

Seymour Board of Education



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2015
Seymour High School
Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 11/19/15
TIME: 12:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Saundra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (7:36 pm)
Theodora Klarides (7:36 pm)
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek (7:34 pm)
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Allison Sobieski
Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Eric Laurentus, Technology
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
Kim Leoni
Jennifer Batterton

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information

1. School Improvement Plan: Seymour High School – Jim Freund
Mr. Freund thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the SHS School Improvement plan. He said this was a big year for the high school with all the work being done for NEASC. He presented the Core Values and Beliefs saying they were reviewed and voted on each year. The Learning Expectations are also reviewed on a regular basis and are displayed throughout the school. Mr. Freund reviewed each slide of his presentation pointing out that the students' performance is just higher than the national norm for 2014-15 on MAP and accomplishments. Mr. Freund listed the many clubs that are available to the students and said he was very proud of the Business and Technology Departments who received very high standings. In the state, Business Administration ranked #1, Accounting ranked #7, Personal Finance ranked #16, and CAD ranked #1.

Mr. Freund said he felt attendance is the most important Student Performance Indicator because if students are not present, they cannot learn. Mr. Strumello asked why the advanced placement results for 2014-15 were so different for English Language Composition and English Literature and Composition. Ms. Yusko said the tests are very different and the English Literature test is much more difficult. Ms. Harmeling said it would be helpful to know the numbers of students who took the test. Mr. Freund noted that of the 57 students who applied for ECE Credits, 54 of them received it. He talked about the new 5:30 A.M. Wildcats program, saying there have been four participants so far. These students are not being suspended and are not missing classes. The 2015 student graduation rate was the highest in school history with a 4 year graduation rate of 91%. Mr. Freund said that every teacher in the school was working to improve in all focus areas. He said he was looking to train another teacher and an instructional paraprofessional as proctors so there can be more support during assessments. He feels that having additional proctors will inspire the students to take the test seriously; and said our students are smarter than they think. Mr. Freund said Seymour High School is the best school in the region stating it is: fully accredited by NEASC, has 13 classes for AP/College Credit, 17 varsity athletic teams, 18 extracurricular clubs with more to come, it has a highly qualified staff who are dedicated to the school and its students, it has over 500 devices in the school for technology integration and it has multiple award winning business and engineering programs. Mr. Strumello suggested that it should be listed somewhere in the plan that parents are also responsible for their child's education in conjunction with the school. Mr. Stanek said the student council said they wanted more instructional time. Mr. Hatfield said we should try to offer more opportunities for college credit if possible.

2. School Improvement Plan: Seymour Middle School – Bernadette Hamad

Mrs. Hamad reviewed the district and middle school mission statements and reviewed the responsibilities of the school data team. The school data team meets once a month but has been meeting more often since there is so much data to review. She reviewed all the slides in her presentation saying they were looking at lots of things to determine why the results were the way they were. In Social Studies writing, she said they definitely saw growth from the fall results to the spring results. She reviewed the Student Performance Indicators saying a lot of time and effort went into developing these. The SBAC 2015 results showed that the middle school students outperformed the State in every area except mathematics in grade 7. She reminded everyone that this is just a starting point. Mrs. Hamad reviewed the SBAC % At/Near and Above Level. Mrs. Syriac explained that there are just three levels: "Below", "At/Near", and "Above" for the associated learning claims. Mrs. Hamad reviewed the MAP 2015 ELA chart saying grade 6 did phenomenal but grades 7 and 8 did not meet the projection. She said they are currently looking at the "whys". She reviewed the 2015-16 Goals in Reading and said the teachers are being trained in Readers Workshop, being provided with more Professional Development in reading strategies, are continuing training in MAP and are working with students who will set their own goals. She said she believes this will provide the students with "buy-in" to their own learning. She reviewed the 2015-16 focus in Math and said the teachers will be provided with professional learning in SBAC claims for concepts and procedures, they will continue to receive training in MAP and they will also be working with the students to set academic goals based on the teacher feedback and monitoring. Mrs. Hamad concluded her presentation talking about "Pride Intensified" a program that meets with students in small groups across all grade levels. They are developing more clubs and teachers are leading group activities such as window decorating, bulletin board decorating, tech time, board games, and pizza with the principal. This is a major component for students to take ownership of their own learning. Kids who feel connected to their school, take pride in their education. Mr. Putorti said the reading scores are not good and we need to get these scores up. Ms. Harmeling asked about Readers Workshop and Mrs. Hamad said it is not an end-all. It is being used in conjunction with other strategies. It is not a program; it is instructional strategies that are used in conjunction with our curriculum. Mr. Strumello said that the parent involvement was also an important piece. Mrs. Hamad said they are working to improve parent involvement and are looking for ways to reach out to parents.

Ms. Harmeling asked about the Social Studies scores and if there might be a different way to assess. Mrs. Hamad said they follow the SBAC assessment and it is different content each year.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. DISCUSSION

A. CABE Delegate Assembly -- November 19, 2015

Mr. Putorti said that Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Strumello, and Mr. Hatfield will be attending the 2015 Delegate Assembly

1. Appointment of Delegate Assembly Members

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to appoint Mr. Strumello as the 2015 Delegate Assembly voting member for the Seymour Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to appoint Ms. Harmeling and Mr. Hatfield as the alternate 2015 Delegate Assembly voting members for the Seymour Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

2. II.1 Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Use

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Strumello) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.1 Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Use

SO VOTED

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

3. II.2 [High School Completion] Student Success

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Stanek) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.2 [High School Completion] Student Success

SO VOTED

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

4. II.3 Early Care and Education Linking Parental Involvement

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.3 Early Care and Education Linking Parental Involvement

SO VOTED

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

5. II.4 Family Life Education

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Strumello) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.4 Family Life Education

SO VOTED

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

6. II.5 Connecticut State Teachers Retirement

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Mr. Stanek) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to endorse II.5 Connecticut State Teachers Retirement

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Ms. Magri

7. II.6 Minimum Budget Requirement
MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/Ms. Magri) to take no position on II.6 Minimum Budget Requirement and to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to make a decision based on what they hear
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
8. II.7 Magnet School, Choice and Charter Funding
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.7 Magnet School, Choice and Charter Funding
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
9. II.8 Student Achievement and Assessment (Amending 1.11)
Issue: Smarter Balanced Assessments being developmentally inappropriate
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Strumello) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.8 Student Achievement and Assessment (Amending 1.11)
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
10. II.9 Student Achievement and Assessment (Amending 1.11)
Issue: Lack of focus on educating the "whole child"
MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.9 Student Achievement and Assessment (Amending 1.11)
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Ms. Magri asked the Delegate Assembly member to find out why this is so narrow.
11. II.10 Regionalism Efforts
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Mr. Stanek) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.10 Regionalism Efforts
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
12. II.11 Cadillac Tax
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Ms. Magri) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to oppose II.11 Cadillac Tax
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri
OPPOSED: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/Mr. Hatfield) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve II.11 Cadillac Tax
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri
13. III.1 Required Board Member Professional Development
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/Mr. Hatfield) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve III.1 Required Board Member Professional Development
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

13. III.2 Changes to the Referendum Law Regarding Automated Calling Systems
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve III.2 Changes to the Referendum Law Regarding Automated Calling Systems

SO VOTED

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

14. III.3 School Construction Grants

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Putorti) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to approve III.3 School Construction Grants

SO VOTED

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

15. Consent Agenda I.65 Alternate Routes to Teacher and Administrator Certification

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the appointed BOE Delegate Assembly member to vote to evoke the appropriate procedure to remove I.65 Alternate Routes to Teacher and Administrator Certification from the Consent Agenda and vote to oppose

SO VOTED

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

