

Seymour Board of Education



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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2016

Seymour High School

Cafeteria

7:00 pm (Awards)

7:30 pm (Regular Meeting)

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative

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
Ginny Tagliatela, Dir. Special Services
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Tara Yusko, 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, Asst. Principal, CLS
Lori Robinson
Chris Adamo

Jennifer Batterton
Deirdre Sponheimer
Tracy McGill
Louellen Pagliaro
Brian Cleveland
Karen Wilczewski
Christine Kaszeta
Christopher/Elizabeth Brana
Laurie Rossetti
Kelli Wrogg
Ben Wrogg
Sandy Labacz
Ronald Rossetti
Lynn Marchetti
Larry Marchetti
Stefanie Slie
Nicole Gardner
Scott Walkinshaw

Krista Rossetti
Megan Machnicz
Julia Pietruszka
Bruce Adams
Dawn Adams
Cindy Dion
Anastasija Cupic
Nancy Staab
Deborah Walkinshaw
Max Martins
Thomas Fauci
Cooley Parlinereil
Art Gliford
Loran Gliford
Stacy Moher
Kolby Sirowich

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the Awards Ceremony to order at 7:01 p.m.

A. **Salute to the Flag, Welcome** – Mr. Yashu Putorti, Chairman

B. **Prelude "One Short Day"** – Middle School Glee Club

Mr. Dobas shared a slide show of the *Wicked* Workshop the Glee Club attended in NYC on March 19, 2016

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Awards Recognitions

1. 2016 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School – Karen Stanek (Mr. Jim Freund)
2. Retiring Staff Members (Pin Presentation) (Mrs. Christine Syriac)
Gail Chatcavage, Valerie D'Anna, Christine Kaszeta, Sandy Labacz, Lynn Marchetti, Gloria Meholik, John Natowich, Louellen Pagliaro, Loretta Perssico, Susan Savino, Nancy Staab, RoseAnne Thornton, Cheryl Welch, Karen Wilczewski
3. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award – Mr. Antonio Ciccone (Mr. Fred Stanek)
4. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award – Mr. Ernie DiStasi (Mr. Ed Strumello)
5. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award – Mrs. Christine Kaszeta (Mr. Ed Strumello)
6. Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award – Ms. Zachary Goodrich (Mr. Yashu Putorti)
7. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative – Mr. Daniel Robinson (Mr. Yashu Putorti)
8. Recognition of Board of Education Awards Advisory Committee Student Representatives – Miss Emily Curina, Mr. Scott Walkinshaw (Mr. Fred Stanek)
9. 2016-2017 Paraprofessional of the Year – Ms. Tracy McGill (Mrs. Christine Syriac)
10. 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year – Mrs. Gina Kindt (Mrs. Christine Syriac)
11. Middle School CABE Student Leadership Award – Mr. Joseph Adams, Miss Chloe Martins (Ms. Bernadette Hamad)
High School CABE Student Leadership Award – Mr. Tyler Sirowich, Miss Emily Wrogg (Mr. Jim Freund)
12. Top 10 Students – Class of 2016 – Mr. Jim Freund
Madeline Lynch (10), Loran Gliford (9), Julia Pietruszka (8), Thomas Fauci (7), Megan Machnicz (6), Edward Han (5.), Alyssa Brana (5), Daniel Robinson (4), Anastasija Cupic (3), Raeanne Geffert (2), Cassandra Rossetti (1)
Mr. Putorti called for a break to enjoy refreshments at 8:17 p.m. Mr. called the Regular BOE meeting to order at 8:32 p.m.

III. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Jennifer Fasciano who has been awarded the Best Middle School Advisor for Best Buddies!
2. Congratulations to the Electrathon Car team who participated in the annual spring Electrathon race at Lime Rock Park on May 20. The race was hard fought and our Seymour students came home with 2nd and 3rd place finishes out of a very competitive field of 36 vehicles. Car 428 was driven by Paige Holmes and Sean Scanlon, and car 426 was driven by Skyler Szerson and Angel Borrero. Many students put in countless hours designing, fabricating and testing these cars to be ready for the race.

B. Correspondence

1. Letters dated May 19, 2016 to Ms. Gail Chatcavage, Ms. Gloria Meholik, Mr. John "Nate" Natowich, and Ms. Loretta Perssico 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
2. Letter dated May 4, 2016 to Mr. Jason Hiruo, ACES-ECA from Mr. Richard Belden approving four students to attend the Education Center for the Arts (ECA)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2016
 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2016
 3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2016
- B. Financial Management Summary ending May 31, 2016**
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – April, 2016**
- D. Staff Hiring – Certified**
1. Dingle, Amanda
 - Art Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Louellen Pagliaro
 2. Esteves, Michelle
 - Guidance Counselor
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Sandra Labacz

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

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. REPORTS

- A. E-Pals – Allison Imperio and Kelley Garofolo**
Students from Ms. Imperio's class did a short presentation and showed a slide show of their participation in the E Pals program. This is a virtual pen pal program with students in Thailand. Ms. Harmeling thanked the students for the wonderful presentation and told the students she appreciated them coming to the meeting.
- B. Philadelphia/Gettysburg/Valley Forge Trip – Mr. Catlin and Students**
Mr. Catlin and his students talked about their experiences from their trip to Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Valley Forge on May 4, 2016 through May 6, 2016.
- C. Glee Club Slide Show – Mr. Nate Dobas**
Presented at the end of the song that the Glee Club performed at the beginning of the Awards Ceremony
- D. Strategic Plan Requirements - Trish Danka, Strategic Planning Committee**
Ms. Danka was unable to attend tonight's meeting so this item was postponed to a future meeting.
- E. Committee Reports**
1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2016
 2. Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2016
 3. Athletic Committee Combined Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2016
 4. Policy Committee Combined Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2016
- Mr. Hatfield explained the rationale of why the Athletic and Policy Committees felt this policy should be eliminated. He thanked the Athletic Director for gathering data from the other NVL districts. Mr. Hatfield stated he didn't understand why more coaches didn't attend the combined meeting and stated better communication was needed. Mr. Stanek asked if Memorial Day was included in the discussion as he feels this is a holiday that should be respected and no games or practices should be scheduled on this day. Mr. Putorti said no holiday was singled out. Mrs. Syriac clarified all the coaches had been invited in a timely manner, there was no lack of communication, and if a coach decided not to attend the meeting that was their choice. She asked to share her thoughts regarding this policy. When Mrs. Syriac first brought this policy the Board of Education's attention, it was due to the NVL requesting that our students play on Memorial Day. At that time she brought the policy to the attention of the Board of Education to request clarity on how to implement the

policy. Mrs. Syriac said "the decision to eliminate policy 6145.211 is a Board of Education decision, not mine however I feel I must share my point of view with the Board. Participating in sports builds character and offers many positive experiences for our students. I understand that. Over time in American culture sports have gradually colonized more and more family time, weeknights, weekends, schools breaks and now holidays." She said "Seymour has a line in the sand with policy 6145.211 to not schedule athletic contests on holidays. Sports build character...when sports come first before academics, family and faith then that is not building the character I want for our children." She said she understands the intent is for it to be the exception that events will be scheduled on holidays however she wanted to be clear that it is not her expectation that a member of the administrative team attend an event on a holiday if there is an event scheduled. She said this will be the administrator's choice/decision, not her expectation.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Athletic Committee and the Policy Committee to eliminate policy #6145.211 Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics - Scheduling Athletic Contests

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

Motion passes.

5. Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2016
6. Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting – May 16, 2016

F. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments
None
2. Board Member Comments
None

G. Superintendent's Report

1. Status of non-renewals
Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that graduation is on Thursday, June 9. The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. and seating will be available to Board members at graduation which begins at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Syriac is happy to report that with resignations, voluntary transfers, and involuntary transfers, we have been able to save the jobs of the three teachers we non-renewed. It was a difficult process but everyone was professional and gracious. Everyone has a position with us for next year. Ms. Harmeling asked if any of them found a new jobs and Mrs. Syriac said we were lucky that all of them will be with us in August.

H. Student Representatives Report – Daniel Robinson, Cassandra Quintiliano

None

VII. INFORMATION

A. School Activities and Recognitions

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

B. Staff Resignation – Certified Staff

1. Hubeny, Shannon
 - Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 9, 2016

C. Staff Resignation – Appendix E

1. Kaszeta, Christine
 - Team Leader, White Team
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 9, 2016

2. McCasland, John
 - Co-Advisor, Link Crew
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective May 12, 2016
3. Pagliaro, Louellen
 - Team Leader, Unified Arts
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 9, 2016
4. Scozzafava, Erin
 - Co-Advisor, Link Crew
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective May 13, 2016

D. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Cleveland, Brian
 - Head Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Tony Ciccone
2. Sponheimer, Deirdre
 - Yearbook Advisor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Isabel Bertram
3. McQuillan, Katelyn
 - Head Coach, Dance Team
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Stephanie Walsh

E. Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Angelucci, Steven
 - Custodian, Part Time
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective May 13, 2016
2. Dauerty, Haley
 - Clerical Paraprofessional, Part Time
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective June 10, 2016
3. Frosceno, Frank
 - Custodian, Part Time
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective April 26, 2016
4. Kelly, Mary
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 9, 2016

E. Staff Retirement – Non Certified

1. Marchetti, Lynn
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective June 9, 2016

2. Savino, Susan
 - Cafeteria Worker
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 8, 2016

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Employee Compensation Analysis

The Finance Committee has recommended this item be postponed until more information can be obtained from the Town.

IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Out of State Field Trips

1. Seymour High School Cheerleading Team, UCA Camp, Emmanuel College, Allston, MA
 Ms. Harmeling asked if this trip has been taken in the past. Ms. Syriac confirmed that it has.
MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the request of head coach Ms. Jessica Young, and assistant coach, Ms. Chrissy Manion to take the Seymour High School cheerleading team on an out of state field trip to UCA Camp, Emmanuel College, Allston, MA on July 15, 2016 – July 18, 2016

SO VOTED

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

2. Seymour High School Track Team
 Mr. Strumello asked how many athletes qualified for the Nationals; 11 or 12 athletes have qualified.
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the request of head coach Mr. Tom Lennon to take the Seymour High School track team on an out of state field trip to compete in the 2016 New Balance Nationals Outdoor Championships in Greensboro, NC on June 16, 2016 – June 19, 2016

SO VOTED

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

3. Seymour High School Band and Chorus
 Ms. Harmeling asked if this trip has happened in the past. Mr. Schneider said going to Disney is new but they competed last year in Virginia Beach. The trip is scheduled for around spring break and Ms. Harmeling said flights would be expensive. Mr. Schneider confirmed they are travelling by bus. The performance is similar to what was done in Virginia Beach. Mr. Putorti asked about how long the trip is and Mr. Schneider said it was two days of travelling and 4 days at Disney. He said he is hoping for 50 students to participate... Four chaperones will be going. There was talk about the financial implications should something happen and the trip not go off as planned. Ms. Harmeling said Disney does this type of thing all the time and they know what they are doing.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the request of Mr. Brandt Schneider to take the Seymour High School Band and Choir on an out of state field trip to participate in workshops and performances at Disney World in Orlando, FL on April 6 -11, 2017

SO VOTED

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

B. Reinstate Teachers

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to reinstate Ms. Jan Daly, Ms. Barbara Giannettino, and Ms. Jessica Renaldi, who were non-renewed at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year

SO VOTED

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

C. 2016-2017 BOE Budget

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Kubik) to adjust the original 2016-17 Board of Education budget by a reduction of \$314,993 and adopt a Board of Education budget for 2016-17 in the amount of \$32,599,415 as approved by the Town referendum process

SO VOTED

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at: 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk