

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2016
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/10/16
TIME: 10:30 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Kubik

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Allison Sobieski
Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Ginny Tagliatela, Director of Special Services
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Kristopher Boyle, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Aimee Cronin
Jim Geffert
Boby Findley
Carrie Hunnicutt
Kathy Lang
Laurene and Tony Schultz
Claude and Emma Lang
Allison and Tom Cunningham
Beth Ann Aversano
Jared Cuda
Kim Maher
Jason Cuda
Richard Connors
Keith Carey
Mary Ellen Russell
Wendy Sebas
Jennifer Casey
Roxanne Cuda
Paul Tottenham
Barbara Sastram

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:03 p.m.
2. Moment of Silence for Mr. Ciccone – Fred Stanek
Mr. Stanek asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Ciccone who passed away recently. Mr. Ciccone taught science in Seymour High School and was a soccer coach. He will be very much missed by his colleagues, the community, and the students.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Miller presented the Secretary of State Certificate of Recognitions to Devin Cronin (BS), Tyler Lang (CLS), Maryn Casey (MS), and Jacob Hunnicutt (HS). Congratulations on being recognized by Secretary of State Denise Merrill as students who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in their community
2. Congratulations to Arlinda Peraj! Arlinda placed first in the SMS Healthy Cooking Challenge! The Third Annual VITAHLS Healthy Cooking Challenge took place on April 14, 2016 at SMS. Six students worked hard to create and present their wonderful healthy breakfast entrees to a panel of judges. Arlinda will present her entrée at the final competition.
3. Mr. Stanek recognized all of our teachers during this Teacher Appreciation Week.

B. Correspondence

1. Letters dated April 11, 2016 to Ms. Christine Kaszeta, Ms. Sandra Labacz, Ms. Louellen Pagliaro, Ms. Nancy Staab, and Ms. RoseAnne Thornton from Yashu Putorti on behalf of the members of the Seymour Board of Education congratulating them on their upcoming retirements and thanking them for their many years of service to the Seymour Public Schools

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Minutes – April 4, 2016

B. Financial Management Summary ending April 27, 2016

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – February, 2016

D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Simonetti, Jennifer
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Nutrition Services
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Cathy Guerra

E. Volunteer Appointments

1. Brito, Robert
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach
 - Track and Field
 - Seymour High School
2. Thompson, Michael
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach
 - Track and Field
 - Seymour High School

F. Healthy Food Certification Statement

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

Affirmative: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Abstain: Mr. Garofolo

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. REPORTS

A. **STEM, Seymour Middle School– Kerry Dest**

Ms. Dest, STEM teacher at the middle school shared student projects that aligned with the STEM curriculum. One of her students, Bella Aversano, described her project from beginning to end. Both spoke of the races that were held and the enthusiasm of the students.

B. **Update on Capstone at Seymour High School – Jim Freund**

Mr. Freund began his talk by describing the previous Senior Project which was part of the English curriculum. The Senior Project was dissolved several years ago. In the last couple of years, there has been talk of a Capstone Project being a requirement of graduation by the state, but has continually been pushed back. Currently the projected date is 2022. Mr. Freund said he would like to form a committee next year to look at Capstone. Mr. Freund indicated that he wanted to be sure that the project was open to all students and would be more than just a paper driven project. Mr. Stanek and Mr. Garofolo said they would like to volunteer on the committee when it is formed.

C. **Committee Reports**

1. Awards Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2016

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2016 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award to Ernie DiStasi, the John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to Tony Ciccone, the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to Christine Kaszeta, and the Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award to Zachary Goodrich,

SO VOTED

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

D. **Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Putorti reminded everyone that the referendum vote is on Thursday, May 5. He talked about how small our requested increase is (approximately \$19,000) and commended this year's budget presentations and thanked the administration for all of their hard work.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Garofolo thanked Mrs. Syriac for taking several BOE members on a tour of all of the schools. He said it was a fantastic experience saying he saw great interest and talent among the students and he commended the work of the administration and the teachers. Mr. Strumello commented that he too was on the tour and was very impressed with the work also. He wondered if we had any indication from the State regarding ECS cuts. Mr. Putorti said he has had conversations with Mr. Miller regarding the state cuts and he said he has been assured that the Board of Education will not stand alone with regard to the cuts. Mr. Stanek shared a story from one of his clients about what a wonderful system Seymour is. He wanted to pass on this positive input. Mr. Hatfield said he also was on the tour and was very impressed and said he would love to see the videos students were working on. He commended Ms. Harmeling on her budget presentations but wondered if maybe next year it could be shared with the Board of Education ahead of time. He also said he would like to see the feedback from those who attended the budget presentations. Ms. Harmeling indicated the budget presentation has been up on the district website for several months. Mr. Hatfield said he would like to see all retiring staff, not just teachers, receive a letter from the Board of Education members.

E. **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Syriac thanked the Board for approving the creation of a cooperative soccer team with Derby but unfortunately, Derby will not be moving forward. They do not have enough students to participate. Seymour will have a team. Mr. Strumello asked about a cooperative wrestling team and Mrs. Syriac said we do not have one at this time.

F. Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson, Cassandra Quintiliano

Mr. Robinson reported that the Virginia Beach Music trip was a big success and included chorus, chorale, and band members from Seymour High School. He said the Volunteer Council held an event in Shelton. Boys and Girls Track is currently undefeated as is softball. Baseball is 6:6 and in tennis there are lots of individual accomplishments. He noted that prom is coming up.

VII. INFORMATION

A. School Activities and Recognitions

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

B. Staff Resignation – Appendix E

1. Catanese, Michael
 - DECA Advisor
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 9, 2016
2. Willadsen, David
 - Head Coach, Boys and Girls Cross Country
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective April 27, 2016

C. Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Chatcavage, Gail
 - Cafeteria Worker
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 15, 2016
2. Petronchak, Dominic
 - Part Time Custodian
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective April 15, 2016
3. D'Anna, Valerie
 - Clerical Paraprofessional
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 10, 2016

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Naming of the Seymour High School Softball Field

Mr. Putorti said the request was to name the whole athletic complex and he found this somewhat confusion and asked those present in the audience to explain the name "Ken Pereiras Field at the Bill Davis Complex". Mr. Chris Adamo explained that these two men has contributed greatly to the softball program at Seymour High School and the committee thought this was a unique way of honoring both of them. There was a lengthy discussion on whether to act on this request now or send it to the Facilities Committee as the policy indicates. Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello and Mr. Hatfield felt it should go to the Facilities Committee. Ms. Harmeling felt it should be acted on now so that the current seniors would be able to play in the named facility. Mr. Adamo said the committee would be happy with knowing it was approved even if the signage could not be obtained in time for the ceremony on May 21. Mr. Stanek suggested expediting a meeting of the Facilities Committee and a Special BOE meeting to act on the Facilities Committee recommendation

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Mr. Stanek) to send the request to name the softball field at Seymour High School from the softball field committee to the Facility Committee for review and recommendation to the full Board.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Hatfield) to amend the motion to send the request from the softball field committee to name the softball field at Seymour High School to the Facilities Committee on May 12 at 6:30 and send their recommendation to the full Board at a special BOE meeting on May 16 at 6:30.

SO VOTED

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

Ms. Harmeling suggested any questions be submitted before the meeting.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Putorti) to add to the agenda a discussion on the naming of the Seymour High School gymnasium as requested by Jared G. Cuda

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
After a brief discussion regarding Mr. Cuda, a motion was made to send this request to the Facilities Committee at a future scheduled meeting.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to send the request of Mr. Jared G. Cuda to name the Seymour High School gymnasium to the Facilities Committee at a future date for review and possible action

SO VOTED

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

IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Out of State Field Trip

1. Seymour High School Junior English, UCONN ECE, AP Literature, Newport, RI
Mr. Stanek said although he loves Newport, he was not sure of the connection to the curriculum. Mr. Freund said it was to correlate with the reading of *The Great Gatsby*. Mr. Stanek suggested in the future a representative of the trip be in attendance to answer questions the Board may have about out of state trips.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the request of teachers Ms. Jennifer Anthony-Bogue, Ms. Stephanie Shelinsky, Ms. Lisa Cheney, and Mr. Jeff Gilbert to take the Junior English, UCONN ECE, AP Literature students on an out of state field trip to Newport, Rhode Island

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello

B. BOE Committees

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Chairman to appoint Peter Kubik to the Athletic Committee, the Nutrition, Health & Safety Committee and the Finance Committee and to appoint Yashu Putorti to the Residency Committee

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

Mr. Hatfield wanted it noted for the record that he is expressing his dissatisfaction with a new member coming onto the Board and being named to the Athletic Committee when he has expressed a desire to sit on the Athletic Committee in the past

C. Sikorsky Financial Credit Union Armored Truck

Mrs. Syriac explained that by state statute, the Board must approve when anyone who is armed other than a policeman comes onto school grounds. The armored truck will make two trips to Seymour High School, once to deliver funds to the school bank and once to pick up all funds at the close of the year. Mr. Kearns will try to make this occur after school hours and will accompany the guards when on school property.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the request of Sikorsky Financial Credit Union to have an armored truck with armed security on Seymour High School grounds twice per school year

SO VOTED

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

D. Tuition Student

Ms. Magri asked what impact this student will have on student rankings and Mrs. Syriac explained that because she will only be attending in her senior year, she will not be ranked and the parent and the student have been informed of this. She explained that the family is currently trying to find a residence in Seymour and if they are successful, they will no longer pay tuition. If they are unable to find a home in Seymour they will be residing in Ansonia with relatives.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to have Nichole Maher attend grade 12 as a member of the Class of 2017 at Seymour High School as a tuition student

SO VOTED

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

E. Letter to Retirees

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion on making it a practice to send a letter of recognition to all retiring staff

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to make it a practice to send a letter of recognition to all retiring staff

SO VOTED

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

*** F. Contract/Salary – Director of Technology**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) move that the board enter Executive Session for discussion and possible action on the contract of the Director of Technology. The Board invites Christine Syriac into the Executive Session

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

Enter Executive Session: 8:58 pm

Out of Executive Session: 9:41 pm

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to continue with the agreement regarding the Board of Education Technology Director merged position with the Town of Seymour with a percentage increase of 2.5% for 07/01/16-06/30/17, 2.5% for 07/01/17-06/30/18, and 2.0% for 07/01/18-06/30/19, with an anticipated contribution of no less than \$20,000.00 each year from the Town of Seymour per our existing agreement.

SO VOTED

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

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk