

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2016  
Chatfield-LoPresti School  
Cafeteria  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 2/9/16  
TIME: 11:35 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
James Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello  
Daniel Robinson, Student Representative  
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling  
Theodora Klarides  
Allison Sobieski

### 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  
Paul Lucke, Assistant 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, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Paul Sponheimer  
Christine Kaszeta  
Elaine Bonaventura  
Jennifer Batterton  
Sam Pallastro

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the winners of the Geography Bee at Seymour Middle School! Third Place: Novrus Shehaj, Runner Up: Nick Valverde, and Champion Jack Crocamo!
2. Congratulations to Bungay School students Zoie Kempf (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Madelynn Orosz (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) who were recognized for their fire prevention posters by winning separate rides to school in a fire truck with their fathers on Monday, January 25, 2016. Seymour Fire Marshall Paul Wetowicz presented each student with a certificate upon arrival at Chatfield-LoPresti School

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Christine Kaszeta, 483 Summit Drive, Orange, CT 06477**

Mrs. Kaszeta introduced herself as a Seymour Middle School teacher. She voiced her concerns over losing two teachers at the middle school. She said she was Miss Sponheimer's mentor and she found her to be a wonderful and caring teacher. She also voiced her support for Miss Renaldi. She asked the Board if there is any way possible, to try and keep these two young people at the middle school.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Special BOE Minutes – January 4, 2016
2. Special BOE Minutes – January 7, 2016
3. Special BOE Minutes – January 25, 2016

#### B. **Finance Committee Meeting – February 1, 2016**

1. Financial Management Summary - ending January 27, 2016  
To approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee meeting to accept the January 27, 2016 Financial Management Summary as presented

#### C. **Nutrition Services Financial Report – December, 2015**

#### D. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Matrigali, Mark
  - Assistant Coach, Baseball
  - High School
  - Replacing Jeff Gilbert

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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

### V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

### VI. REPORTS

#### A. **Committee Reports**

1. Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2016  
Mr. Strumello commended the Middle School Social Studies teachers for being the forerunners in developing the social studies curriculum for the state. He said it was nice that we would be leading rather than following. He also said he is very excited that we will be able to offer French at Seymour Middle School. Mr. Garofolo said he was very impressed with the presentation at the Curriculum meeting.
2. Nutrition, Health, and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2016

#### B. **Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments  
Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that he is looking for two Board members to work with Kurt Miller regarding the merging of town departments. Please email him if you have an interest. He also reminded Board members that they had talked about doing presentations based on what they learned at the convention. He has not yet heard from anyone. He reminded the Board that the Board of Finance was meeting on February 3, 2016 in Town to discuss the budget.
2. Board Member Comments  
None

#### C. **Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson, Cassandra Quintiliano**

Mr. Robinson reported the following:

January 9, 2016 - The debate team competed at Trumbull. Varsity had two teams, the team of Jacob Hunnicutt and Ejona Grata won 2 of 3 debates. Novice had two teams, the team of Rachel Moon and Arian Wheeler won 3 of 3 debates.

January 12 – 15, 2016 - Midyear Exams were completed.

NWEA MAP testing for grades 9 and 10 was implemented after exams. Teachers in the English and Math departments received training allowing them to predict college readiness and SAT performance of our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students based on NWEA MAP performance.

January 14, 2016 - Unified Arts Exposition occurred - The Technology department displayed alternative energy projects, the electric vehicles and CADD/3d printer work as well as construction projects. The Business displayed materials created for group projects and promotional videos being produced in Marketing for the town of Seymour. Digital and traditional artwork was displayed. The music department had mini performances throughout the cafeteria and in the hallway leading to the cafeteria.

January 14, 2016 – The Winter Choral Concert occurred after the Unified Arts Exposition.

January 25, 2016 - AP Science Night – Mrs. Scozzafava, Mrs. Sweeney and Mr. Zepettello presented important information pertaining to the AP science classes and the EMT course offered at SHS, 21 people attended.

January 28, 2016 - Winter Band Concert

Throughout the month the Performing Arts students have been making recordings of original music to produce their first CD.

In Sports, Boys Basketball 1-12, Girls Basketball 8-7, Boys Swimming 4-2-1, Wrestling – Chris Ernst took first place in the heavyweight division during the Branford Tournament. Cheerleading won the Newington competition and they were the Grand Champions of the Quinnipiac Invitational. Dance team took second place at the Woodland Invitational.

Ms. Magri said she had the opportunity to attend the Unified Arts Expo and said it was very good. She was particularly impressed with the family choir saying they performed a phenomenal piece. It was wonderful.

**D. Paul C. Porter Memorial Auditorium Dedication Ceremony**

Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that the dedication of the Paul C. Porter Memorial Auditorium will be held on March 7 beginning at 6:00 pm. Mr. Porter's wife and son will be in attendance. Mrs. Syriac asked if there was a Board member who would like to introduce the dedication and Mr. Hatfield said he would do it if Mr. Stanek was ok with it. Mr. Stanek said he did this for the Ewaskie dedication and he was fine with Mr. Hatfield doing this for Mr. Porter. Mr. Belden shared the wording on the plaque along with the picture that Mrs. Porter had given him for the plaque.

**E. Update on Medical Insurance**

Mr. Belden shared that the Town and the Board of Education are the same with regard to medical insurance and the town is planning to put out for bids for insurance carriers. Mr. Belden said this is a good way to test the rates. Mr. Putorti asked if some plans are not pooled. Mr. Belden said we are rated as one plan. Mr. Stanek asked if this will help with our premiums and Mr. Belden responded that his personal opinion was that it would not but said this is a good process to test the market.

**VII. INFORMATION**

**A. School Activities and Recognitions**

1. Bungay School
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
3. Seymour Middle School

**B. Special Meeting Minutes Revised – December 21, 2015**

**C. Seymour High School Athletic Department Fall Season Report**

**D. Staff Retirements/Resignations – Non-Certified**

1. Frosceno, Andrew
  - Resignation
  - Custodian, Part Time
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective January 12, 2016
2. Natowich, John
  - Retirement
  - Custodian
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective June 30, 2016

**E. Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

1. Perrucci, Joseph
  - Head Coach, Wrestling
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective March, 2016
2. White, Steven
  - Assistant Coach, Wrestling
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective March 31, 2016
3. Scheck, Darrell
  - Head Coach, Tennis Team
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective January 27, 2016

**VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**A. Out of State Field Trip**

1. Seymour High School, Indoor Track Team, New York, NY  
Mr. Hatfield asked if they needed to pay their own transportation costs for this trip. Saying the form said the limousine was donated by the booster club. Mrs. Syriac explained that a school bus cannot be taken out of state. Mr. Belden said because this event was not a CIAC event and more like an individual event, they would need to arrange for their own transportation.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the request of John Johnson to take the HS Indoor Track team to New York City, NY to compete at the New Balance Track and Field event in New York, NY

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**B. Policy Revisions**

1. Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the revision to Policy #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault
2. Regulation #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the revision to Regulation #5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault

**SO VOTED**

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**C. Curriculum Recommendations**

1. Seymour High School – Use of the State Curriculum for Algebra II and Geometry  
Mr. Stanek said this supported his conclusion that local Boards of Education are needed less and less. Mrs. Syriac said this was not mandated by the state and they could vote against it but this was supported by the high school teachers.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee to approve the use of the state curriculum for Algebra II and Geometry by Seymour High School
2. Seymour Middle School – French 1A  
Mr. Strumello said he was very excited about offering French at the middle school.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee to approve French 1A at Seymour Middle School

**SO VOTED**

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**D. Softball Field Lighting Project Update**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add to the agenda a discussion on the softball field lighting project

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Mr. Strumello reported that there was a meeting a few weeks ago and the project is a little more money than was expected. The problem is the cost factor is not suitable for bonding. Mr. Belden explained this is a smaller project and bids are not coming in for it. The original project was for lighting only. Now it includes the field and fences. The challenge is this is a state project. Mr. Stanek said it was initially approved as a fundraising project for lighting. Should it go back to that? Mr. Hatfield said these are small projects and contractors are not knocking down the doors to get the work. Mr. Strumello asked that this be placed on the next Board meeting agenda for further discussion.

**E. Non Renewals**

**1. Non Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers**

Ms. Magri said doing this is never an easy thing to do. She said it pains her to do this but it is clear this has to be done because of our declining enrollment. The contract dictates last ones in are the first ones to go. She stated it is not about performance as she is sure these teachers are doing a great job. Mr. Hatfield asked if there were additional retirements, could these teachers come back. Mrs. Syriac explained that for the next two years these teachers will be the first to be called back if an opening occurs with their certification. Mr. Strumello recalled this happened about 15-20 years ago and it is not fun. Mr. Garofolo said this is a contractual obligation. Mrs. Syriac said she met with the union and these are the four teachers who have to be non renewed. It is not about performance; it is a reduction in work force and that is what their letters will say.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Putorti) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew four non-tenured teachers, Jan Daly, Barbara Giannettino, Jessica Renaldi, and Deirdre Sponheimer at the end of the 2015-16 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek  
The motion fails (tie).

**F. Ratification of Nurses Contract**

Mr. Hatfield felt he had not been given enough time to review the contract. Mr. Putorti offered to adjourn the meeting to have a non meeting to discuss the contract and then reconvene. Ms. Magri reminded Mr. Hatfield that she has been giving updates throughout the process and nothing is different. Mr. Putorti said the language is standard. Mr. Hatfield then asked for time to read the contract. After reading the contract he asked about the 188 days. Mrs. Syriac said this is to allow for two days before school starts and two days after school ends. This is similar to what they have done in the past and it was agreeable to both parties. Mr. Strumello said he appreciated how much nurses are needed in the schools and all they do for the students. Mr. Hatfield asked about the head nurse position and Mrs. Syriac explained that this is an appendix E position and if there was a need it would be posted just like any other appendix E position. Mr. Hatfield asked if the contract needed to include job responsibilities and it was explained that there is no need for this.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Putorti) move that the board ratify the Nurses Contract for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 school years

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

Mr. Hatfield wanted it noted that he is voting opposed because of the late notice of information.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kim Kirei, 15 Lantern Drive, Seymour, CT – Ms. Kirei asked Mr. Putorti to read an email from her regarding substitute teaching pay. She said substitutes make \$75 a day and it had been at this rate for a long time. She said she got the sense that Seymour Schools are desperate for substitutes and the rate of pay may be part of the problem. She stated that substitute teachers are educated people and the pay is almost insulting to them.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk