

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2016  
Bungay Elementary School  
Cafeteria  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 4/12/16  
TIME: 1:35 PM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
Kristen Harmeling  
Peter Kubik  
Allison Sobieski  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello  
Daniel Robinson, Student Representative

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Magri  
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

### 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. Thank you to the high school teaching staff and administration for all their hard work preparing for the NEASC visit. In particular, a special thanks to Lisa Cheney, John McCasland, the Steering Committee Chairs, and Jim Freund, high school principal for a job well done!
2. Mr. Stanek recognized Dan Robinson as this year's Mr. Seymour. He said the Mr. Seymour show was very exciting and entertaining and Dan did an excellent job. When asked what his talent was, Dan said it had to do with him dancing in a black leotard
3. Mr. Stanek welcomed Mr. Peter Kubik back as a member of the Board of Education

#### B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated March 9, 2016 from Yashu Putorti on behalf of the Board of Education to Karen Wilczewski congratulating her on her retirement
2. Letter dated March 30, 2016 from Christine Syriac to Ms. Elise Wood and Mr. Thomas LaPaglia, Registrar of Voters, confirming use of Seymour Middle School and Chatfield-LoPresti School for the primary election on April 26, 2016

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Minutes – March 7, 2016

#### B. Nutrition Services Financial Report – January, 2016

**C. Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

1. Guerra, Cathy
  - Secretary-Bookkeeper
  - Central Office
  - Replacing Kelly Grimme

**D. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Burns, James
  - Assistant Coach, Baseball
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Mark Matrigali

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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, 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 – March 7, 2016

**B. Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments

None

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Strumello reported that the mentoring program now has all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes covered. Of the nine mentors from last year, six were retained. He said that Frontier Communications and Haynes Construction have reached out to the program with a desire to be involved. He said they have three police officers participating not as a police officer but as an individual. He said Mr. DiStasi's Rise Up Program was a huge success with 700 people attending. Mrs. Syriac said 70 staff members participated and it was such a success that they will be looking at two showings next year. Ms. Harmeling reminded the Board that they may be doing Budget presentations to PTA's and parent councils on April 6 (CLS), April 12 (MS), and April 14 (BS). These are done in preparation of the 1<sup>st</sup> referendum. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mr. Stanek said he would like a letter to go out to other retirees similar to the one that was sent to Ms. Wilczewski.

**C. Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac told Ms. Harmeling that she prefers to say "only referendum" not 1<sup>st</sup> referendum.

1. Spring Conferences – 2016

Mrs. Syriac distributed a report on the number of conferences were conducted in the schools from March 9-11

2. Scheduling of Committee Meetings

Mrs. Syriac asked the Board for some guidance on scheduling committee meetings. She asked them to indicate how many committee members need to say yes when scheduling a meeting. It has been very difficult finding a date for the joint policy and athletic committee that is agreeable to all.

3. High School Update

Mrs. Syriac said Jim Freund will be doing an update from the high school at the May 2 BOE meeting. He will specifically address the latest news from the State regarding a Capstone Project along with some other topics. Mr. Strumello said the topic of the Capstone Project came up at a Seymour Town Committee meeting recently. Mr. Stanek reminded everyone that years ago, a senior project was required and it was done through the English Department. He credited his son's senior project with leading him into his current career. Mrs. Syriac said the Task Force keeps pushing this out another year.

4. Mrs. Syriac notified the Board that she will be attending a conference in Colorado and will be out of district from April 6 – April 12.

**D. Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson, Cassandra Quintiliano**

Mr. Robinson distributed a report done by Ms. Yusko reporting on the all division/all NVL athletes. This report was requested by Mr. Strumello at the 4/4/16 BOE meeting. He reported the Spring Sports night occurred and at this meeting there was a discussion on the sports standards and concussions. It was an opportunity for the parents to meet the coaches. An art show and a performance of original work were done by the Performing Arts Club. The Mr. Seymour Contest was held. The Performing Arts Club will be performing at WTNH and it will be broadcast on channel 8 on April 7, 9:00 am – 10:00 am. There was a reality fair on personal finance by Sikorsky Financial Credit Union. There was also a college fair for juniors. NEASC review is finished and they left with good things to say about Seymour High School. Juniors and Seniors pranked the administrators on April 1 by parking in the administrators assigned parking lots. They also served them bacon, egg, and cheese sandwiches. After everything was over they moved their cars back to the student lots. Mrs. Syriac said it was a very nice event; nice spirit and they cleaned everything up and left no litter.

**E. Next Generation Accountability Model – Vonda Tencza**

Mrs. Tencza presented the Next Generation Accountability Model from the State. She said this will probably change over time. This is the State's best effort. We are sharing the district data only; schools also their own data. The data allows you to see where we are and gives us an opportunity to get back on track but more importantly celebrate successes. They added lots of depth and are looking at things such as growth, attendance, physical education, and the arts. This will not show growth this year since it is our first year. She explained the participation rate and how it could affect our scores. Mrs. Syriac said the current administration at the high school has taken a lead on this problem. Mrs. Tencza said they do lots of parent communication, lots of phone calls and parent conferences regarding attendance. Mr. Strumello asked how much discussion at the state level occurs for the parents who enable their child with regard to absenteeism. Mr. Strumello asked how we can persuade parents to change. Mrs. Tencza said she does not know the level of conversation at the state level. All absenteeism counts against us, excused or unexcused. The State provided a tool kit to address any indicators we have issues with. Mr. Strumello asked if we are doing the same things in PE as were done in the past. Mrs. Tencza said they have broken it down and some things have changed. There is a fitness component. She said the State website has a lot of good information. Ms. Harmeling asked if the State collects feedback from administration. Mrs. Syriac said they are taking some feedback into account and making some changes. High Needs are grouped together but also are tracked separately. Mrs. Harmeling asked how it was decided if a child should not take a test. This would only occur with a special needs child and it is indicated on their IEP. Mrs. Syriac talked about how difficult it is for 11<sup>th</sup> graders taking the SAT test. The State has given us only two dates (one date and a makeup date) and that has made it difficult especially if bad weather comes into play. If we had a delay on that date, the State would not allow us to give the assessment.

**VII. INFORMATION**

**A. School Activities and Recognitions**

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

**B. Staff Retirement – Non Certified**

1. Perssico, Loretta
  - Instructional Paraprofessional
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective June 30, 2016

**C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Meek, Sarah
  - Advisor, Marching Band
  - Seymour Middle School
  - 2016-17 School Year

2. Meek, Sarah
  - Advisor, Jazz Band
  - Seymour Middle School
  - 2016-17 School Year

These positions were a result of contract negotiations to better reflect what Ms. Meek does. These two appendix e positions will take the place of her current Instrumental Music appendix e position. There is no impact to the budget as these two positions closely equal the instrumental music position. Mr. Strumello asked to be informed when positions were added or eliminated. Mrs. Syriac stated the Board of Education was notified during negotiations between the Board and the teachers.

**D. Staff Resignations – Appendix E**

1. Bertram, Isabel
  - Advisor, Yearbook Club
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Effective March 7, 2016
2. Matrigali, Mark
  - Assistant Coach, Baseball
  - Seymour High School
  - Effective March 7, 2016
3. Scheck, Darrell
  - Head Coach, Cheerleading
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Effective March 10, 2016

**E. BOE Fees Analysis**

Mrs. Syriac said Mr. Belden put this analysis together and if there are questions we can add it to the next agenda for discussion

**F. Athletic Report – Winter Sports 2016**

**VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) to send letters on behalf of the Board of Education expressing our appreciation and recognition to all professional retirees

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**A. Policy Revision**

1. Policy #6145.21 Instruction – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to adopt policy #6145.21 Instruction – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics that was approved by the Board of Education on March 7, 2016

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**B. Last Day of School for 2015-16 School Year**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello /sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the last day of school for students as June 9, 2016, provided there are no further school closings

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**C. Set Graduation Date for Class of 2016**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Sobieski/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the 2016 Seymour High School graduation date as June 9, 2016, provided there are no further school closings

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**D. Cooperative Team - Soccer**

Mrs. Syriac explained that this is being proposed because our team is too small and there is not enough participation to support a team. Mr. Stanek asked who would provide the head coach. Mrs. Syriac said thought we were providing the coaches. It will be an equitable cost. There was a discussion on particulars such as uniforms, colors, etc. Mrs. Syriac said all the details will need to be worked out.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to authorize the participation of the Seymour High School Girls Soccer program in a Cooperative Team with the Derby Girls Soccer program effective with the 2016-17 school year as allowed under the rules of the CIAC

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**E. Secretaries Contract**

Mr. Putorti noted that it took almost three years to settle this contract.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Sobieski/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move that the board ratify the Secretaries Contract for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015- 2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 school years

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk