

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2016
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 3/14/16
TIME: 7:30pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS
Meagan Krushinski
Jessica Renaldi
Paul Sponheimer
Jennifer Ferreira
Sam Pollastro

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.
Mr. Stanek and Mr. Hatfield called for a moment of silence for Judy Legeza and Irene Raffey, two former Seymour teachers who passed away recently.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Aidan Vriik (Percussion), Evan Webb (Percussion), Ryan Rees (Clarinet), James Rafferty (Clarinet), Clara Behnen (Euphonium), and Justin Fabozzi (Trumpet) who have been accepted to the UConn "First Chair" Band Festival on Saturday, February 27, 2016. This is the third year that Seymour High School has participated in this event
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Debate team who brought home trophies from the CDA tournament at Daniel Hand High School on February 6, 2016. Ejona Gjata and Hannah Delallo won 2nd place team in the Varsity Team, and Ejona Gjata won third place speaker in the Varsity Division. Alec Guerra-Hurd won 2nd place team with as a mixed team. SHS Debate team members who are going to states are: Ejona Gjata, Hannah Delallo, Alec Guerra-Hurd, Sam Katrenya, Grace Brangwyanne, and Max Barlett

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Pollastro, 11 Laurel Avenue, Derby, CT – congratulated Jennifer Magri on her appointment to the Valley Community Foundation.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Minutes – February 1, 2016

B. **Finance Committee Meeting – March 7, 2016**

1. Financial Management Summary - ending February 26, 2016

Ms. Harmeling reported that she had the opportunity to meet with the High School Student Council recently and presented the budget presentation. Mr. Freund also attended. She said the students were very interested and had many ideas and very good questions. She said she also attended the Board of Finance meeting and reported that the First Selectman decided to reduce the Board of Education budget by the amount of health care savings. He felt the money set aside for Special Education was appropriate and left it in the budget.

C. **Nutrition Services Financial Report – January, 2016**

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

SO VOTED

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

V. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

VI. **REPORTS**

A. **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2016

2. Awards Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2016

Mr. Putorti explained that we needed to add two new representatives from the elementary schools since the former members have moved on to the middle school.

- a. Jennifer Ferreira

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Associate Superintendent to approve the appointment of Jennifer Ferreira as a member of the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

- b. Tara Petrino

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Associate Superintendent to approve the appointment of Tara Petrino as a member of the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

3. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2016

- a. Policy #6145.21 Instruction – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the revision to policy #6145.21 Instruction – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics

SO VOTED

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

- b. Policy #6145.211 Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics – Scheduling Athletic Contests

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec. Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the revision to policy #6145.211 Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics – Scheduling Athletic Contests

Mr. Hatfield voiced his concerns with changing this policy. He feels the policy is unnecessary. He said this is a change to current practice. He had heard from a coach who was very concerned.

This could jeopardize our participation in sports competitions like the "Run to the Sun". He wondered if the coaches had a say in this change. Mrs. Syriac explained the Board had concerns if this policy was being followed properly and that is why it is being addressed. Mr. Hatfield asked Mr. Sponheimer who was in the audience how many years they had practice on Labor Day. Mr. Sponheimer indicated it was 29 years. Mrs. Syriac said it is a scrimmage on Labor Day which is not a practice but a game since we have to hire referees, buses, etc. Mr. Strumello asked if cost was a concern. Ms. Magri said cost is not a concern. Mr. Strumello said we need to give some latitude to our coaches as professionals.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to table this motion and return it to the policy committee and the athletic committee to be discussed at a joint meeting

SO VOTED

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

c. Policy #3250 Materials/Services Fees, Charges

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the revision to policy #3250 Materials/Services Fees, Charges

Ms. Syriac explained that a statement was added to this policy stating the Superintendent shall review annually fees established for all equipment and facility rentals, admissions to athletic or curricular events, field trips and other related fees that may be assessed. Mrs. Syriac explained that this is done by the appropriate personnel. Field trips are reviewed by administrators, parking fees are reviewed by the Board of Education, and athletic fees are reviewed by the administrator and the athletic director. Mr. Hatfield explained that he thought this was important and is good to have checks and balances. Ms. Harmeling said she felt a change in the policy would force us to review these types of charges.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to send this policy back to the Policy Committee for further consideration

SO VOTED

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

d. Regulation #3250 Materials Fees

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve the revision to regulation #3250 Materials Fees

SO VOTED

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

e. Regulation #6173 Homebound Instruction

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee to approve regulation #6173 Homebound Instruction

SO VOTED

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

B. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

None

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Harmeling indicated that she had discussed her budget presentation under the Finance Committee meeting report. Mr. Hatfield asked for clarification on the box regarding accommodations that is on agendas for meetings held in Central Office. Mr. Hatfield thanked everyone who worked to make tonight's dedication ceremony so nice.

a. Softball Field Project Update

Mr. Hatfield reported that the electric proposal has been accepted and there was a presentation at the last meeting for fencing. He said there are some funds that have not yet been earmarked and some possible ideas for using these funds include bleachers, a wind screen, or soil.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. School Visits – April 1, 2016
Mrs. Syriac reported that Mr. Hatfield requested a tour of the schools on April 1 and asked that anyone else who is interested can join them. She will send an email as a reminder.
2. CABA Honorable Mention Awards
Mrs. Syriac shared two honorable mention awards the district received from the CABA Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications program. One was for the High School Course Selection guide and the other one was for the Parent/Student Handbook at Chatfield-LoPresti School.
3. Reschedule Athletic Committee (March 21, 2016)
The scheduled Athletic Committee on March 21, 2016 and the Policy Committee on March 21, 2016 will be cancelled and as requested by the Board, a joint meeting of the Athletic and Policy Committees will be scheduled.
4. BOE Awards Nominations – Open from March 7 to April 22, 2016
Mrs. Syriac announced that the nomination period for the district awards (Brumer, Gallagher, Kobasa, and Petruny) is open from now until April 22, 2016. Award brochures have been distributed throughout the town and nomination forms are available online at www.seymourschools.org

D. Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson, Cassandra Quintiliano

Mr. Robinson reported that the junior class course selections for next year have been done. He talked about the "After the Fire" presentation and how it was such a great fire safety program. The Junior Parent Breakfast was a success. The Juniors have taken the SAT test. The Student Council sold roses for Valentine's Day. He reminded everyone that the Performing Arts Club show is tomorrow. He thanked Mrs. Harmeling for coming to the student council meeting to discuss the budget and said it was very interesting. Falls sports have concluded and spring sports are underway. Mr. Strumello asked if he could share a report with the Board listing all the students who are named to all state. Mr. Robinson said he could do this.

VII. INFORMATION

A. School Activities and Recognitions

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

B. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Sorge, Daniel
 - Head Coach, Tennis
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Darrell Scheck

C. Staff Retirement – Certified Staff

1. Wilczewski, Karen
 - Teacher, Language Arts
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2016

Mr. Strumello said that while he was disappointed that Ms. Wilczewski was retiring, he very much appreciated the content of her resignation letter.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Magri) accept the resignation of Ms. Wilczewski and acknowledge in writing her dedication and her years of service

SO VOTED

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

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Board Member Resignation

1. Theodora Klarides
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the resignation of Board Member Theodora Klarides effective February 15, 2016

SO VOTED

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

B. Board Member Replacement

Mr. Putorti said that at this time he has no name to put forth as a replacement for Theodora Klarides. Because this must be done within 30 days, the First Selectman will appoint a replacement. Mr. Hatfield said we should look at this bylaw and can this be put on the policy committee agenda to review. Mr. Strumello said it is because of the Charter change. Ms. Harmeling said 30 days is not much time to decide. Mr. Stanek said the Charter preempts the bylaw. Mr. Stanek talked about how in 1998 when Mr. Brumer passed away, three candidates were considered, the Republicans were notified and a decision was made. This Board should be given that same courtesy. Mr. Hatfield questioned Mr. Putorti and wondered why a replacement could not be found. Mr. Putorti said he tried and talked to a lot of people but no one wants to serve on this Board.

C. Out of State Field Trip

Ms. Magri said our cheerleaders are headed to Regionals because they placed second at States.

1. Seymour High School Cheerleading Team, Lawrence, MA

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of Coach Jessica Young and Assistant Coach Chrissy Manion to take the HS Cheerleading team to compete in the 10th Annual New England Interscholastic Spirit Championship in Lawrence, MA

SO VOTED

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

D. Valley Substance Abuse Action Council Survey

Mr. Strumello said they do a wonderful job for the valley.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Associate Superintendent to allow students in Grade 7, 9, and 11 to take part in a regional survey on substance abuse sponsored by the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council

SO VOTED

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

E. Non Renewals

1. Non Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers

Mr. Putorti explained that we are non renewing three teachers due to the decreasing enrollment in the district. These teaching positions are no longer needed.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew three non-tenured teachers, Jan Daly, Barbara Giannettino, and Jessica Renaldi the end of the 2015-16 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Jan Daly, Barbara Giannettino, and Jessica Renaldi and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek

2. Non Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers (Long Term Substitute Teachers)

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non renew three non-tenured teachers, Michael Fanelli, Sarah Lucuk and Kelley Smith at the end of the 2015-16 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Michael Fanelli, Sarah Lucuk and Kelley Smith and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

F. VOIP Telephone Services

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to award the contract for provision of VOIP telephone services to Broadview Networks, Rye Brook, N.Y. 10573. The services shall begin as of July 1, 2016 for a period of five (5) years and shall cost \$5,925.72 per month

SO VOTED

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk