

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (Revised)

November 8, 2017
Seymour Middle School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 12/15/17
TIME: 1:25pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Allison Sobieski
Michael Wilson, 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
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS
David Moktan
Christopher Champagne

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Abigail Andrade and Paulina Karwowski for being honored with the National School Development Council Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning Award – Jim Freund, Mike Wilson presented the students with a certificate from the National School Development Council.
2. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members – Mike Wilson
Mr. Wilson took a minute to recognize the commitment of outgoing Board members Ms. Allison Sobieski and Chairperson Mr. Yashu Putorti. We missed Ms. Sobieski as she was unable to attend the meeting but Mr. Wilson spoke of her commitment to the Board, thanked her for her years of service and wished her the best of luck. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Putorti for his many years of service as a member and chairperson of the Board of Education. Fellow Board members and the audience gave him a standing ovation. Mr. Putorti and Ms. Sobieski have been honored with a plaque that recognized their commitment to the Seymour Public Schools community. Best of luck to you both!

B. Correspondence

1. Letter to Sukhman Singh from Michael Wilson, Superintendent acknowledging his appointment as the junior class BOE student representative

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2017
 - 2. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2017
 - 3. Special BOE Meeting 1 Minutes – October 25, 2017
 - 4. Special BOE Meeting 2 Minutes – October 25, 2017
- B. Financial Management Summary – Ending October 30, 2017
- C. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program
 - 1. Mei-Li Phung and Jen-Ji Phung
Ms. Jeanne Phung has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Mei-Li Phung and Jen-Ji Phung for the 2017-2018 school year

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

SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. INFORMATION

- A. Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Seymour Middle School
 - 2. Bungay Elementary School
 - 3. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. Staff Resignations – Appendix E
 - 1. Krushinski, Meagan
 - Student Council Advisor (Split Position)
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective October 9, 2017
- C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
 - 1. Batterton, Jennifer
 - Student Council Advisor (Split Position)
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Craig Prasaukas
 - 2. McQuillan, Katelyn
 - Student Council Advisor (Split Position)
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Megan Krushinski

VII. REPORTS

- A. Out of State Field Trip
Mr. Catlin did a brief overview of the trip noting that it is approximately \$50.00 less than last year.
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the field trip request of Mr. Harvey Catlin to take grade 8 students on an out of state field trip to Philadelphia, PA on May 2, 2017 through May 4, 2018

SO VOTED

- AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
- B. HS Student Representative Report - Paulina Karwowski and Sukhman Singh, Student Representatives
Week of 10/23-28
 - 1. Spirit Week - Monday – Jock vs. Nerds, Tuesday – America day, Wednesday – Decade Day, Thursday – Character/Spooky Day, Friday – Color Wars and Pep Rally, Saturday – Homecoming Dance
 - 2. 11/3/17 – Electrathon Race at Lime Rock Park – One of the cars placed second.
 - 3. Sports Records – Football 5/2, Volleyball 18/2, Boys Soccer 12/3, Girls Soccer, 6/8, Girls Swimming 11/0
 - 4. NVL Tournament Results - Girls Soccer lost in the first round against Woodland, Boys Soccer lost in the semi-finals against Watertown, Volleyball – NVL Champions defeating Torrington, NVL Runner up Girls Swimming, 11-0.

5. State Tournament Results - Boys Soccer lost in the first round against Plainville 0-6, Girls Soccer lost in the first round against North Branford 0-2, Volleyball had a first round bye and will play against Plainfield.
6. All NVL - Volleyball – Molly Kennedy and Kaitlyn Esposito, Boys Soccer – Jean Paul Viruet and Griffin Tomas, Girls Swimming – Hannah Tricarico, Olivia Velleco, Sierra Cripps, Stephanie Tabaka, and Anna Mrozik, Hannah, Olivia, Sierra and Stephanie all set a school and Kennedy pool record for the Medley and Sierra Cripps set a school record for the 50.

Ms. Magri said the Debate Tournament hosted by Seymour High School was amazing. 99 or 100 teams participated in this first competition of the year. We were not expecting so many teams and every space in the school was used even the custodians' break room! Kudos to Ms. Monaco who did a great job and everything went really well.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2017

Mr. Hatfield, chairperson of the Facilities Committee said he wanted it to be clear that the purchase of the shed was never discussed by the Facilities Committee. Ms. Harmeling confirmed that it was not sent to the Facilities Committee and ultimately, it was not purchased. He asked if the Finance Committee will be sharing with the entire Board what was discussed in Executive Session. Ms. Harmeling said because it was in Executive Session it would not be shared.

2. Athletic Committee Minutes – October 11, 2017

Mr. Strumello shared that Mr. Freund and Ms. Yusko will be redesigning where the trophies will be displayed so that the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame can be better highlighted. He explained there was a discussion regarding Seymour Pop Warner getting free admission to Seymour High School Football games when they are wearing their jersey. Ms. Yusko asked about what the policy was and there was discussion about the equity among teams. It was suggested that we have some kind of "night" for the teams. Mr. Stanek said he liked this idea. This would have to be referred back to the Athletic Committee for refining and defining and then brought to the full Board for approval.

D. MAP Assessment Results Fall 2017 – Vonda Tencza

Ms. Tencza said she was doing a broad overview of the Fall Assessment results. She said these results are used instructionally by the teachers to coach the students. Mr. Kubik asked about why the expectations descend from Kindergarten to grade 10. Ms. Vonda explained that this was a natural as there is less growth as the student ages. Ms. Harmeling said each student gets their expected growth based on the individual scores and the expectations. Ms. Tencza said we are watching the numbers and the trajectory. Ms. Harmeling asked if everyone takes the assessment including the Special Education students. Ms. Tencza confirmed everyone takes the assessment. Mr. Kubik asked if some of the lower scores represented a teaching issue. Ms. Tencza said this is part of what they are trying to determine. Ms. Tencza said our three year trends should be an incline and overall, our trajectories are where we want them to be. In Science, we performed better than the National norm. The Fall Math Assessment is not strong and we will be working on it. Mr. Kubik asked if we have implemented changes. Ms. Tencza said we are implementing those changes now. Ms. Harmeling said these assessments identify those students who need extra support. Ms. Tencza talked about the MAP Student Profile Report. Ms. Harmeling asked if these are shared with the students. Ms. Tencza said many teachers share these reports during their goal meetings for individual students. A paper copy of the Student Profile Report is given to parents. Mr. Strumello voiced some concern about Parents having enough time during their 10-15 minute conference to understand this data. Ms. Tencza said with the involvement of the student, the parents will get an explanation of their child's goals. The parent form is very easy to understand.

E. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Putorti said there were no surprises with the election. He acknowledged the two new members of the Board of Education, Mr. Christopher Champagne and Mr. Edward Hendricks. He wished everyone well and said he felt that Mr. Wilson is doing a good job. He thanked Ms. Dauerty for her secretarial support over the years.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Kubik introduced Mr. Champagne who was in the audience. Mr. Garofolo mentioned that some lights were out on the covered walkway outside of the middle school. Mr. Stanek thanked Mr. Putorti for his years of service on the Board and as Chairperson. He also said the Memorial Day Parade committee is looking for groups to march in the parade. Mr. Strumello wondered why the professional development was held at the middle school when voting was also going on there. Ms. Harmeling thanked Mr. Putorti for his service.

F. Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson reported that he, along with several others from the district, attended the 16th Annual Celebration of School Leadership which honored, among others, Mr. Ernie DiStasi as Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year. He reported that Mr. DiStasi did a great job on his speech. On Election Day, November 7, 2017, teachers attended full day professional development. Mrs. Tencza did a wonderful job and she was able to secure several teachers to present on a variety of topics such as Google Classroom, Google Apps, Writing workshops, Khan Academy, and Math workshops. He said the room where teachers were taking student assessments was the most competitive room in the place. He said they would look into having this professional development at a different school in the future. He said we are now up to 700 followers on Facebook. He reported that he continues to attend sporting events and is very proud of how well our students have performed. A special recognition goes out to our NVL Champion Volleyball team. He also attended the Poetry Night held at Chatfield-LoPresti School. On October 12, Mr. Wilson participated as a panel member for the Leadership in the Greater Valley Program. Various local business members attended and were able to ask him questions about what it is he does as well as what is taking place within our great schools. On November 2, Mr. Wilson attended the Superintendents meeting at Valley Regional Adult in Shelton where the director shared with us the great progress that the students were making. We had the opportunity to tour the classrooms and to meet several of the adults in their ESL program, several of which were from Seymour.

VIII. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. Budget

This was put on the agenda in order to wrap up the budget issue. The state did not change our ECS funds much. We are in good shape and Mr. Putorti is happy we didn't waste too much time trying to figure out cuts. Ms. Harmeling asked to confirm that the Town has not asked us to remove anything and Mr. Putorti confirmed that is correct. Mr. Stanek reminded everyone that this is an ongoing crisis and we need to be careful.

IX. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Condo, Carol

- Nutrition Services
- Bungay School
- Replacing Deana Bercier

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Cindy Brooks to hire Carol Condo as a Nutrition Services employee in Bungay Elementary School

SO VOTED

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

2. Gagne, Jennifer

- Instructional Paraprofessional
- Chatfield-LoPresti School
- New Position

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of Dr. Kris Boyle to hire Jennifer Gagne as an Instructional Paraprofessional in Chatfield-LoPresti School

SO VOTED

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

3. Todice, Jake

- Part Time Custodian
- Seymour Middle School
- Replacing Benjamin Stec

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to add to the agenda the hiring of Jake Todice as a part time custodian in Seymour Middle School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the recommendation of Facilities Manager Joe Falzone to hire Jake Todice as a part time custodian in Seymour Middle School.

SO VOTED

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

B. SSAE Grant

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to add to the agenda the approval of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant

SO VOTED

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

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of Associate Superintendent Vonda Tencza to approve the Student and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant

SO VOTED

C. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Request to Add a New Position of Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Kris Boyle

Mr. Garofolo asked what is prompting the need for an additional Behaviorist. Dr. Boyle explained that it has to do with the current caseload of our behaviorist and the number of students who need services that are moving into our district. Mr. Garofolo asked if the work would be split equally between the two behaviorists. Dr. Boyle said this would be looked at after the person is hired but the hope would be that the work is split equitably. The cost of this position would be covered by the grant and by the savings of not needing to continue with the outside agency. Mr. Boyle explained that the behaviorists follow a schedule that would be flexible based on the needs of the students but both would work the same hours. Since the behaviorists have 12-month contracts; Mr. Garofolo wanted to know what they would do during the summer when students are not in school. Dr. Boyle said a good portion of their summer schedule is taken up by responsibilities with the ESY program, which is a 4-week and a 6-week program.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of Dr. Kris Boyle to add an additional position of a second full time Board Certified Behavior Analyst

SO VOTED

D. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
2018-2019 BOE Meeting Schedule

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2018-2019 BOE Meeting Schedule as presented

SO VOTED

E. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
2018-19 School Calendar

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented

SO VOTED

F. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Resolution for Charter

Ms. Magri reminded the Board that this is only the first step. Mr. Stanek said he heard there was talk of reducing the size of several town boards. There was talk of reducing the Board of Education to seven members. He said he felt the nine members on the Board works very well and felt that this Board should not be reduced.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the resolution "Support revision of Section 12.3(c) of the Charter to eliminate the bifurcated annual voting process on the Town General Government Budget and the Board of Education Budget so that there is only one vote on the combined Budgets"

SO VOTED

G. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Healthy Food Certification

Ms. Harmeling noted that Mrs. Brooks was not at the meeting but wondered if this would negatively affect our funding. Mr. Belden said this was specific wording that must be used and was requested by the State.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Magri) the Seymour Board of Education will allow exemptions for food items that do not meet the CNS, provided 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store

SO VOTED

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerly
Board Clerk