

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2017
Chatfield-LoPresti School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 2/13/17
TIME: 3:35 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield
Allison Sobieski
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative
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
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition
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
Ken Johnson
Chris Tedosio
Jennifer Tedosio
Alison Shay-Hogan
Gracie Shay-Hogan
Kate Sabatini
Jeff Sabatini
John Lotto

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to CLS fourth graders, Kaelyn Sabatini and Gracie Shay-Hogan who organized and facilitated a toy drive for Yale Children's Hospital and donated 312 new and unwrapped toys to make the holidays for kids in a bit merrier! Many thanks go to these two young ladies for thinking of others during the holiday season!
Mr. Olechna introduced students Kaelyn Sabatini and Gracie Shay-Hogan who presented to the Board telling them about their toy drive in CLS. They were able to donate 312 toys or "six huge boxes" to Yale Children's Hospital. They hope to be able to do it again next year.
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School for being one of 433 schools across the United States and Canada to be named to the College Board 7th Annual Advanced Placement Honor Roll. Thank you to the faculty and students who have supported and participated in the AP program, making this honor possible
3. Congratulations and thank you to the staff and students of Bungay Elementary School who participated in the 2016 Toys 4 Kids Campaign sponsored by TEAM, Inc. With Bungay's help, this year TEAM was able to distribute toys to 1, 234 children in 625 families

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Lotto (resides in Ansonia)/Daughter resides at 121 North Street, Seymour
Mr. Lotto stated he has concerns about CLS. The last early dismissal his ex wife did not receive the phone call until after the kids were released. Mr. Putorti asked Mr. Lotto to bring his concerns directly to the Superintendent. Mr. Lotto said he wanted to address this with BOE. Mr. Putorti asked him to only state facts instead of trashing people. Mr. Lotto said these are the facts. Mr. Lotto said he had a concern with ID's not being checked when kids are being picked up. He has raised the concern already. A couple weeks ago, the school had to dial 911 and a stay put was done. When he first arrived at the school he was told his daughter might be on the bus. He had to wait about five minutes to give them time to locate his daughter. He had to buzz the main office four times before he got a response, and then was told she is in the classroom. He wanted to come in and get her but was told he could not. They held the kid hostage for another 20 minutes. Mr. Putorti asked him to only state facts; a term such as hostage is not a fact. Mr. Lotto said these were the facts. He said we have video, these are facts. They refused to let me come in to pick up my daughter after the stay put was lifted. Mr. Putorti again stated that he would prefer he have a conversation with the Superintendent. Mr. Lotto continued. He said my daughter was sent to school on Tuesday with a note to be picked up on a Wednesday, she was held for over an hour because the letter that was sent was misread. One time his ex wife received a call that his daughter was not in school which caused a panic. She was then found in the classroom. He said they changed my daughter's para with no notice and no reason why it was switched. Mr. Putorti explained that the Board doesn't do these types of investigations, and he really needs to work with the Superintendent. Mr. Lotto said he wants his comments in the minutes. He said one time he watched on the video his daughter going to the buses when he was physically in the building to pick her up. He said the difference from last year to this year is insane. He doesn't know what's changed; he didn't know if we hired new people, unfortunately he doesn't know what it is. He said he has spoken to the principal on numerous occasions and all he gets is oh we will take care of it.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2017
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2017
3. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2017
4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017
5. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2017

B. Financial Management Summary - Ending January 31, 2017

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report - December, 2017

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

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. School Improvement Plans Mid Year Update – Vonda Tencza

VII. REPORTS

A. HS Student Representative Report – Paulina Karwowski

Miss Karwowski presented the High School student representatives report. In January, the high school held their winter concert with the band, performing arts and chorus performing. Student Council held a Snowball Dance which hasn't happened in a while; they had 200 attendees. The Debate Team has qualified for States in the Novice Division. In order to qualify they had to finish as a team or individually in the top three during one of the tournaments this year. The teams were: Cody Guilette/Connor Benson, Sophia Fioretti/Amia Jain, and Arianna Wheeler/Rachel Moon. Chorale ensemble has been selected as an Honors Performing Ensemble for the CMEA conference this spring.

B. Committee Meetings

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2017

C. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Putorti reported that the budget was presented to the Board of Finance last Wednesday and it went well. We will act after that get back to us. He said he feels this budget is reasonable and we should do ok. Mr. Putorti said he had a conversation with the Board attorney regarding the compensation information requested by the Town. Strategic Planning Committee wants all of the detail and we are unable to provide this unless the Town files an FOI complaint as several unions requested it not be sent. Therefore, they will FOI the information. Ms. Harmeling asked Mr. Putorti about the letter regarding the FOI decision and the letter from the Strategic Planning Committee. She asked to have copies of both since she has not seen them.

2. Board Member Comments

None

D. Superintendent's Report

None

E. Website Page Update – Vonda Tencza

Mrs. Tencza reported to the Board that after reviewing website companies, they are at the point where they will be signing a contract with Finalsity. Currently they are reviewing the current content of the website and determining what the purpose of the website should be. They are reaching out to several different groups for input. Mr. Garofolo wanted to know what services Finalsity will provide. Mrs. Tencza said they offer several different options and we went middle of the road. We can pick/choose templates. They will advise us on what we can and cannot do. Mrs. Tencza has worked with Finalsity in the past and has had a good experience. They provide immediate in-house support, they are robust in the options they offer and have more mobile options available. They provided us with several testimonials from current customers. The annual fee is \$9000 with a setup fee of \$5000. Mrs. Syriac said this money is set aside. Mrs. Tencza said they wanted a five year contract but we have not yet agreed to this, we still want to talk about it.

F. Seymour Boys and Girls Club – Rick Belden

Mr. Belden reported that he recently had the opportunity to tour the Seymour Boys and Girls Club. He said it was an excellent 45 minutes. They currently have 130 kids enrolled. He said it was gratifying to see so many middle school age students there. They are anticipating an increase in enrollment so we are reviewing transportation to the site.

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. School Lunch Price Increase

Ms. Harmeling thanked Ms. Brooks for the information that was provided from surrounding districts. She was pleased that we were not at the top.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition Services to increase the price of school lunch by 15¢ for the 2017-2018 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

B. Out of State Field Trips

1. HS Indoor Track Team

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of the high school indoor track coach, John Johnson, to take a select group of athletes to the New England Championship meet at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury Crossing, MA on Saturday, March 4, 2017

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

2. HS Indoor Track Team

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of the high school indoor track coach, John Johnson, to take a select group of athletes to the East Coast Games meet at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York, NY on Tuesday, February 28, 2017

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

3. FBLA and Business Classes

Mr. Garofolo asked how this trip correlates to the curriculum. Mr. Lucke said the business classes will visit Wall Street and possibly tour the back end of Macys but are still trying to finalize this. He said he felt every kid should visit the 9/11 Memorial when they are in the city. The Radio City Music Hall piece is new but the focus will be on back stage productions and marketing.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of high school teachers Ms. Verlezza, Ms. Sardo, and Mr. Catanese, to take FBLA and Business Class students to the 911 Memorial Museum, Wall Street, and Radio City Music Hall New York, NY on Thursday, March 9, 2017

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAINED: Mr. Garofolo

4. HS Cheerleading Team

Ms. Magri noted that this trip will only happen if they place.

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of high school cheer coach, Jessica Young, to take Cheerleading team to the 11th Annual New England Interscholastic Spirit Championship in Providence, RI on Saturday, March 18, 2017

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

C. Tuition Student

To approve or deny the request of Mr. Chris Teodosio, to have his daughter, Morgan Teodosio, attend grade 9 at Seymour High School as a tuition student

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to table this item to the March 6, 2017 Board of Education meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk