

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2017  
Seymour Middle School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 1/19/17  
TIME: 10:15 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman  
James Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Jennifer Magri  
Ed Strumello  
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative  
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter Kubik  
Allison Sobieski  
Fred Stanek

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Gina Kindt  
Rachel Caggiano, Derby Athletic Director  
Susan McLean

### 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 and thank you to the students who participated in the Veterans Clean Up program on November 22, 2016. The students reported to four homes of Veterans and elderly citizens of Seymour and raked leaves and removed debris from their yards
2. Congratulations to Seymour High School Chorale who has been selected as an honors performance ensemble for the 2017 CMEA In-Service Conference. They will be showcased during the conference which will take place at the Convention Center in Hartford from March 30 through April 1, 2017

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2016
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2016
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2016

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

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

**D. Volunteer Appointments**

1. Connors, Rich
  - Volunteer Assistant Coach, Weightlifting/Football
  - Seymour High School

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

1. Hallie Brooke Van Komen  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremii Van Komen has informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school their child, Hallie Brook Van Komen, for the 2016-2017 school year

**F. Notice of Retirement**

1. Denny, Sally
  - Special Education Teacher
  - Seymour Middle SchoolMr. Hatfield asked about the letter from Sally Denny not being included in the agenda and Mrs. Syriac explained that she had received an email and a formal letter would be forthcoming
2. Heimann, Katherine
  - Regular Education Teacher - Grade 5
  - Bungay Elementary School

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**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. Esteves, Michelle
  - Advisor, Link Crew (Split Position)
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Erin Scozzafava
2. Monaco, Jennifer
  - Advisor, Link Crew (Split Position)
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing John McCasland

**C. Staff Resignations –Certified**

1. Bennett, Jennifer
  - Speech and Language Pathologist
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective January 11, 2017

**D. Staff Resignations – Non Certified**

1. Dilisio, Kimberly
  - Monitor Paraprofessional
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective December 23, 2016

**VII. REPORTS**

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

Miss Quintiliano and Miss Karwowski reported that Spirit Week is finished. Many clubs had charitable activities during the month of December which included the FBLA toy drive and a warm coat drive, Spanish Club did Three Kings Day, and the National Honor Society did a Candy Gram fundraiser. Four or five freshmen were chosen to be part of the community leadership forum at UCONN Storrs on January 28. The Winter Dance will be held on January 24 if 120 tickets are sold. Mr. Garofolo asked if the school coordinates with the town when they do charitable activities such as the warm coat drive. Ms. Quintiliano said that in many instances the Town contacts the school and asks for participation

**B. Committee Meeting Minutes**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2016
2. Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2016  
Mr. Strumello reported it was a good meeting. Ms. Harmeling said she learned about a statute that doesn't permit earning credit for high school credit for science taken in middle school. Mrs. Syriac confirmed that she called the State to confirm and this is true. The person at the State also said she was not aware of any middle school in the state that currently offers a high school science course in middle school

**C. Softball Field Committee Report**

None

**D. Board of Education Report**

1. Chairman's Comments  
Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that there will be a Superintendent Search Committee meeting to review search firms. There will be three presentations each lasting one hour.
2. Board Member Comments  
Mr. Hatfield thanked the Student Council for joining the Board for an informal session

**E. Superintendent's Report**

1. CPR-AED Training  
Becky Bennett, nurse at Bungay School and Rich Kearns conducted CPR training sessions for the Seymour Public Schools staff during the months of November and December. Rich Kearns confirms that 43 additional staff members are now certified in CPR-AED. The total number of CPR-AED certified staff members is up to 90
2. Kindergarten Registration  
Mrs. Syriac reported that kindergarten registration will begin next week on January 17. On two different dates, we have on site registrations at Bungay School and two on site registrations at Chatfield-LoPresti School. We are hoping for a good turnout at these sessions

**F. NEASC Findings for Seymour High School – Jim Freund**

Mr. Freund reviewed the letter from NEASC which notified us that Seymour High School was awarded continue accreditation in NEASC. He reviewed the programs and services that they commended. He also went through the items that were part of their request to submit a Special Progress Report by October 1, 2017. He reviewed the items on the list of recommendations that should be included on the Two Year Progress Report also.

**VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**A. Donations**

**1. Seymour Senior Center**

The middle school band often visits the Seymour Senior Center to play for them and the Senior Center wanted to show their appreciation by making this donation. Mrs. Syriac said our students do an amazing job and the seniors love it.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a monetary donation from the Seymour Senior Center and direct that the Superintendent determine its placement

**SO VOTED**

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

**2. Valley Community Foundation**

The Town of Seymour established a Chatfield LoPresti School Fund with funds remaining from a project. This annual donation is to be used for the benefit of Chatfield LoPresti students

**MOTION:** (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a monetary donation from the Valley Community Foundation and direct that the Superintendent determine its placement

**SO VOTED**

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

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. Harmeling

**B. Use of Track – Derby High School**

Mr. Strumello asked how the plan is going to work. Ms. Yusko explained that the Derby Team would come in after Seymour's practices are finished. Derby typically practices late into the evening so this would not be a problem for them. Mr. Strumello asked about the cost for lighting. Mr. Belden said he would check into how long lights would need to be on. Since it is in the spring, the days are longer and it stays light longer. Mr. Strumello said he understood we need to do things like this, just as Oxford helped us out while our football field was being renovated. Ms. Yusko said they would be meeting with Public Works to discuss the schedule. Derby renovations have not yet begun so this is just a matter of getting things lined up. Mr. Strumello asked about football and Ms. Caggiano, Derby Athletic Director said football would not be an issue as it would be at Shelton.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Athletic Director to approve the use of the Seymour High School track by Derby High School as their track undergoes renovations

**SO VOTED**

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

**C. Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

**1. Palmieri, Rocco**

- Districtwide Computer Technician
- Central Office
- New Position with Town

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the hiring of Rocco Palmieri as a districtwide computer technician

**SO VOTED**

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

**IX. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion regarding the Superintendent search.

**SO VOTED**

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

Ms. Harmeling talked about the use of focus groups to engage the community with regard to the search for a replacement Superintendent. She feels the use of many focus groups is not the best use of time and there are

better ways to engage the community. She feels the committee should work together to come up with a survey of priorities leaving room for open commentary. She feels the results of the survey would be more authentic. She would suggest having the results by January 31. This list of priorities would be a starting point for discussion. Rather than many small focus groups she suggests a couple of town hall meetings where the results could be shared and illicit input. This would be better information in a short amount of time. Mr. Hatfield said he thought the Board should listen to the presentations first and do what the search firm recommends. Ms. Harmeling said the Board doesn't necessarily have to use the firm's process just because that is the process. We want to take ownership of the process. Mr. Garofolo suggested the Board talk about including the student representatives in the process as non voting members.

**A. Merger of Director of Facilities position with the Town**

Since the last time the Board spoke on the matter of merging the Director of Facilities with the Town, Mrs. Syriac and Mr. Belden have met with Mr. Miller and Mr. Caserta. Mr. Miller has indicated that the Town is interested in moving forward. There was discussion on the finances and it was noted that the Director of Facilities is a well compensated position based on an analysis Mr. Belden conducted through CASBO and there would be no need to increase the salary for this position. This is different than when we merged the Director of Technology position. That position was under compensated and the Board of Education made the adjustment in salary at the same time of the merger. How would the merge be handled? The current contract ends in June, 2017. The position can be merged and it can be offered to the current Director of Facilities or the Board of Education/Town can post the position and have people apply for the position including the current Director of Facilities if he is interested. This is something the Board/Town would need to decide. As far as supervision of the Director of Facilities, Mr. Miller was in support of having the supervision be similar to how we supervise the Director of Technology; with the Board of Education supervising with the Town's input. It has worked well with the Director of Technology and there is no reason to believe it would not work with this position also. Mr. Hatfield asked about the salary being split between the Town and the Board of Education. Mrs. Syriac said the salary is already built into our budget and we would reduce the line item. Ms. Magri asked if there would be a problem because the Town is in a different bargaining unit than our custodians. Mrs. Syriac said she felt this would not be a problem and the Director of Facilities would just have to be aware of what each bargaining unit requires. The next step is for the Board to decide if they want to proceed with the merger. Mrs. Syriac suggested the Board should decide in order to give the current Director of Facilities 60-90 days notice of their decision. The Board determined to have a special meeting to discuss and to invite Mr. Miller and Mr. Caserta.

**B. Further Discussion of the 2017-2018 Budget**

Ms. Harmeling thanked Mrs. Syriac on her tremendous effort on this budget. A 1.5% increase is something to commend her on.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to adopt the Superintendent's budget for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$33,107,338 (1.5% increase) and move forward to the Town of Seymour

**SO VOTED**

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

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk