



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2017
Bungay Elementary School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 10/10/17
TIME: 11:00 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski
Fred Stanek (8:00)
Ed Strumello
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Harmeling
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
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS
First Selectman Kurt Miller
Jennifer Simonetti
Paul Wetowitz
Dorie Neary
Amanda Lombardozzi
Paige Falbo
Lindsey Grailich
Lauren Reid
Thomas Hogan
Nate Dobas
Ejona Gashi
Morrigen Maguire
Nate Murein
Brooke Reilly
Victoria Saracino
Diane Reilly
Zoja Gashi

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Recognitions**

1. Congratulations to Molly Schiffer for receiving a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students are recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Freund presented Molly with her letter of commendation.
2. Congratulations to the following Technical and Business Education Teachers at Seymour High School on their teaching achievements: Joe Perrucci - #1 in the state for Computer Aided Drafting three years in a row, 2nd and 3rd place in the May 2017 Electrathon Race, Mike Catanese - #1 in the state for Business Administration three years in a row, Jennifer Sardo #3 in the state for Accounting, Kathy Verlezza - #5 in the state for Personal Finance, Mike Stock - #9 in the state for Engineering and 2nd and 3rd place in the May 2017 Electrathon Race. Mr. Lucke did a quick presentation sharing the ranking information of the business classes at the high school. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lucke presented the teachers with a certificate noting their achievements.

B. **Correspondence**

1. Letter dated September 12, 2017 from Ms. Cheryl Michaud to First Selectman Kurt Miller and Michael Wilson discussing the practice space for Pop Warner cheerleaders
Please Note: The small gym at Seymour Middle School is in the process of being cleaned up. Mr. Wilson has been in contact with Ms. Michaud and she is now ok with the situation

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2017
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2017

B. **Financial Management Summary – Ending September 27, 2017**

C. **Staff Hiring – Non Certified**

1. Fitzsimmons, Victoria
 - Monitor Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Linda Brower
2. Hillis, Paul
 - Custodian, P/T
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Tyler Stevens

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Magri) move to approve the consent agenda as revised

SO VOTED

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

V. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Cyr, Alesandra
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - New Position
2. Sadick, Colleen
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - New Position

Mr. Putorti asked Mr. Wilson to confirm that these instructional paraprofessional positions were new positions and to explain why we are hiring for the positions. Mr. Wilson said he had a conversation with Dr. Boyle about these two instructional paraprofessional positions and they fall under the student IEP plans and therefore are mandated.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of Mr. Wilson to hire Alesandra Cyr and Colleen Sadick as instructional paraprofessionals in Chatfield-LoPresti School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello
Mr. Putorti requested all future hires be noted under Recommended Actions on the agenda instead of on the Consent Agenda at least until the budget is passed.

VI. INFORMATION

A. Activities and Recognitions

1. Seymour Middle School
2. Bungay Elementary School
3. Chatfield-LoPresti School

B. Volunteer Procedure – Michael Wilson

Mr. Wilson presented the volunteer procedure to the Board for informational purposes. He explained that this is just to clean up the process and make sure all volunteers are vetted properly. School volunteers and sports volunteers are handled a little differently. Sports volunteers must have their coaching certification. All volunteers must apply in Applicant Tracking and seek the approval of the Administrator of the school or the Athletic Director.

C. All Star Transportation Certificate of Liability Insurance – Rick Belden

Mr. Belden said this was included in the agenda for information purposes only. This is something that is done each year.

VII. REPORTS

A. Appointment of Junior Student Representative

MOTION: (Ms. Magri/sec., Mr. Garofolo) as recommended by the Seymour High School Student Council, appoint Sukhman Singh (grade 11) as the alternate Board of Education Student Representative for the 2017-18 school year

SO VOTED

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

B. HS Student Representative Report - Paulina Karwowski, Sukhman Singh, Student Representatives

Miss Karwowski presented the following:

The school year is getting rolling. Meet the Teachers Night was on September 7 and Link Crew served as guides. Link Crew did a tailgate for freshman students before the game. Ms. Esteves-Pinho confirmed it was a good time and a good way to get freshman acclimated. Senior portraits were done, Picture Day, and Finance Day to help parents with FASFA. There was a car show to benefit performing arts and the car club. She also did a quick overview of the sports standings.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2017
2. Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2107

D. Construction of Fire Building – Jim Freund, Paul Wetowitz

Mr. Freund spoke briefly about a proposal from Mr. Paul Wetowitz, Fire Marshall for students to construct a small house that would be used for fire training. Mr. Wetowitz said he has been thinking about this for a very long time. He would like to have the students build an approximately 500 sq. ft. house that is framed, has doors, windows and a plywood roof. It would be built in sections on site at the high school and then moved to the transfer station where it would be put together and used for training. Students could come a watch the training. The house would be used multiple times for different types of training. He is looking for the training to happen in June – July. Mr. Garofolo asked about liability and Mr. Freund confirmed the liability would be the same as for wood shop classes and everything would be within the guidelines of OSHA. This would be a nice benefit for our firefighters as currently they have to travel far to attend training. This training would be for Seymour firefighters only. He said he would request donations from local businesses to cover the costs. Some businesses have already committed to making donations.

E. Website Demonstration – Vonda Tencza, Rob Dyer
Mrs. Vonda Tencza and Mr. Rob Dyer did a brief overview of the new Seymour School website. Mrs. Tencza said changes are happening every time she and Mr. Dyer sit down to work on it. The target date for release is October 20. They shared the look of the website with everyone and will send a link so the Board can take a closer look and offer their suggestions. They went through each section to show how the website will function. Mr. Garofolo asked if the budget can be put somewhere on the site. There was some discussion about including middle school sports. Ms. Magri asked if analytics would be available. Ms. Tencza said some analytics are available. Mr. Dyer said they would like to get input from the community to find out what they want from our website. Mr. Garofolo asked if they researched other school districts' websites. Mrs. Tencza said they did extensive research and have incorporated the best of what they found into our website.

F. MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to move Item VIII A - Out of State Field Trip out of order on the agenda
SO VOTED

G. AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Out of State Field Trip
Middle School Glee Club

Mr. Dobas talked about this annual trip to Radio City Music Hall in New York, NY to perform in the Christmas Show. It's an opportunity for our students to perform in front of 3000 people. They will perform two songs. Mr. Dobas said we have a good group and he is very excited this year (as he is every year). He told the Board he will have 100 tickets available for the show and if any Board member would like to attend, they should let him know. Mr. Garofolo asked if a video of the performance would be available and Mr. Dobas said it would.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) to approve the request of Mr. Nate Dobas to take the Seymour Middle School Glee Club students on an out of state field trip to New York, NY on Wednesday, December 6, 2017

SO VOTED

H. AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments
None
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Garofolo said with the devastation that has happened due to the hurricane in Puerto Rico, we may have students coming to our district to attend school. Many would need ELL services that might put a strain on our district. Ms. Magri reported to the Board that she is now serving on the Charter Revision Committee and would be approaching the Board for input since the process is now under way. Mr. Putorti suggested this be an item on our next agenda so the Board can collaborate on their input for the Charter revision.

G. Superintendent Report

1. Mr. Wilson reported the following statistics for the Meet the Teachers nights in the schools:

Bungay School	438 parents
Chatfield-LoPresti School	469 parents
Seymour Middle School	270 parents
Seymour High School	180 parents

He reported that we had a Professional Development early release day on September 21, 2107 and he and Mrs. Tencza were able to visit the sessions. He was happy to report we now have over 600 followers on Facebook. On October 10, 2017 our district will be hosting the VITAHLS training at Seymour Middle School. Participants from Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton will be attending. Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Tencza, and Mr. Belden visit the schools on a regular basis. He reported that he, along with First Selectman Kurt Miller toured Chatfield-LoPresti School with a reporter and spoke about how budget cuts would affect the district. He was unsure when the article would be published.

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. CSDE Child Nutrition Programs Authorized Change Form
MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Director of Nutrition Services Cindy Brooks to approve the authorized signatures for the CSDE Child Nutrition Programs

SO VOTED

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

B. Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the following Resolution Honoring the Class of 2017 Inductees to the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame:

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CLASS OF 2017 INDUCTEES OF
THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

WHEREAS, The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame has been established to recognize outstanding athletes and coaches who have graduated from Seymour High School or coached Seymour High School athletes; and WHEREAS, The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame is inducting its Class of 2017 members; and WHEREAS, the Seymour Board of Education is proud to recognize the athletic accomplishments of the Class of 2017 inductees to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Seymour High School Fathers Club; and WHEREAS, the Members of the Seymour Board of Education wish to join in recognizing and honoring the Class of 2017 inductees to The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Seymour High School Fathers Club. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Members of the Seymour Board of Education, hereby offer our sincerest congratulations and extend our very best wishes on this memorable occasion to the Class of 2017 inductees of The Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame, to wit:

- Donald Miller 1952
- George Yaroshevich 1959
- Frank Tricarico 1962
- Joseph DePasqua 1976
- Joseph LoPresti 1985
- Joseph Stochmal 1988
- Brandi Marshal 1995

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Members of the Seymour Board Education, greatly appreciate and acknowledge the contributions of the Seymour High School Fathers Club in supporting the Seymour School District's athletic and academic programs and offer our sincerest congratulations and wishes for continued success to the past and present members of the Seymour High School Fathers Club.

Dated at Seymour, Connecticut and adopted by the Seymour Board of Education on this 2nd day of October, 2017.

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Yashu Putorti, Chairman | Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools |
| Edward Strumello, Vice-Chairman | Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent |
| Jay Hatfield, Secretary | Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent |
| James Garofolo | Finance & Operations |
| Kristen Harmeling | |
| Peter Kubik | |
| Jennifer Magri | |
| Allison Sobieski | |
| Frederick D. Stanek | |

SO VOTED

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

IX. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. State Budget Cuts Update

Mr. Putorti said there was very little to report on the budget cuts. As promised the Governor vetoed the budget. There is talk of an override but Mr. Miller said there is not enough votes to get an override through. He said both sides need to get back to work on a budget. His fear is there will be no budget until January since both sides are very far apart. Pensions are a big issue. He said as this drags on, it will get worse for Seymour. The money we lose will never come back. Mr. Putorti said it will become more difficult to cut as time goes on. Mr. Miller said he hopes we don't lose the full \$8,000,000. He told the Board that this is not a one-time thing and we should be looking at next year and the year after that. Mr. Garofolo asked if there was any more talk of putting the teacher pension on municipalities, Mr. Miller said that has not been killed. Mr. Wilson said CAPSS is urging Superintendents to share what is going on in their districts. When Mr. Putorti asked Mr. Miller what we should do, Mr. Miller responded that at this point we should just sit tight and continue with the spending freeze that is in place.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk