

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2017
Bungay Elementary School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4/10/17
TIME: 8:00 am
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri (7:40 pm)
Allison Sobieski
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, 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
Kris Boyle, Director of 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
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Rich Kearns
Chief Michael Metzler
Deputy Chief Paul Satkowski
Officer Jon Martin
Wayne Natzel
Lanny Bercier

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 the Seymour High School boys swim team who finished 5th at the state competition and were seated 9th in the open
2. Congratulations to Jaylen Crawford, who was named to the CT All-State Basketball team
3. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Boys Swim team who placed 5th at the Class S State meet. Aleksej Cupic was named All NVL, NVL Co-Champion in the 100 Breaststroke, All State, Class S State Champion in the 100 Breaststroke, and a new school record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:00.31. 200 Freestyle Relay (Zachary Fell, Jack Crocamo, Hunter Cripps, Aleksej Cupic) - Class S State Champions in the event for the first time in school history earning them All State Honors. Advanced to the State Open to finish 10th in the event which is the best a relay has ever finished for us at the Open. Set a new school record with a time of 1:30.20

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2017

B. Financial Management Summary – Ending March 29, 2017

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report - February, 2017

D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Jablonski, Nancy
 - Cafeteria Manager
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Larissa Shackett

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to add to the agenda the hiring of Paige Falbo as an instructional paraprofessional at Bungay School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Paige Falbo as an instructional paraprofessional at Bungay School

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. INFORMATION

A. School Activities and Recognitions

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

B. Staff Resignation – Certified

1. Fitch, Deborah
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective: June 30, 2017

C. Staff Resignation – Non Certified

1. Carew, Jennifer
 - Cafeteria Worker
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective: March 31, 2017
2. Nesteriak, Kyra
 - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective: March 30, 2017

VII. REPORTS

A. HS Student Representative Report – Cassandra Quintiliano, Paulina Karwowski
None

B. Committee Meetings

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2017

C. Board of Education Report

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

D. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac introduced Mr. Freund who has some very exciting news from the high school. Mr. Freund shared that the school has received word that three of our students have been accepted into many top universities and Ivy League schools. Gohar Khan was accepted into Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. Serhiy Sokhan was accepted to Harvard, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Brown, and Notre Dame. Fred Ames was accepted early to Dartmouth University. Congratulations to these young men as well as all of the seniors who have been accepted to many great universities and colleges.

1. Scheduling Committee Meetings
 - a. Policy Committee
 - b. Athletic Committee
 - c. Transportation Committee

Mrs. Syriac said she would be sending out several dates in the near future to try to reschedule the cancelled Policy Committee and Athletic Committee, and to schedule a Transportation Committee meeting. She said she felt we should try to meet at least once before the end of the school year.

2. Spring Parent Conferences

Mrs. Syriac reported that the Spring Parent Conferences were very well attended.

3. Awards Reminders

- a. Brumer, Gallagher, Kobasa and Petruny Awards Nominations (Deadline April 21, 2017)
- b. Teacher of the Year Nominations (Deadline April 7, 2017)

Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board of the deadlines for the District Awards and for the Teacher of the Year Award and encouraged them to complete and send in a form if they wished to nominate someone.

E. Accountability Index – Vonda Tencza

Mrs. Tencza did a brief overview of the Accountability Index. She said this report was presented last year but there is new data this year and it includes a little more information. She said we are interested in performance data but more importantly we are interested in growth. She is presenting the district level report but each school also received a report. She noted that everyone across the state dropped a little. Mrs. Harmeling asked what the participation rate was. Mrs. Tencza said it is the number of students who were assessed either with Smarter Balanced or SAT's. She said she was quite proud of the school levels.

Most notably was Chatfield-LoPresti School that was recognized as a School of Distinction. She said currently the administration is digesting the information. We are comparing our data to others in our DRG. We have a growth mindset and will continue to help all students to grow. Mr. Strumello expressed a concern with the timeliness of this report. Mrs. Tencza acknowledged the timeliness was an issue but we receive raw data in August and we don't wait for this report to act. Mrs. Syriac agreed that the report is not timely but we have discovered that we can provide this data at the beginning of the school year.

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Out of State Field Trip

Mr. Stanek voiced a concern that the field trip form for this request is not informative and stated that if we have requirements for the forms, we should hold the schools to them; and they should be more complete and informative. Mr. Hatfield said the principals also sign the forms and they should be more diligent.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of Mr. Christopher Pagliaro and Ms. Heather Brown to take grade 10-12 AP United States History and AP European History students on a field trip to New York City, New York on May 25, 2017

SO VOTED

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

B. Director of Facilities

There was a lengthy discussion on the wording of the motion. Mrs. Syriac told the Board that this wording was the exact wording that was used when the Director of Technology position was merged with the town.

Mr. Hatfield wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen was approving the position or approving the candidate. Mr. Putorti said it was to approve the position. Mr. Hatfield was troubled by the wording of #5. Mr. Strumello wanted to change the term "combined" to "shared". Ms. Magri suggested alternative wording which was acceptable to the Board.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to eliminate the current Director of Facilities position and establish a Facilities Manager position as a shared position with the Town of Seymour in accordance with the recommendation and proposal of the First Selectmen, subject to the following conditions:

1. Approval by the Board of Selectman
2. The position will be posted at a salary as yet to be determined
3. The position to start on or after July 1, 2017
4. Review of the combined position by the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen during the month of May, 2018
5. Either the Board of Education or the Board of Selectman have the right to terminate the shared Facilities Manager position as of June 30, 2018 by providing notice to the other Board on or before June 15, 2018. In the event that the shared position is terminated, the position would remain a Facilities Manager position under the Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

C. Donation

1. Cathy Guerra

Ms. Cathy Guerra and the Klevovich family would like to donate various woodworking tools to Seymour High School

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of various woodworking tools from Ms. Cathy Guerra and her family and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

SO VOTED

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

D. Last Day of School for 2016-17 School Year

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the last day of school for students as June 14, 2017, provided there are no further school closings

SO VOTED

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

E. Set Graduation Date for Class of 2017

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the 2017 Seymour High School graduation date as June 14, 2017, provided there are no further school closings

SO VOTED

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

*** F. School Security**

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting school and public security. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the Executive Session. The Board invites the following individuals in to the Executive Session: Mrs. Christine Syriac, Mrs. Vonda Tencza, Mr. Rick Belden, Mr. Rich Kearns, Mr. Rob Dyer, Chief Michael Metzler, Deputy Chief Paul Satkowski, Officer Jon Martin, and building administration

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Stanek stated that he felt unless the administration was going to testify, they should not be part of the executive session. After some discussion, it was decided to remove building administration from entering executive session.

Enter Executive Session: 8:26 pm Exit Executive Session: 9:33 pm

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk