

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2017
Seymour High School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 12/13/17
TIME: 3:50 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Edward Hendricks
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative
Michael Wilson, 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
Joseph Falzone, Director of Operations
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
Yashu Putorti

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:42 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Seymour High School students Maxwell Bartlett and Paulina Karwowski and Seymour Middle School students Angelina Buturla and Kevin Engstrom as the 2017 recipients of the CAPSS Superintendents Award of Excellence. They will be honored at a dinner on December 7, 2017. Ms. Magri acknowledged the BOE Student Representative, Paulina Karwowski on receiving this award.
2. Thank you to the Seymour Public Schools staff who participated in the fundraising effort that resulted in a donation of \$1255.00 to the CAS Hurricane Heroes Relief Fund
3. Congratulations to the winners of the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest! Grand Prize-Devin Cronin (Grade 7) First Place-Leah Cuadrado (Grade 7), Second Place-Emma Hamilton (Grade 8), and Third Place-Madison Gaynor (Grade 7). The next level of voting will take place at the Lions Club Winter Party in December. We wish Devin Cronin the best of luck and hope her poster will make it to the next level of competition

B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated November 10, 2017 from Superintendent Michael Wilson to First Selectman Kurt Miller informing the Board of Selectman and the Charter Revision Committee that the Seymour Board of Education unanimously voted in support of the following 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"
2. Letter dated November 17, 2017 from NEAS&C (New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.) confirming receipt of the Seymour High School Special Progress Report

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2017 (Removed by Mr. Hatfield)
- B. Nutrition Services Operational Report – October, 2017
- C. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
 - 1. Angelucci, Stephen
 - Custodian, P/T
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Benjamin Ignace

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move to approve the consent agenda with item A1 removed
SO VOTED

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

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hatfield asked that Section IV A1 Regular BOE Minutes – November 8, 2017 be removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Hatfield asked that the second to last sentence in VIII Section C1 be changed to read “He asked if the Finance Committee will be sharing with the entire Board what was discussed in Executive Session.”

SO VOTED

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

VI. INFORMATION

- A. Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Seymour Middle School
 - 2. Bungay Elementary School
 - 3. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. Staff Retirement – Certified Staff
 - 1. Burton, Paula
 - Mathematics Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 30, 2018

Mr. Stanek asked that a letter from the Board be sent to Ms. Burton acknowledging her retirement and her years of service to the Seymour Public Schools
- C. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
 - 1. Gagliardi, Pamela
 - Clerical Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective November 30, 2017
 - 2. Ignace, Benjamin
 - Custodian, P/T
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective October 13, 2017
 - 3. Neary, Dorie
 - Secretary
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective November 29, 2017
- D. Parent Conferences – November, 2017

Mr. Garofolo asked how much time is allowed for each parent conference. The high school allows for 10 minutes, the middle school conferences are 10 minutes with the full team, and the elementary schools conferences are 15 minutes.

VII. REPORTS

A. HS Student Representative Report - Paulina Karwowski and Sukhman Singh

- 11/9 Fall Concert for Band and Choir
- 11/15 Grade 8 Orientation, Link Crew Leaders led tours for eighth grade students and their parents.
- 11/18 Connecticut Music Educators Association held the Southern Regional Auditions. We had six students selected for the CMEA Southern Region Music Festival. All of these students are eligible to audition for All-State and will participate in the regional festival in January. This is the most students that have ever been selected and maybe this will encourage more students to audition next year. Choir: Abigail Andrade, Isabella Andrade, Eliana Arroyo, Rachel Moon, Isabella Torri and Band: Evan Webb
- 11/21 NHS and Student Council Powder Puff Football Game
- 11/22 The School Counseling Department held the Alumni Fair in the cafeteria and auditorium. SHS Graduates returned to share their college experiences with the students
- 11/26 Members of the Guitar Class performed on the school float which was decorated by the Art Club and accompanied by the Electrathon Club - We won the Sponheimer Trophy - First Place
- 11/28 Performing Arts students performed for the student body during the school day

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2017

C. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

Ms. Magri said she was honored and humbled to be selected as the Board Chair. When she started on the Board six years ago, she never expected to be sitting in the center. She said she knows she will need to prove herself to some members of the Board and will work hard to make a cohesive team. She reminded everyone that the Board is there to support our students and teachers and she wants to work together to provide the best support that we can for our school community. She looks forward to the Board coming together to move forward. Ms. Magri also welcomed our new Board members, Mr. Chris Champagne and Dr. Edward Hendricks and stated she would like them to take an active role, use their expertise, and encouraged them to ask questions.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Strumello congratulated Ms. Magri and asked that those Board members who attended the CABA conference be afforded some time at a meeting to share what was learned. He said this has not been done in the past and he feels it is important and should happen. Ms. Magri offered to put this on the January 8, 2018 agenda but Mr. Hatfield said he thought February would be better so they had time to prepare. Mr. Hatfield said he was glad to see change on the Board and hoped that this Board would provide more transparency to the members and that the Chairman would have more conversations with the Board members. Ms. Magri assured him that conversations would take place. Ms. Harmeling welcomed and congratulated the new Board members and said she is looking forward to working with them.

D. Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson reported that the district celebrated Veterans Day with our Veterans at SMS, CLS, and Bungay schools. As of this evening, Mr. Wilson is very happy to report that we have over 730 followers on our new Facebook page. We continue to post as much of the student happenings as we can and feel this is a wonderful communication tool. Mr. Wilson continues to attend various sporting events and is very proud of how well our students have performed. A special recognition goes out to our football team who made the state playoffs this year. Unfortunately, while they played tough, we came up on the losing side against a tough Ansonia team. On November 17th and 18th Mr. Strumello, Mr. Hatfield, and Mr. Wilson attended the CABA conference in Mystic. He reported that it was nice for them to hear different perspectives from other Board Members, Superintendents, and Attorneys on a variety of issues such as shared services and mental health. He congratulated Mr. Hatfield on winning the Adirondack chairs in the drawing at the conference. On November 30th and December 1st, Seymour schools accepted two new AED's that were donated to Seymour High School. SHS is looking into increasing the number of credits needed to graduate as well as a new schedule that will assist in making this possible. Mr. Wilson extended an invitation to Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Champagne to come in and meet with him. As has been the case, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Tencza, and Mr. Belden have continued to be visible in all of the buildings this past month and we will continue to visit the buildings in order to witness the great things taking place within our schools. Mr. Strumello asked about the placement of the donated AED's and Mr. Wilson said that has not yet been established.

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Budget Discussion – Ms. Magri said that as most of us know, there have been secondary cuts and this will have a negative impact on our budget since the amount is more than what we planned to absorb. Mr. Wilson indicated that he and Mr. Miller plan to meet on Wednesday and he hopes to have a better understanding of where we stand with regard to the budget. He said we are way early in the process. He plans to have open lines of communication throughout the budget process. At this point, the reality is we just don't know. He said he will reach out to the Chair after Wednesday's meeting and will also meet with his Administrative Team. His goal is to not sacrifice the education of the children in Seymour. Ms. Magri asked if Mr. Wilson thought there would be a need for a Special Meeting to discuss the Budget and Mr. Wilson responded that he will not know until after Wednesday's meeting but feels a Special Meeting may be needed.

IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A. Request to Graduate Early
Mr. Hendricks asked if all credits are checked and she will have enough to graduate. Mr. Freund confirmed that she is in good standing. Ms. Magri asked Mr. Freund if he was comfortable with this and he said he was. When asked if she would participate in this year's graduation, he said she would.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the request of Mr. Linwood Branch and Ms. Judith Rodriguez that their daughter, Daija Passaro, graduate at the end of her junior year (June, 2018)

SO VOTED

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

- B. Capstone Program for Seymour High School – Jim Freund
Mr. Freund spoke briefly about where they are in their research on Capstone. He indicated they have a concept of what they would like to see in a Capstone Project at Seymour High School and provided the Board with the website address if they would like to learn more about it. Ms. Harmeling said she was not quite sure what the Board was being asked to approve. Mr. Wilson said Mr. Freund's work on Capstone has been done and now they need direction from the Board on whether they should continue toward making this a reality at Seymour High School. Ms. Magri said there is a budgetary impact as they would need someone (most likely a .5 teacher) to support the program.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the conception of a Capstone Program at Seymour High School beginning with the graduating Class of 2022 pending sufficient budget resources to support the program

SO VOTED

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

- C. One-Man Team Request
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Athletic Director to allow Ansonia High School student Victor Falkowski to participate with the Seymour Boys Swim team as a one-man team

SO VOTED

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

- D. Liberty Bank HSA Bank Account
Mr. Belden said this account is a requirement of the bank and it is a dollar in dollar out account, meaning there will be no balance carried.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to authorize the establishment of an HSA zero balance account at Liberty Bank for the purpose of processing employee HSA payroll deductions

SO VOTED

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

- E. CompuClaim Medicaid Billing Solution
Mr. Belden checked with his resources and has found that this program is used by over 70 communities in our state and they are the market leader. This program will do the entire process for Medicaid billing which is vital since we do not have the staff to do this. He said there would be some hurdles mainly getting parents to sign up and this program will help with that also. He said this program will work seamlessly with our current billing programs.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a multiyear agreement beginning December 5, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020 with CompuClaim, 221 Third Street, Newport, RI 02840 for the provision of School-Based Medicaid Billing

SO VOTED

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk