



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 11 2018
Bungay School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4/17/18
TIME: 2:10 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Edward Hendricks
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative
Peter Kubik

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS
Robin Masotta
Jennifer Batterton

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Gift to Board of Education – Mike Wilson
Mr. Wilson presented to each Board member a gift of a signed poster from the cast of the Wizard of Oz.
2. Thank you to all the people who volunteered and assisted in the production of the Wizard of Oz at Seymour High School: Joe Adams, Abigail Andrade, Heather Brown, Paula Burton, Danielle Campbell, Lisa Cheney, Stephanie Ciccone, Abby Damke, Taylor Dauphinais, Ashley Deicicchi, Joanne Dunne, Kaitlyn Esposito, Michelle Esteves Pinho, Nicole Fearon, Sophia Fioretti, Melyssa Gagliardi, Marisa Henry, Darlene Keeffe, Jeehyun Kim, Gina Kindt, Tyler Kinnie, Courtney Leahy, Kristi Loffredo, John McCasland, Jada Mirabelle, Jennifer Monaco, Stephanie Mordowanec, Alex Nizet, Courtney Parsons, Anna Peel, Stephanie Perez, Joe Perrucci, James Rafferty, Mireli Ramos, Brianna Rivera, Brandt Schneider, Maya Sepulveda, Stefanie Slie, Emily Spear, June Tema, Bella Torri, Dibran Trepca, Evan Webb, Nicole Yustin, and Brianna Zanchetti.

3. Chatfield-LoPresti School is again a School of Distinction! The Connecticut State Department of Education has once again recognized Chatfield-LoPresti School as a School of Distinction for being a school in the top 10% of points earned for academic growth for its High Needs student group for the second year in a row! The High Needs group is comprised of students who may receive free or reduced lunch, may be students with disabilities, or are English language learners. With the release of the 2016-17 Next Generation Accountability System results, CLS was 1 of only 53 schools to be recognized in this category! Congratulations to the staff and students of Chatfield-LoPresti School!
 4. Our Future Business Leaders represented Seymour very well at Friday's conference. Out of 12 students attending, half of them placed well enough in their competitive events to be invited to compete in the national leadership conference in June. If you see these students, please congratulate them each on a job very well done: Paulina Karwowski – 5th place in Agribusiness, Cody Guillette – 3rd place in Business Calculations, Rhea Koyambreth – 3rd place in Introduction to Public Speaking, Zana Imetovski – 2nd place in Introduction to Public Speaking, Zack Braca – 2nd place in Journalism, and Peyton Iott – 1st place in Public Speaking. It's a great day to be a Wildcat!!!
 5. On Thursday, March 22, CLS fifth grader Samuel Rodrigue was recognized as a New Haven County winner in the annual Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest at a banquet at the U.S. Chowder Pot IV in Hartford. Sam is the first Seymour student to win this honor. Congratulations!
 6. Grade 5 students Jastina Khand (Art) and Jacob Blacha (Music) are the Chatfield-LoPresti Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Arts and Music Festival recipients. Last month they were honored at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.
- B. Correspondence
1. Letter dated March 6, 2018 to Mary Sue Feige, Principal of Bungay Elementary School from TEAM, Inc. thanking the school for participating as a drop off site for the Toys 4 Kids Program.
- C. Media Coverage
1. Wizard of Oz podcast - http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_high_schoolers_team_with_kindergartners_for_wizard_of_oz/
 2. Wizard of Oz Review - <https://patch.com/connecticut/naugatuck/review-wizard-oz-seymour-high-school>
 3. School Walkout - http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/valley_students_plan_events_to_mark_florida_school_shooting/
 4. Seymour School Safety - http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_to_talk_school_safety/
<https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Seymour-to-host-community-forum-on-school-safety-12723613.php>
 5. Poster Contest Winner - <http://naugatuckvalley.blogspot.com/2018/03/seymour-student-wins-fire-prevention.html>
 6. Awards Nominations Sought - <https://www.nhregister.com/valley/article/Seymour-schools-seek-nominations-for-annual-awards-12767870.php>
<https://www.ctpost.com/valley/article/Seymour-schools-seek-nominations-for-annual-awards-12767870.php>
https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/community_news/nominations-sought/article_1fbd3346-26f8-11e8-8b33-476e7a837006.html
 7. Budget - <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Proposed-budget-in-Seymour-holds-line-on-taxes-12756896.php>
<https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Proposed-budget-in-Seymour-holds-line-on-taxes-12756896.php>

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2018
- B. Financial Management Summary – Ending March 26, 2018
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – February, 2018
- D. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program
 1. Ahliana Gonzalez
Ms. Rachael Gonzalez has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Ahliana Gonzalez, for the 2017-2018 school year

2. Michael Tennyson
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Tennyson have informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school their child, Michael Tennyson, for the 2017-2018 school year
Mr. Strumello asked if we accept hand written letters instead of the form for homeschooling and Mr. Wilson confirmed that we do.

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, 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. Regular BOE Minutes Revised – February 5, 2018
- C. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle
- D. Staff Resignations – Certified
 1. Fintz, Joshua
 - Mathematics Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 30, 2018
 2. Hogan, Thomas
 - Music Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 30, 2018

Mr. Hatfield asked if these positions would be replaced and Mr. Wilson confirmed that they would be posted and replaced.

- E. Staff Retirement – Certified
 1. Griffin, Deborah
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Bungay School
 - Effective August 22, 2018

Ms. Harmeling asked if this position would be replaced and Mr. Wilson confirmed that it would be replaced.
Mr. Hatfield asked if we should hold off for a while and Mr. Wilson said the positions are already in the budget and we would not want to wait too long or we may miss getting some good candidates who are graduating.

- F. Staff Resignation – Appendix E
 1. McQuillan, Katelyn
 - Head Coach, Dance Team
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective March 30, 2018

VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION

- A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Paulina Karwowski and Mr. Sukhman Singh
Miss Karwowski reported that the Wizard of Oz sold out for all three performances (April, 16, 17, and 18) and that it was an amazing show. Everyone enjoyed seeing the little kindergarteners. The National Honor Society will be creating gardens from milk cartons. The high school band and choir will be visiting the 911 memorial, Carnegie Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum tomorrow and Friday. The softball team won their game against Ansonia in five innings and also won Tuesday's game against Kennedy. Prom tickets opened on Monday and there will be a post prom event. Mr. Singh reported that the swim team had their banquet and elected captains and Sukhman was one of the captains for next year and he also won the spirit award. Mr. Strumello reported that the baseball team also won today. He said that Seymour High School has been chosen to host the softball semifinals and the track finals.
- B. Committee Reports
 1. Finance Committee Minutes – March 5, 2018
 2. Awards Advisory Committee Minutes – March 14, 2018

3. Athletic Committee Minutes – March 19, 2018
 - a. Athletic Trainer Contract – Ms. Tara Yusko
 Mr. Strumello reported to the Board that the high school will be going to a sports medicine group instead of an individual trainer. Mrs. Cleveland has been the trainer but now that she is a teacher. The sports medicine group is able to provide more hours to the students and will provide physical therapy and concussion assessments. The cost of the group is a positive move as we will be paying by the hour. Mr. Hatfield asked what process was used to choose this group and wondered if a bid went out. Mr. Belden reminded the Board that bids are not required for services under \$25,000 so no bid occurred but Ms. Yusko was very comfortable with this group as they have been providing services while Mrs. Cleveland was on leave. Mr. Belden said Ms. Yusko did a cost analysis and is very good about staying on budget so he is not worried. When asked if the services covered JV, Mr. Belden said he was not sure. Mr. Hatfield voiced some concern about the long term costs and Ms. Harmeling confirmed there is \$12,000 available. Mr. Belden said we have not gotten the winter season bill yet but we would be in the range of \$17,000 - \$20,000. Ms. Harmeling said the overall goal was to increase services for the students.
 4. Policy Committee Minutes – March 22, 2018
 Ms. Magri reminded the Board that the policies were not included on this agenda because bylaw #9311 states the approval and adoption must occur at a regularly scheduled meeting therefore these policies will be on the next two agendas for approval and adoption.
- C. Update on IRS Issue for Teachers – Rick Belden
 Mr. Belden reported to the Board that there was a problem with the 2016 W-2's and it has to do with some records that did not match when the information was uploaded to Social Security. The problem was an internal one, tax returns are correct. Teachers who received a letter saying they owed money have received W2-C's. We have not heard from anyone else who has received a letter but are prepared should further work need to be done. He said the issue seems to have died down. The Board did not have any questions.
- D. Schedules
1. Middle School
 - a. Example of a Student Schedule at Each Grade Level
 (Schedule with band/chorus and a schedule without including class time and instructional minutes)
 Mr. DiStasi was on hand to answer any further questions. Ms. Harmeling said she wanted to comment that it seems to her it would be easier to have a seven day rotation but understood that this was done so band and chorus would not be missed. She advised the Board to be prepared to explain to parents because she felt there would be questions about the addition a writing class and why not math. Mr. Strumello asked about the discrepancy in the instructional minutes and Mr. DiStasi said this would affect one grade because of a split class to accommodate lunch. Ms. Harmeling asked what would happen when the split period occurs during Physical Education. Mr. DiStasi said he was not sure but felt that Ms. Krushinski would be able to address this. She said on those days the students would change clothes, go to lunch, and then come back and get right back into class. They will not schedule outside time on those days because it will take up too much time.
 2. High School
 - a. Example of a Student Schedule/8 Drop 2 Schedule
 (Current schedule converted to 8 drop 2 schedule including time blocks and instructional minutes)
 The Board had no questions about the High School schedule.
- E. Board of Education Report
1. Chairman's Comments
 - a. The Shared Services subcommittee met with our Ansonia counterparts on Tuesday, April 4, 2018. It was a good meeting where information and ideas were shared. We are currently awaiting the minutes from them. Ansonia was particularly interested in the proposed HR position and how they might be able to share in that.
 - b. Ms. Magri said it was a great meeting with Tom Hennick on March 29 regarding FOIA. Five board members were in attendance. It was very informative. Ansonia hosted a similar session this week that was live streamed on the Valley Indy for those who are interested in the content.
 - c. The BOF pushed our budget forward with a small increase of just over \$1000. The Annual town meeting was held last night and with no quorum; the budget moved to the BOS for further action.
 - d. Ms. Magri checked with Rory Burke in Town Hall regarding the DPW timeline for starting some work on school grounds. They are still in the process of hiring seasonal help. DPW has worked to clean up the area of trees along Mountain Road and it looks a lot better.

- e. The Wizard of Oz show was a tremendous performance. Ms. Magri said she looks forward to the next show.
- 2. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Strumello reported the he also attended the Wizard of Oz and enjoying see our students interacting with the kindergarteners. He said it was very cool; phenomenal. Ms. Harmeling said she attended the "Rise Up" performance at the middle school and it was tremendous. She thanked Mr. DiStasi and everyone who was involved. She thought Mrs. Feige's group who did the song "Rise Up" in sign language was particularly beautiful. She said she cannot wait for the Rise Up holiday concert.
- F. Superintendent Report
 - Mr. Wilson reported that he and his family had the pleasure of seeing the Wizard of OZ at SHS on March 18. He said what a great job all of our High School students and our Grade K students who participated did! Mr. Wilson thanked the members of the HS Debate team as well as Mrs. Monaco who took time out of their day to visit with the fifth graders at Bungay School in order to demonstrate argumentative writing through the use of debate. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Belden attended the Battle of the Books at Bungay School; Mr. Wilson said "what a great job by all of our Bungay readers!" A special congratulations to Mr. Milia's class who won the competition with a perfect score. He reported that as of this afternoon, we have close to 1000 followers on our Facebook page. He reported that he, along with Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Champagne, Mrs. Tencza, and Mr. Belden, had the pleasure of reading to students in various grade levels at CLS. Mrs. Tencza and Mr. Wilson attended Rise UP at SMS on March 28; it was a great night for our community. A special thank you to Mr. DiStasi for organizing this wonderful event. We had our first Strategic Planning session on March 26 which was well attended. Dr. Madonia, our strategic planning consultant, stated that he was very happy with how open the group was and looks forward to the several remaining sessions. As has been the case, Mrs. Tencza, Mr. Belden and Mr. Wilson have continued to be visible in all of the buildings this past month and will continue to visit the buildings in order to witness the hard work being done by all of our teachers and administrators.

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A. Last Day of School for 2017-18 School Year
 - MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Strumello) move to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the last day of school for students as June 19, 2018, provided there are no further school closings
 - SO VOTED**
 - AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
 - Motion passes 8-0
 - Ms. Harmeling said she would like to discuss what would happen should we have another closing as it will start to impact things like college visits and vacations. It was agreed that if it happens there would be a discussion on how it will be handled.
- B. Set Graduation Date for Class of 2018
 - MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Champagne) move to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the 2018 Seymour High School graduation date as June 19, 2018, provided there are no further school closings
 - SO VOTED**
 - AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
 - Motion passes 8-0
 - It was agreed that if we have another closing there would be a discussion on how it would be handled.
- C. Healthy Food Certification
 - 1. Healthy Food Option
 - MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) the Seymour Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.
 - SO VOTED**
 - AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
 - Motion passes 8-0

2. Food Exemptions
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) the Seymour Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 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. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion passes 8-0

3. Beverage Exemptions
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) the Seymour Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 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 beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion passes 8-0

D. Donations

1. Lions Club
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the \$500.00 donation from the Seymour Lions Club and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion passes 8-0

2. Bungay School PTA
MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to accept the purchase of a Rockville PA System (\$349.95), an AmpliVox Elite Lecterns with Wireless Sound System (\$1239.99), and a VariQuest Promo, Perfecta 2400 Plus Package Poster Maker (\$4995.00) by the Bungay School PTA and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion passes 8-0

Mr. Stanek questioned the language about the Superintendent determining the placement of the donation when the letter was very specific as to where the donation should go. Ms. Magri explained that this is how the donation policy #3280 reads. She noted that the Superintendent always directs the donation to where the donor is requesting it go. Mr. Stanek suggested this policy be reviewed by the Policy Committee.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

X. **RECOMMENDED ACTION (continued)**

- E. *Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Review

****It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session form which the Public will be excluded.***

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter Executive Session for the mid-year review of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board invites Mr. Michael Wilson into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

Motion passes 8-0

Into executive session: 8:35 pm.

Out of executive session: 9:57 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk