

Seymour Board of Education



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2015
Chatfield-LoPresti School
Gym
7:00 p.m.

RECEIVED 10-26-15
AT 8:35 AM
TOWN CLERK

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Jay Hatfield
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling
Theodora Klarides
Allison Sobieski
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Asst. Principal, SHS
Tara Yusko, Asst. 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, Asst. Principal, CLS
Allison Cunningham
Gina Boxleitner
Stacey Kempf
Darlene O'Callahan
Elena Miller
Jennifer Batterton
Kelley Garofalo
Rebecca DeAngelis

There was no quorum to begin the meeting at 7:00 pm.

I. CALL TO ORDER

With enough Board members now present, Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information

Mr. Putorti noted that the School Improvement Plans were presented to the audience earlier in the evening.

1. School Improvement Plan: Chatfield-LoPresti School – David Olechna
2. School Improvement Plan: Bungay School – Mary Sue Feige

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS

Mrs. Syriac presented her goals for the 2015-16 school year.

Goal #1 - To remain a visible presence in the academic setting

Mrs. Syriac explained that she would be modifying her Listen and Learn sessions by visiting classrooms for an entire day. She extended an invitation to all staff during the convocation. She feels this will give her the opportunity to better understand our instructional environment. This will also demonstrate a strong connection to what is most important: student learning. She plans to attend a variety of cultural performances across schools. Ms. Gesek said her principal back in the 70's tried this and they found he was called out of the classroom many, many times. **Goal #2 - Working with the Associate Superintendent and the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) develop a preliminary professional learning calendar for the 16-17 school year utilizing data collected from teacher professional growth plans, aligned with District Data Team goals, and feedback from professional learning evaluation forms.**

Mrs. Syriac said this will promote high expectations for administration to demonstrate their leadership and will promote high expectations for improvement of instruction and unified messages. She said she will work collaboratively with the Associate Superintendent, administrators and teachers to provide a 2016-2017 draft professional learning plan to teachers in June 2016. She said we need a vision to move forward and have an understanding of what we are doing and where we are going. Mr. Stanek asked if we provide professional learning for teachers to enhance their knowledge in their specific subject area. Mrs. Syriac said while we have done this in the past, we have not provided enough of this. We are trying to move toward this. Mr. Hatfield asked if teachers are given opportunities to attend outside conferences and Mrs. Syriac said sometimes a teacher will attend and bring back knowledge to share with other teachers but we do not do this very often as our budget cannot support it.

Goal #3 Prepare a 2016-2017 budget that carefully reflects the district mission to provide a quality education balanced with fiscal realities.

Mrs. Syriac said while this is something she does every year; this year should would like to collect, maintain, analyze enrollment data and special student circumstances to aid staffing decisions. She will monitor enrollment trends, class sizes and staffing needs and examine staffing projections and resource allocations to maximize cost effectiveness.

Goal #4 Create a new technology plan (two year goal)

Mrs. Syriac said will be creating a new Technology Plan and it will take two years to complete this goal. She said she will be revamping the Technology Committee and this new plan will give us an idea of where we want to be in five or ten years. She wants to set goals with the committee. She will develop associated professional learning; manage state reporting demands, and develop an instructional based plan with sustainable resource allocation plan. She will be leading the transition and implementation of a new student information management system which is a huge job. This change will affect everyone; parents, students, and staff. Ms. Magri asked if changing the student information system will allow us to change the website. Mrs. Syriac said that it will allow us to make a change to the website.

Mr. Hatfield asked if there was a way of measuring tangible evidence that a goal has been met. He said he has struggled with this in the past. Ms. Magri suggested keeping records throughout the year as Mrs. Syriac reports back to the Board so you have the information that is needed at year end to make a determination of whether the Superintendent has met, not met, or exceeded the goals. After further discussion, Mr. Putorti said he felt this was not an issue.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm