

Seymour Board of Education



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2015
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 12/23/15
TIME: 12:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling (7:03)
Jay Hatfield
Allison Sobieski
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Theodora Klarides
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Bernadette Hamad, Principal SMS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS
Harvey Catlin
Chris Kaszeta

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hatfield called for a moment of silence in honor of Rosemary Wilson, a former Seymour teacher.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **8TH Grade Class Trip** – Bernadette Hamad, Harvey Catlin

Mrs. Hamad shared the survey results with the Board. After analyzing the data from parents, Mr. Catlin asked for the Board's support to cancel the trip to Washington DC and approve the 8th grade trip to Gettysburg, Valley Forge, and Philadelphia.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/Mr. Strumello) to approve the out of state field trip request of Mr. Harvey Catlin to take the 8th grade class to Gettysburg, PA, Valley Forge, PA, and Philadelphia, PA

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

B. **15-16 Budget Adjustment Based on State Funding Cuts**

Mr. Putorti said there was approximately \$5,000 cut in transportation but at this time there is nothing to do with the budget. No action was taken.

C. **Board of Education Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule/Locations**

Mr. Putorti reported that he is gathering information on videotaping the BOE meetings and Mr. Dyer is getting quotes on different options. The issue is it will be necessary to find a person to man the camera and deliver and set up the camera at each meeting.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the proposed Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2016 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield

D. Board of Education Committees

Mr. Putorti said there was very little change to the committees; he replaced Sandra Gesek with Jim Garofolo and he and Mr. Stanek made one other change. Mr. Hatfield commented that he was disappointed that he wanted to be on the Athletic Committee and that did not happen. He also asked to revisit the idea of restructuring the committees. He wanted it on the record that he requested this be on the agenda but the Board chair chose not to discuss it. Ms. Harmeling stated that she had no problem with the people on the committees but she felt we should revisit restructuring the committees. She said she is not in favor of this structure and feels we need to revisit it. She said it was not fair to take it off the table forever simply because it was voted down one time. Mr. Garofolo asked for an update on the process since he was not involved when this subject was last discussed. Ms. Harmeling explained that when several of the Board members went to the CABA Conference a year ago, they had the opportunity to see how other Boards are structured. She felt we can be more strategic and merge committees. Some committees may meet as an Ad Hoc committee. She said she has a problem with not having a discussion just because it was talked about six or seven months ago. Mr. Strumello agreed and talked about what he remembered was discussed previously. Mr. Garofolo spoke about the Liaison Committee and how he feels the Board members are kept in the dark, not involved in the discussion and shut out due to confidentiality. He felt they had not been given the opportunity to give input. Any proposals should come to the Board. The Board has a common stake to see if the proposals fit the goals and budget. Mr. Putorti explained that they now have "non meetings" to go over proposals and solicit input. Mr. Garofolo said this was good to hear. Ms. Sobieski said she struggles with making Liaison Committee meetings and wondered if there was anyone else who was interested. Mr. Hatfield said it is difficult when you don't get the whole picture until the end of the process. He feels we should rotate in new members on the Liaison Committee. He said he has never participated and would like to be a part of the nurses and secretaries negotiations. He felt it would be improper for him to be involved in the teachers' negotiations since he is a teacher. Mr. Garofolo said we are asked to sign off on the amount of money that will be paid by the citizens of this community. Mr. Strumello said that he felt there should be a meeting before the negotiation process is started so they can share their input. He also said many town committees have an alternate member and maybe we should consider having one for some of our committees. Mr. Garofolo said he felt having joint committee meetings would be a good solution. It was suggested that restructuring committees would be a topic for an upcoming Board meeting or Policy Committee meeting with the suggestion of revisiting the three options that were previously discussed. Mr. Strumello expressed his disappointment that Mr. Hatfield was not put on the Athletic Committee.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education Chairperson regarding the members of the Board of Education Committees

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello

E. *Salary Reopeners

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss the salaries of the Superintendent of Schools, the Associate Superintendent, and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

Into Executive Session: 7:32 pm

Out of Executive Session: 8:10 pm

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk