

Seymour Board of Education



FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 12, 2016
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Yashu Putorti
Fred Stanek

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Kristen Harmeling
Ed Strumello
Chris Adamo
Jim Geffert
Robert Findley

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
Mrs. Syriac called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Syriac asked for nominations for the chairperson of the Facilities Committee. Mr. Garofolo nominated Mr. Hatfield. No further nominations were made. All committee members were in agreement that Mr. Hatfield will serve as the chairperson of the Facilities Committee. Mrs. Syriac turned the meeting over to Mr. Hatfield.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Harmeling, 27 Patrick Drive, Seymour – This group is highly committed to the softball program. While they may not have followed the procedure to the letter with regard to naming the facility, it should be noted that they probably did not know there was a procedure to follow and this should not be held against them.

III. DISCUSSION

- A. Discussion and Possible Action

1. Naming of the Softball Field at Seymour High School

Mr. Hatfield said we were meeting tonight in order to discuss the request of the Under the Lights Softball committee to name the softball field the "Ken Pereiras Field at the Bill Davis Softball Complex". Mr. Stanek suggested we move the second public comment up in the agenda if anyone shows up so we can have the opportunity to hear their input before a decision is made. Mr. Hatfield said that there is no issue from downtown about the naming of the softball field and asked for input from this committee. Mr. Stanek said he felt both Mr. Davis and Mr. Pereiras were deserving of the honor. Mr. Putorti said he was concerned about naming the field for a coach that is still actively coaching because usually this honor is given to coaches that have retired. Mr. Stanek said that is a valid point when you look at things that have happened at the college level. He also said Mr. Strumello voiced a concern regarding the word "complex" in the name. Mr. Hatfield did a brief overview of other areas that have been named in honor of people and how some of the more recent ones came to be.

Mrs. Syriac said our current policy is much more detailed than the policy of the past. Since members of the softball committee have just arrived at this meeting, Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Putorti repeated what had transpired up to this point. Mr. Stanek said Mr. Davis and Mr. Pereiras are icons in Seymour softball and are deserving of this honor and fit our policy as having attained prominence and contributed to well being of our educational programming. But he agreed that he thinks the naming is a bit unusual and suggested a possibility of using both names with a slash or hyphen instead. Mr. Garofolo suggested using the wording "athletic complex". Chris Adamo, 4 Cross Creek Lane, Seymour - Mr. Adamo said they are looking for commentary from the Facilities Committee. He said these two men have made a significant impact on many young lives in Seymour. Many of our players went on to play at the college level. Mr. Davis ignited the program and Mr. Pereiras sustained it. The suggested name was a creative way to honor both men. Jim Geffert, 26 Shari Drive, Seymour - Mr. Geffert said as the field was, we would name it for Mr. Davis. The complex has been brought to where it is today due to Mr. Pereiras' involvement. He feels we should either honor both men or hold off on naming it for now. Robert Findley, 57 Brookfield Road, Seymour - Mr. Findley said that with all the work that has been done it has become almost a stadium; it's more than just a field. Mr. Belden said it sounds like that we are searching for the right word to describe the softball facility. There was some discussion on different terms that might be appropriate. If the word complex was dropped the issue would be whether to use a slash or hyphen for the field. Mr. Strumello gave the history of named facilities in Ansonia. Mr. Strumello said he felt this was field not a complex. Mr. Strumello also gave an overview of the coaching history for the softball team in Seymour. In addition, there was some discussion on the wording on the plaque. After some dialogue it was decided that no plaque was needed for the field; it would be a sign. A plaque to honor the work by the Under the Lights Committee would be something separate. Mr. Stanek said the Under the Lights Committee was an Ad Hoc Committee for the Town and as such any plaque they propose should be approved by the Town. Mr. Adamo said the ceremony was tentatively set for May 21 and Mrs. Syriac said this was a tentative date because there is a possibility that the game will not happen on that day due to other school districts not being ready.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) move to recommend to the full Board the naming of the softball field at Seymour High School the Davis-Pereiras Softball Field in honor of Bill Davis and Ken Pereiras who have attained prominence locally in the field of athletics and who have made outstanding contributions to the educational well being of students

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm