jan Daly and Barbara Giannettino who were non renewed due to budgetary reasons for the 2015-16 school year

SO VOTED

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

C. Middle School Curriculum

1. Seymour Middle School Math Curriculum

Mr. Strumello noted there was good collaboration between levels. Ms. Harmeling asked how long it will take to have the curriculum on the website. Mrs. Hamad said it would be posted immediately.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the Seymour Middle School Math Curriculum Grades 6-8, all units as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Stanek

DID NOT VOTE: Mr. Hatfield

2. Seymour Middle School Health Curriculum

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the Seymour Middle School Health Curriculum Grades 6-8, as presented

SO VOTED

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

DID NOT VOTE: Mr. Hatfield

3. Seymour Middle School STEM Curriculum

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum & Technology Committee to approve the Seymour Middle School STEM Curriculum Grade 6, as presented

SO VOTED

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

DID NOT VOTE: Mr. Hatfield

D. Bid Award (RFP #14-02)

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to award RFP#14-02 Security Expansion/Upgrade System - Phase II for the installation of interior / exterior camera's and door access at Seymour High School to Security Plus North East, 436 Smith Street, Middletown, CT 06457 in an amount not to exceed \$135,000 and to utilize State of Connecticut Security Grant Funds in the amount of \$84,375 and local funds in the amount of \$50,625 to fund the project

SO VOTED

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

E. Innovation Grant

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the submission of the Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant

SO VOTED

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

F. Out of State Field Trips

1. Regional Finals Track

Mr. Hatfield asked if a field trip is part of the schedule, can the Board approve a "blanket" request for all the trips. Ms. Harmeling responded that she was concerned about the cost and this is what is done.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Ms. Tara Yusko to have a student attend the Regional Finals in Track

SO VOTED

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

2. National Finals Track

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Ms. Tara Yusko to have a student attend the National Finals in Track

SO VOTED

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

3. HS Cheer Camp

Mrs. Syriac indicated that the Spirit Club pays for the bus and students pay the entry fees.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the request of Ms. Tara Yusko to have the high school cheerleading team attend their annual cheer camp

SO VOTED

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

F. Robert Kelo Retirement

Mr. Putorti asked why we are retiring a number now when Mr. Kelo is retiring as a teacher. Mr. Strumello said this is the same procedure as with Mr. Sponheimer. Ms. Harmeling asked what number is being retired and Mr. Hatfield said they are doing research on his player number but they would be retiring his coaching number #33. Mr. Putorti asked if his number is being retired because he played for Seymour High School or because he was a coach. Ms. Harmeling said she felt we have the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame and that would be the avenue we should use for this. She said she did not know why we are doing this. We have a forum to celebrate coaches and that is where it should stay. We have many fine teachers retire and we don't honor them. Mr. Stanek said the teachers can be nominated for a Kobasa Award. Ms. Harmeling said she would be more comfortable with solid criteria, noting this seems a little ad hoc. She said coaches could be recognized with the Gallagher Award. Mr. Stanek noted that we receive very few nominations for awards. Mr. Stanek asked what number we are retiring, coaching number or player number. Ms. Harmeling asked if we really want this to be the precedent for coaches. Mr. Stanek said it was a nice gesture for someone who has touched a lot of lives. Mr. Strumello said it recognizes the accomplishment of coaches. Ms. Magri said she would like to see some criteria, noting that she is not a proponent of retiring numbers. She said she felt the Athletic Committee should develop a criterion that is strong and consistent. Mr. Stanek agreed.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to retire Mr. Robert Kelo's jersey number and allow the decision to be his on whether a future Seymour player may wear his number

AMENDED MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Committee to retire Mr. Robert Kelo's jersey number #33 and allow the decision to be his on whether a future Seymour player may wear his number

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk