

# Seymour Board of Education



## ATHLETIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 11, 2017  
Central Office  
Conference Room  
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 10/17/17  
TIME: 1:00pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Peter Kubik  
Allison Sobieski  
Ed Strumello

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent  
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Ernie DiStasi, SMS Assistant Principal  
Bernadette Hamad, SMS Principal  
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk  
Paul Sponheimer

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. Discussion on the placement of Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame plaques and other sports memorabilia

Mr. Belden spoke about the availability of space in the current location for the Hall of Fame plaques. He and Mr. Freund provided the committee with a plan to move the Hall of Fame memorabilia to the hallway adjacent to the Media Center and the girls' locker rooms. This would allow for the creation of a "Hallway of Fame", which would provide display space for the Hall of Fame plaques for the foreseeable future. The Hallway of Fame would include all of the Hall of Fame plaques and assorted individual sports memorabilia currently located in the recessed display case outside the auditorium. This action would allow the display of various chorale and drama awards in the auditorium display case. Mr. Sponheimer was invited to share the "Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame Committees" views on this subject. Mr. Sponheimer thanked the committee for including him in this discussion. He feels this is a great idea and it is important for young kids to see what has happened in the past and what can happen going forward. He said if there is anything his committee can do to help with this project including the purchasing of a sign designating this hallway as the Hallway of Fame to just let him know. Mr. Strumello will report this to the full board at the next meeting for informational purposes.

#### B. Pop Warner Admission to Football

Mrs. Yusko reports that currently Pop Warner football players wearing their jerseys are allowed to enter football games for free. Cheerleaders are not included in this. There has never been a formal policy about this and Mrs. Yusko wants the committee's input. This is not done for any other sport. Mr. Belden asked about the possibility of one night being designated as "Pop Warner" night and one night during basketball as "Biddy Night".

Mr. Kubik wanted to know where you would draw the line as this could be a Pandora's Box. Mr. Strumello did not like the inconsistencies in this. Mrs. Yusko was asked how much the students would be charged. She stated \$3.00 for older students and \$1.00 for the younger students. Mr. Strumello would like to bring this to the full Board of education for discussion with the possibility of sending it to the Policy Committee to come up with an appropriate policy.

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Strumello introduced Mrs. Hamad's letter requesting 6<sup>th</sup> grade students be allowed to try out for the middle school sports teams. She has surveyed the following towns Derby, Prospect, three schools in Waterbury, Watertown and Wolcott. They allow their 6<sup>th</sup> graders to participate on their sports teams. Currently, 6<sup>th</sup> graders are allowed in all clubs and cross country. Mr. Strumello was concerned that some coaches would take a 6<sup>th</sup> grader over an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and some of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders would lose out on having one "shining moment". Mrs. Hamad and Mr. DiStasi have already spoken to coaches on try-out procedures and do not want to tie coach's hands. Mr. Kubik asked if there were any concerns with the physical aspect of 6<sup>th</sup> graders playing with 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. DiStasi stated that they already play recreational sports with these same kids and any concerns would be addressed during the try-out process. Ms. Sobieski thought it should be allowed as it is a great way for students to make connections. Mr. Kubik wanted clarification on the selection process. If you make the team this year do you automatically make it next year? Mrs. Hamad said every year is a new year and you have to try out again.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec. Ms. Sobieski) to bring to the full board that effective immediately 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to play on all Seymour Middle School sports teams.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Kubik, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

**B. Superintendent's Report**

None

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sponheimer questioned the up keep of the new turf field. He sat on the Seymour Town Athletic (Turf) Committee and remembers that it was supposed to be sanitized after every 85 hours of play. He was also concerned with all of the students not showering after practices and games.

Please note: Mr. Belden has spoken to the town and asked for a schedule of field maintenance. This includes fluffing the field and adding new granules. He has also looked in to the possibility of sharing a testing company to have G-Max tests done (this rates impact to the turf by a player to prevent injury or concussion) as well as a machine to demagnetize and sanitize the field. Mr. Strumello mentioned that a lot of people feel that turf fields are permanent and that is not the case. It will have to be re-done in 10 years. Mr. Belden said he had already talked to the town about adding the field to the Capitol Plan. Mrs. Yusko addressed the showering protocol. She said she will be adding the topic of showering expectations at parent night.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik /sec. Ms. Sobieski) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Kubik, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

Submitted by:  
Pat Boyle