

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (revised)

December 5, 2016  
Seymour High School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 12/20/16  
TIME: 12:50 PM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
James Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield (arrived 8:45)  
Peter Kubik  
Jennifer Magri  
Allison Sobieski  
Ed Strumello (arrived 8:45)  
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative  
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative  
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  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS

### 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. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Electrathon Race team who came home with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish against a tough group of 30 different schools on November 4, 2016
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Girls Volleyball team on their Class M championship win on Saturday, November 20, 2016. It's a great day to be a Wildcat!
3. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade class on their turkey drive. They collected 264 turkeys, bags of food and monetary donations. These will be given to the Seymour/Oxford Food Bank and Spooner House. Thank you to the students and volunteers for your generous gift of time
4. Congratulations to Mr. Rich Kearns who received an honorable mention in the category of 2016 Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness" by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Kearns was the only one from the State of Connecticut to be recognized
5. Congratulations to Mr. Ernie DiStasi who has been selected by CAS as the 2017 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year for Connecticut. He will be honored at a ceremony in 2017. This is a tremendous honor, he was nominated by the people he works with and it is a true testament to the respect that Ernie's colleagues, parents, and students have for him. We are extremely proud of Ernie and his accomplishments. Mr. Putorti congratulated Mr. DiStasi on this accomplishment and said he thought this was very impressive.

#### B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated November 15, 2016 to David Brezina from Christine Syriac thanking him for volunteering to serve on the BOE Awards Advisory committee
2. Letter dated November 15, 2016 to Melyssa Gagliardi from Christine Syriac thanking her for volunteering to serve on the BOE Awards Advisory committee
3. Letter dated November 14, 2016 to Samuel Rodrigue from Christine Syriac thanking him for coming to speak to the Board about his organization "Sam's Kids" on November 9, 2016

4. Letter dated November 17, 2016 to Karen Marinaro thanking her for her donation of a step master to the Seymour Public Schools
5. Letter dated November 17, 2016 to Christine Syriac from Ajit Gopalakrishnan sharing the 2016 Cohort Graduation Results

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2016

B. **Financial Management Summary - Ending November 30, 2016**

C. **Nutrition Services Financial Report - November, 2016**

D. **Volunteer Appointments**

1. Michaud, Cheryl
  - Volunteer Assistant Coach
  - Cheerleading
  - Seymour Middle School
2. Wrogg, Emily
  - Volunteer Assistant Coach
  - Dance Team
  - Seymour High School

E. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Blade, Nicholas
  - Assistant Coach, Boys Swim Team
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Tyler Tallcouch

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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski

V. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

VI. **INFORMATION**

A. **School Activities and Recognitions**

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

B. **Staff Hiring – Appendix E**

1. Keeffe, Darlene
  - Advisor, Drama Club (Split Position)
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Brandt Schneider
2. Shelinsky, Stephanie
  - Advisor, Drama Club (Split Position)
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Brandt Schneider

VII. **REPORTS**

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

Miss. Quintiliano reported that the National Honor Society has held their food drive and a blood drive, the Mr. Seymour Contest was held and senior Spencer Beddington, won. The HOPE Club is currently holding a warm coat drive and FMLA is doing their annual Toys for Tots collection. Football is playing in the semi final game today, Girls Volleyball won the state championship and winter sports are starting.

B. **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2016

C. **Softball Field Committee Report**

None

**D. Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments  
Mr. Putorti reported that he was a judge for Mr. Seymour and it was a very fun, very entertaining event. He said he has had good feedback and has been told the Board did a nice job when they raised the substitute pay. He said the Board Retreat took place on November 28, 2016 and the majority of the discussion focused on Board goals. He attended the CAPSS Awards dinner on December 1 and congratulated Cassie Quintiliano as one of the recipients. He participated in the Christmas Parade with his church and said that they came in third, the high school came in second, and some business came in first.
2. Board Member Comments  
None

**E. Superintendent's Report**

1. Parent Conferences – Fall, 2016  
Mrs. Syriac said the Fall Parent Conferences were very well attended. The High School held 240 conferences, the middle school had 360 conferences and the two elementary schools had around 500 conferences each.
2. High School Graduation Rate  
The high school graduation rate is the highest it has ever been at 95. We are currently working with the State to correct an error in the report which may affect our rating but it will still be the highest we have had.
3. Budget Workshop Dates  
Mrs. Syriac has set the budget workshop dates on 1/4/17 and 1/11/17. It was done a little earlier this year because the BOE meeting is not until 1/9 and there would not be much time to get everything done by the Town's deadline.
4. Derby Request to Use Track  
Mrs. Syriac said she expects to receive a formal request from the Derby Public Schools to use our track while their track is under renovation. The two athletic directors have been in contact to work out a plan to accommodate their request and this will be brought to the Board for approval when it is received.
5. Mr. Kearns has been looking into ALICE Training for active shooter situations. ALICE stands for (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate).

**VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**A. 2017-2018 School Calendar**

Mrs. Syriac presented two options for the 2017-2018 school calendar. Most of the calendar must be in line with area RESCs according to State statute. The start date for students and staff and vacations must be the same. The two options presented have to do with early release dates for professional development. Mr. Putorti asked if there was any input on staff attendance on Friday professional development. Mrs. Syriac said there was no impact. Mr. Garofolo asked if there was any staff performance effectiveness with extended weekends. She indicated that there was no data to support the notion of teachers not participating in professional development on Fridays.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar option B as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski

**B. 2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Putorti asked if there was any input on the proposed 2017 Board of Education Meeting Schedule. There was none.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the 2017 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski

**\* C. Central Office Contract Renewals and Salary Reopeners**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss 2017-2018 contract year salary increases for the Superintendent of Schools, Associate Superintendent, and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and to discuss contract renewals for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. 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, Mrs. Vonda Tencza, and Mr. Rick Belden

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski

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

Entered Executive Session: 7:50 pm

Out of Executive Session: 8:45 pm

Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Strumello joined the meeting at 8:45 pm

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to return to executive session to discuss the 2017-2018 contract year salary increases for the Superintendent of Schools, Associate Superintendent, and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and to discuss contract renewals for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. 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, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

**1. Associate Superintendent**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Putorti/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to approve the contract of Mrs. Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent for 2017-18 at the salary of \$157,631, 2018-19 at the salary of \$162,360, and 2019-20 at the salary of \$168,043

**SO VOTED**

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

**2. Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Putorti/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the contract for Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations for 2017-18 at the salary of \$159,598, 2018-19 at the salary of \$163,588, and 2019-20 at the salary of \$167,677

**SO VOTED**

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

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec, Ms. Magri) to adjourn

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Magri) to rescind the motion to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

**MOTION:** (Mr. Putorti/sec., Ms. Sobieski) to accept the notice of retirement letter from Mrs. Christine Syriac, Superintendent of School

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Magri) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello  
The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk