

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2017

Seymour Middle School

7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 5/4/17
TIME: 10:45am
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (7:36 pm)
Peter Kubik (7:47 pm)
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski

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
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS (7:36 pm)
Lisa Cheney
Stephanie Shelinsky

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. A moment of silence was observed for Eric Laurentus who passed away today. Eric worked for the Seymour Public Schools as an IT Technician for many years and will be missed by all. A moment of silence was also observed for Kimberly Boucher who passed away on April 15, 2017. She was a former Special Education teacher for the Seymour Public Schools.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Correspondence

1. Letter dated April 19, 2017 from Dr. Evan Pitkoff, Cooperative Educational Services informing the Seymour Public Schools that one student has been accepted to the Regional Center for the Arts (RCA) for the 2017-18 school year
2. Letter dated April 24, 2017 from Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools to Dr. Evan Pitkoff responding to his letter dated April 19, 2017

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2017

B. Nutrition Services Financial Report - March, 2017

C. Healthy Food Certification Statement

D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Alpert, Scott
 - Monitor Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Kim Dilisio

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

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. Seymour High School Winter Season Sports Report

C. Staff Retirement–Certified

1. Kazo, Sandra
 - Art Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective: June 30, 2017

D. Staff Resignation–Certified

1. Rangel, Christine
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective: June 30, 2017

E. Staff Resignation–Non Certified

1. Carlson, Amanda
 - Cafeteria Worker
 - Bungay School
 - Effective: April 21, 2017

VII. REPORTS

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

1. April 4 - We had a Performing Arts Concert during school for the students, organized by Mr. Swetts
2. April 6-7 - Music Trip to Boston, Organized by Mr. Schneider
 - a. UCONN - professors worked with the band and choir students
 - b. Visited Berkeley School of Music and Boston University
 - c. Visited Boston Museum of Art
 - d. Went to see a College Accapella Competition
3. April 20 - Chasing the Dragon movie and panel discussion at the Strand Theater, approximately 75 people in attendance. The movie and discussion focused on the opioid addiction crisis currently occurring in our country. This activity was organized by SHS and SMS school social workers.
4. April 20 -27- SHS Art Show at the Greenwich Workshop, the opening reception was Saturday April 22. This was organized by Mrs. Keeffe and Mrs. Leahy
5. April 26 - The Reality Fair, Organized by Mrs. Verlezza
6. April 27 and 28 - One Act Plays
 - a. "Selfie" (Directed by Brittany Kelly) is a one act play by Bradley Hayward about a group of high school students in their senior year whose problems are mounting as they prepare for their future.
 - b. "This is a Test"(Directed by Abigail Andrade) has a group of students taking a 60 minute high stakes test. The time passes quickly and one particular student has voices in his head that keep him from focusing on the test.

Both plays were completely student run with the support of Mr. Schneider, Mrs. Shelinsky, and Mrs. Keeffe.

B. Committee Meetings

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2017
2. Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2017
Mr. Hatfield asked about consolidation of services with other towns. It was decided to hold off on this discussion until Recommended Actions on this agenda.
3. Awards Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2017

C. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments
Mr. Putorti reported that the Board is currently pursuing a Superintendent of Schools.
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Hatfield asked about the possibility of sending handouts electronically. He wondered if there was a policy on this. Mrs. Syriac said there is an option on the form that can be checked and we will post their information on our website. She said it is their choice to make copies, we do not ask them to. Ms. Harmeling reported that she had previously reported that they would try to do the webinar with the Valley Indy but she has not been able to set it up this year. Mr. Hatfield suggested we tie our budget communication next year with the "Great Give".

D. Superintendent's Report

1. Staffing Update for 2017-2018
Mrs. Syriac proposed the addition of a .5 World Language Teacher to the 2017-2018 Education Budget which could be justified by replacing the retiring elementary art teacher as a .5 position and using the money saved. Mr. Strumello asked if we are able to support only a .5 elementary art teacher at this time and Mrs. Syriac said yes due to the declining enrollment.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of the Superintendent of Schools to add a .5 World Language Teacher to the 2017-2018 Education Budget

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Stratford Board of Education et al. v. City of Bridgeport et al. – Join Other Districts?

Mr. Belden explained the lawsuit saying it had to do with the amount of tuition charged for students attending the Fairchild Wheeler Magnet Schools. They are charging \$3000 per student. We currently have two students enrolled so our cost would be \$6000. The Board wanted to know what our portion of the legal fees would be and Mr. Belden said we do not know at this point. Mr. Putorti said he would not want to spend more in legal fees than what we are paying in tuition. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if other districts were invited to join and if they did. Ms. Syriac said we have no way of knowing this. Ms. Harmeling wanted a clearer understanding of what they would want from us; legal fees, exhibits, etc. She suggested we send a letter asking for more information. Mr. Stanek suggested we have a conversation with the Board attorney

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to table this item to the June 5, 2017 meeting in order to allow additional time for more information

SO VOTED

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

B. Placement of Solarize Seymour signs on School Property – Request from Town Hall

Mr. Strumello said he noticed there was a sign posted at the middle school for a short time.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Putorti) deny permission to the Town of Seymour to place the Solarize Seymour Signs on the grounds of all Seymour Schools

SO VOTED

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

IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Donation

Ms. Missy Orosz and Mr. Sven Rittwegar on behalf of the Wildcat Swim Club would like to donate a new spinal backboard to be used in the Seymour High School pool area

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of a new spinal backboard and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

SO VOTED

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

B. Awards Advisory Committee Recommendations

MOTION: (Mr. Putorti/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2017 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award to Cynthia Dion, the John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to Joseph Carrafiello, the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to Christopher Cummings, and the Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award to Madelynn Orosz

SO VOTED

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

C. All-Star Transportation Services Contract

Mr. Belden provided the Board with plenty of information on this proposal. There was discussion on replacing the whole fleet at one time and if that means in 10 years we would need to replace all the buses again which could be a large cost to the Board of Education. Mr. Belden pointed out that this contract is increasing by only 2.5% for a new fleet. He did not feel it would be any different in 10 years. Mr. Strumello wanted to know if the State requires seat belts in the future would these buses be able to be retro fitted. Mr. Belden confirmed the new buses could be retro fitted with seat belts if that happened in the future. Mr. Hatfield asked about cameras to cut down on the number of cars passing the red school bus lights. Mr. Belden explained this was a program years ago that did not work out for us. Mr. Hatfield asked about the number of buses and how it was determined. Mr. Belden said we are required to provide appropriate number of buses to transport students. The number of buses comes from us. We are not committed to the number 15; it can go up or down based on need. Mr. Hatfield asked about consolidating transportation services with other towns. Mr. Belden confirmed Ansonia approached us with a plan to purchase buses as we never entered into a consortium. Mr. Hatfield asked about the propane filling station. Mr. Belden said it would be located where they house the buses off of North Main Street. Mr. Hatfield wanted to know if we would bear the burden of cost setting up the propane filling station and Mr. Belden explained that this is not a negative as he confirmed 70 buses are on the tax lists for the Town of Seymour.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement to extend the existing bus transportation services contract with All Star Transportation by four (4) years to a new termination date of June 30, 2022 per the terms and conditions outlined in the February 16, 2017 proposal provided by All Star Transportation

SO VOTED

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

D. Facilities Manager Position

Mrs. Syriac suggested that the Board consider setting a salary range so that the salary can be adjusted based on the experience of the candidate chosen. Mr. Strumello asked her if she had a suggestion and she responded she did not and she felt the Board should make this decision. She reminded them that that will also have an opportunity to approve the salary when the contract is issued. Mr. Belden said the Facilities Manager would be in charge of five buildings in town; town hall, library, public works, community center, and the police station.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Putorti) to approve the job description for the Facilities Manager position and set the salary range at \$65,000 to \$85,000 for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Putorti

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

RECUSE: Mr. Kubik

The motion failed.

When the suggestion was made to eliminate this position, Mrs. Syriac said this would not be a position she would suggest for elimination. Our buildings are in excellent condition because of Mr. Belden and the Facilities position and our buildings would be in the same condition as the town buildings in no time without this position. Ms. Harmeling said she favored a wide range that would leave us open to a larger array of applicants. The discussion and vote was delayed in order to add an item to the agenda

E. Out of State Field Trip

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to add to the agenda under recommended actions an out of state field trip request

SO VOTED

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

Mr. Hatfield said he felt the form was completed in an excellent manner. Ms. Shelinsky and Ms. Cheney said this trip to the Newport Mansions would occur after reading the Great Gatsby and would illustrate the American dream.

They felt our students were lucky to live close enough to be able to see them and past students have been awed by the wealth they represent.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the request of Ms. Anthony-Bogue, Ms. Shelinsky, and Ms. Cheney to take the 11th and 12th grade students in Junior English, UCONN ECE, and AP Literature on an out of state field trip to Newport, RI on Monday, May 22, 2107

SO VOTED

- D. AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
(Continued) Facilities Manager Position

After further discussion, The Board decided to set another range for the Facilities Manager position and increase the number of supervisory years of experience to seven years.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to set the salary range for the Facilities Manager position at \$77,504 to \$87,192 and approve the job description with a change to increase the years of supervisory experience to seven years

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello

RECUSED: Mr. Kubik

- F. Honorary Diploma**

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda consideration of conferring an honorary Seymour High School Diploma at Graduation 2017

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSENT: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda consideration of conferring an honorary Seymour High School Diploma at Graduation 2017

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSENT: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Strumello) move to confer upon Superintendent Syriac an honorary Seymour High School Diploma at Graduation 2017

SO VOTED

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

ABSENT: Mr. Hatfield

- G. RFP 17-01 - The Lease of Multifunctional Devices, Printers, Software, Maintenance, and Supplies**

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to award bid #17-01 for the lease of Multifunctional Devices, Printers, Software, Maintenance, and Supplies to CBS Xerox, 40 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854 and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a 60 month agreement

SO VOTED

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

- X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

- XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk