

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2016  
Seymour Middle School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 11/16/16  
TIME: 11:15am  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
James Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield (arrived 7:45)  
Jennifer Magri  
Allison Sobieski  
Ed Strumello (arrived 7:45)  
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative  
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative  
Peter Kubik  
Kristen Harmeling  
Fred Stanek

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Roxanne Melaragno, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Sam Rodrigue and Family

### I. CALL TO ORDER

There was not a quorum at 7:30. After the arrival of Jay Hatfield and Ed Strumello at 7:45 pm there was a quorum and Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions at 7:46 p.m.

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Recognitions

1. Samuel Rodrigue, a fourth grader at Chatfield-LoPresti School, created Sam's Kids in an effort to "feed one kid at a time." His food drive at Chatfield-LoPresti School for non-perishable items totaled 530 pounds from September 19 through October 20, 2016, with the donations then given to the Spooner House in Shelton. Sam's additional efforts beyond the food drive at CLS have caused literally thousands of pounds of food to have now been donated to local food shelters (2,100 pounds). Rather than play in his travel hockey games for a weekend on October 8 and 9, Samuel instead chose to stand in front of the Adams Food Market in Shelton, raising 1,440 lbs. of food that weekend, all of which was delivered to the Spooner House in Shelton. The Rinks at Shelton, where Samuel plays hockey, heard about his movement and had a food drive there a couple of weekends ago, resulting in over 500 pounds of food being donated to the Seymour-Oxford food pantry. Big Y recently joined the movement and is putting a collection bin in their store. Samuel's impact is now expanding across states, instead of just towns in the valley. A company in Ohio heard about Samuel's movement and offered to build his website. The Rodrigue family has also shared that children in Maryland are starting 'Sam's Kids' food drives and a few companies in Delaware are as well. You can check it out at [www.feedingsamskids.com](http://www.feedingsamskids.com) and his Facebook page is Sam's Kids. Sam Rodrigue read a statement describing his efforts and thanking Mr. Olechna and Mrs. Syriac for their support. He talked about his goal to be across the country and having a Sam's Kids Food Drive in every state. The Board thanked Sam for his efforts to feed every child and said they were very proud of him.

2. Congratulations to Bungay School for winning an Honorable Mention in the CABA Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications for the 2016-17 Bungay Elementary School Parent/Student handbook

**B. Correspondence**

1. Letter dated October 4, 2016 to Miss Cassandra Quintiliano acknowledging her appointment as the Board of Education Student Representative for the 2016-2017 school year
2. Letter dated October 4, 2016 to Miss Paulina Karwowski acknowledging her appointment as the Board of Education Student Representative for the 2016-2017 school year
3. Letter dated October 5, 2016 to Ms. Elise Wood and Mr. Thomas Lapaglia, Registrars of Voters responding to their letter dated October 5, 2016 approving the use of the Middle School and Chatfield-LoPresti School for the election to be held on November 8, 2016
4. Letter dated October 13, 2016 to Mrs. Christine Syriac from Dr. Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education regarding the September 7, 2016 State Board of Education meeting
5. Letter emailed on October 14, 2016 from Mr. Rick Belden to Mr. Jared Cuda informing him that no action was taken by the Board of Education regarding his petition to name the Seymour High School gymnasium after Mr. Joseph Cuda

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Melissa Rodrigue, 30 Briarwood Drive, Seymour – said that she was very proud of the work that her son, Sam is doing to feed the hungry in this country.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2016
2. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2016

**B. Financial Management Summary - Ending October 31, 2016**

**C. Nutrition Services Financial Report - July-September, 2016**

**D. Awards Advisory Committee Student Representatives**

1. As recommended by the Seymour High School Student Council, appoint Miss Melyssa Gagliardi (grade 11) as a Student Representative for the Awards Advisory Committee
2. As recommended by the Seymour High School Student Council, appoint Mr. David Brezina (grade 11) as a Student Representative for the Awards Advisory Committee

**E. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program**

1. Jonathan Palmquist  
Ms. Jennifer Palmquist has informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school her child, Jonathan Palmquist, for the 2016-2017 school year
2. Abby Grace Verrinder  
Mr. James Verrinder has informed the Board of Education of his intent to home school his child, Abby Grace Verrinder for the 2016-2017 school year

**F. Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

1. Ballaro, Diana Diaz
  - Clerical Paraprofessional, PT
  - Bungay Elementary School
  - Replacing Kathy Dockery
2. Ragaini, Cheryl
  - Nutrition Services
  - Seymour High School

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

## VI. REPORTS

### A. **HS Student Representative Report** – Cassandra Quintiliano, Paulina Karwowski

1. October School Events
  - a. Senior Day - 10/3.
  - b. Spirit Week - 10/11 through the 10/15.
    - i. SHS Trivia Night - 10/12
    - ii. Pep-Rally - 10/14
    - iii. Homecoming dance - 10/15
  - c. Class Ring Breakfast - 10/20
  - d. SHS Open House for 8th grade parents - 10/13
  - e. College 20 Visits - 149 different registrations for the visits.

November School Events - The Political Action Club organized a debate between the candidates at Seymour Middle School which was held on 11/3, at 6 p.m. There were approximately 140 attendees.

#### September Sports Results

Football - 6/2

Volleyball - 18/1, Lost in the NVL Finals to Torrington, currently in state tournament

Boys Soccer - 9/4/3

Girls Soccer - 6/11

Swimming Girls - 11/1 - overall

10/0 - in the NVL, won NVL Iron division 3rd year in a row, NVL Runner up at NVL championships, six girls made all NVL team, 13 girls qualified for state trials

#### Upcoming November Events

Parent/Teacher Conferences (11/14 – day, 11/15 – evening)

Fall Concert - 11/17

Serving Those Who Served - on November 21 or 22 depending upon the weather, the school will be running a field trip for volunteer students to visit and cleanup the yards of veterans who are not capable of the work. After each cleanup, the veteran will share their experiences while serving in the military.

2016 Holiday Parade 11/27 - The Performing Arts Club will be performing on a float decorated by the Art Club, we win this every year. The theme of the float is top secret.

### B. **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2016

### C. **Softball Field Committee Report**

Mr. Hatfield had nothing to report.

### D. **Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments  
Mr. Putorti reported that the CABA Convention is next Friday and several Board of Education members will be attending. He congratulated Mr. Freud on NEASC saying he read the letter from them and it was very positive.
2. Board Member Comments  
Mr. Garofolo reported that he attended a Capstone Committee meeting at the high school with Mr. Freund and Mr. Lucke. He commended them for having the fortitude to go forward with this program. He said the committee had many diverse opinions. Mr. Hatfield thanked Mr. Freund for handing out the proclamations from the Seymour BOE at the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. He was asked to do this for Mr. Stanek but he was unable to stay and Mr. Freund stepped in to help.

### E. **Superintendent's Report**

1. Parent Visitation Report  
Mrs. Syriac shared a report showing the number of parents who visited the schools on School Visitation day. She also distributed information on what each school is doing on Veterans Day.

## VII. INFORMATION

### A. **School Activities and Recognitions**

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

**B. Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Aldrich, Allen
  - Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Craig Prasauckas
2. Monaco, Jennifer
  - Advisor, Debate Team
  - Seymour High School

**VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. CABE Delegate Assembly**

Mr. Putorti said Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Strumello will be attending the CABE Delegate Assembly this year. He said he thought in the past the Board reviewed the agenda and made recommendations on how to vote at the Delegate Assembly. Mrs. Syriac said if her memory served her properly, she thought the Board empowered the attendees of the Delegate Assembly to vote as they felt was appropriate. Mr. Putorti asked if there was any problem with this. Ms. Magri asked if there is anything that goes against CABE recommendations. Mr. Hatfield admitted that he did not prepare because he thought the Board would be doing this together. After a discussion and going back and forth on whether to go through each item on the Delegate Assembly agenda a motion was made.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Putorti/Ms. Magri) to have the attendees of the CABE Delegate Assembly use their best judgment when voting on the issues

**SO VOTED**

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

**ABSTAIN:** Mr. Garofolo

Mr. Strumello asked if the Administration could look through the agenda and let them know if there are any concerns.

**B. BOE Retreat – Ed Strumello**

Mr. Strumello reported that Nick Caruso will be facilitating the Board of Education retreat on November 28 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The main focus of the retreat will be Board of Education goals and are the decisions we make in line. The retreat will be held at Central Office. Mr. Strumello asked how the retreat will be listed. Would it be a special meeting? Mrs. Syriac said she thought it would be like the budget workshops but would check with our attorney to be sure. Mr. Garofolo asked if there would be time during the retreat to deal with other subjects such as local issues, funding, and community involvement. Mr. Strumello said he was unable to answer this but felt that many of these issues may come out during the discussions. Mr. Hatfield asked if Administration would be attending, Mr. Putorti said it would only be for Board of Education members.

**C. Early Retirement Incentive – Certified Staff**

Mr. Putorti talked about possibly offering an Early Retirement Incentive again this year. He explained that this has to be done once every contract cycle and we are into a new cycle this year. If we offered it now, we would not have to offer it again for five years. Ms. Magri asked how this would help us because looking at our seniority it seems as though there are not many teachers who would qualify. Mr. Putorti said it would take away the "waiting for ERIP" and teachers would just retire. Mr. Hatfield said the format of this proposal is different than the one presented last year and Mrs. Syriac said this is the exact format the Board requested last year. Mr. Putorti asked for a motion, and none was made.

**D. Employee Compensation Information Update – Christine Syriac**

Mr. Putorti said the Board approved the spreadsheet to be given to the Town at our last meeting but the bargaining units needed to be notified. This was done and four unions came back saying they were opposed to releasing this information. Mr. Putorti said the Town already has this information because it is part of our budget. He said in the spirit of cooperation, we should go forward with giving the spreadsheet to the Town. There was a discussion on what would happen if we release the document and it was felt the unions could file a complaint. If we do not release the information, the Town would FOI the information. Mr. Strumello asked about the financial ramifications of FOI complaint. After more discussion, Mr. Putorti recommended that we send it to the Town.

**IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**A. One Man Team**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Athletic Director to approve the request of Thomas Brockett, Athletic Director, Ansonia High School to have Noah Falkowski, Michael Shortell, and Victor Falkowski participate as a one-man team with the Seymour High School Boys Swim team

**SO VOTED**

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

**B. Substitute Teacher Pay**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to raise the daily rate for substitute teachers to \$85 per day and after 20 days of service raise the rate to \$100

Mr. Garofolo asked Mrs. Syriac how she arrived at the rate of \$85/\$100. Mrs. Syriac explained she had done a local survey looking at what other districts pay and the substitute shortage. Mr. Garofolo asked if substitutes who are certified get the same pay as those substitutes who are not. Mrs. Syriac said they do. Mr. Garofolo said there is a push today to make minimum wage \$15.00 an hour and we are offering our substitutes who have great responsibility, only around \$12.00 an hour. He said he would support \$105.00 a day for non certified substitute and more for certified substitutes. He asked if the budget could support this. Mrs. Syriac said not having substitutes costs the district a huge amount when teachers have to be moved around for coverage. The motion was amended.

**AMENDED MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to raise the daily rate for substitute teachers to \$105 per day for non certified substitutes and \$115 per day for certified substitutes to take effect for the next non teachers payroll, November 21, 2016

**SO VOTED**

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

**C. Staff Hiring – Certified**

1. Leahy, Courtney

- Art Teacher
- High School
- Replacing Samantha Toscano

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Courtney Leahy as an art teacher in Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**D. Donation**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a donation from Karen Marinaro, owner of Balance Fitness, of a step master and direct that the Superintendent determine its placement

**SO VOTED**

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

**\* E. Non-Union Employment Agreements**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss and take action on the employment agreements of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Director of Facilities, Systemwide Security Director, Districtwide Computer Technicians, Director of Nutrition Services, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the Executive Session. The Board invites the following individuals into the Executive Session: Mrs. Christine Syriac

**SO VOTED**

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

Entered Executive Session: 9:35 pm

Out of Executive Session: 10:44 pm

1. **Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

2. **Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Superintendent as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

3. **Director of Nutrition Services**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Sobieski/sec., Mr. Putorti) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Director of Nutrition Services as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

4. **Systemwide Security Director**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Systemwide Security Director as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

5. **Districtwide Computer Technicians**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the non union employee agreements of the Districtwide Computer Technicians as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

6. **Board Certified Behavior Analyst**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the non union employee agreement of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst as presented by the Superintendent

**SO VOTED**

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

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk