

Seymour Board of Education



COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/13/19
TIME: 3:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2019
Chatfield-LoPresti School
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Edward Hendricks
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS
Cathy Federowicz
Allison Brett

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment provides the opportunity for the public to make a comment. It is not a dialogue between the Board and the public. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a topic to the agenda. If questions are posed that the Chairman is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairmen's Report portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and be no longer than two minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

None

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting – July 1, 2019

B. Financial Management Summary Ending July 31, 2019

C. Intra District Waiver Requests 2019-20 School Year

Review the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve or deny the intra district transfer request of Dawn Bolanos for her son, Anthony Bolanos transfer to Chatfield-LoPresti School for the 2019-2020 school year

D. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program

1. Trinci, David

Mr. Jordan Trinci and Ms. Melissa Trinci has informed the Board of Education of their intent to home school their child, David Trinci, for the 2019-2020 school year

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Dr. Hendricks) move to approve the consent agenda with items III B and III C removed

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Item IIIB – This item was removed from the consent agenda because there was not a quorum for the Finance Committee meeting.

Item IIIC – **MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Strumello) to deny the request of Dawn Bolanos for her grandson to attend Chatfield-LoPresti School due to class size and educational appropriateness.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

V. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Update on the Athletic Director position – Michael Wilson

Mr. Wilson said in terms of the Athletic Director for this year, it has been decided to place Mr. DiStasi as an interim Athletic Director for the 2019-20 school year and to have Mrs. Federowicz continue as an interim part time Assistant AD to assist with the transition. Mr. Wilson said Mr. DiStasi is a dedicated Administrator who is willing to support the district and community with his new assigned role. We have confidence in him as a dedicated Administrator who is capable of handling these new responsibilities and look forward to working with him on this. Mr. Wilson pointed out that the position will be re-evaluated throughout the year to see if changes can be made for the 2020-21 school year and beyond. Mr. Strumello asked where the additional funds for the Assistant would be coming from and Mr. Wilson said it would be coming from Administrator funds. Mr. Kubik asked what the role of the Assistant was. Mr. Wilson said to help the new athletic director. She has experience and comes from the perspective of being a coach. Having help during the transition is critical. Mr. Stanek pointed out that the previous meeting motion did not include an Assistant AD and the Board should take action on this. He suggested we rescind the motion and make a new motion. Ms. Magri said Mrs. Harmeling made the motion and she is not in attendance to rescind it. Mr. Stanek said we can make a new motion that supersedes the previous motion. Mr. Strumello said he would like a better understanding of who will be doing what part of the job. Mr. Hatfield agreed and asked for a chart that shows who will be doing what. He said he is struggling with the fact that our budget is very tight and we are spending \$13,000 on this. Mr. Strumello asked if this is creating a new position. Mr. Wilson said this is an interim part time position not a new position. In his opinion, it does not require creating a new position. Ms. Magri asked if Mr. DiStasi has the proper certification and Mr. Wilson said he has committed to doing what is necessary to get his certification reinstated. Mr. DiStasi said his coaching certification lapsed while he was in school to become an administrator. Mr. Strumello asked who would be doing the evaluations and Mr. Wilson said that Mr. DiStasi would be doing them. Mr. Hatfield voiced a concern that the pay for the Assistant should be guaranteed. Mrs. Magri didn't think this would be a problem, her concern is more making sure we check with legal in case there are any grievances. Mr. Strumello said he felt the only concern would be evaluation by a peer but since Mr. DiStasi will be doing the evaluations, this should not be a problem. Mr. Garofolo asked if a model was run with Mr. DiStasi and Mrs. Federowicz. Mr. Wilson said it was not but he felt the language would be fine. Mr. Stanek made the suggestion that they could be appointed for 90 days and seek advice from Board Counsel during that 90 day period. Mr. Strumello asked if this needed to be opened up to other candidates. Ms. Magri asked if Mr. DiStasi would have other administrative responsibilities. Mr. Wilson confirmed that he would.

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to appoint

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 6-1-0

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Strumello) to appoint Mrs. Cathy Federowicz as an Interim Part Time Assistant to the Athletic Director for a 90 day period

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

This subject will be revisited at the October 7, 2019 BOE Meeting.

- B. Update on Mr. Paul Lucke's return to work – Michael Wilson
Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. Lucke's 20 day Board issued suspension officially ended on July 30, 2019. Mr. Lucke was in attendance and the Board welcomed him back.
- C. Board of Education Report
1. Chairman's Comments
Mrs. Magri let the Board know that in September the Board would be reviewing the CABE July 2019 Legislative Information as there will be items that affect our current policies. She also mentioned that no podcast was done for this meeting because she was out of town. She also let the Board know officially that she has chosen not to run for re-election and her last meeting will be in November, 2019.
 2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Strumello notified the Board of the passing of Mr. Raymond Necio (former administrator with the Seymour Public Schools) father, Michael (age 94) passed away. Mr. Necio was a war veteran who often visited the schools and spoke about his experiences. Mr. Strumello also talked about the nationwide petition that is being circulated to change Halloween from October 31 to the last Saturday in October. Mr. Strumello said he would send the link to anyone interested in signing the petition. Mr. Hatfield asked about the Special Education Offices being moved to Seymour Middle School, specifically how was this paid for and what was the catalyst for the move. Dr. Hendricks let the Board know that he has been appointed the Chaplin for the Seymour Police Department and there may be times when he will be needed by them. The Board thanked Dr. Hendricks for his service to the community.
- D. Superintendent Report
1. Senior Citizens Passes
Senior Citizens passes will be available at the Seymour Recreation department next week.
 2. Hiring and Open Employment Postings
Mr. Wilson did a brief overview of the hiring and let the Board know a more in-depth report will be presented next month.
 3. Currently we have 1500 followers on Facebook.
 4. Mr. Wilson thanked the custodial team and the IT team for their hard work during the summer to have the schools ready for opening day.
 5. Convocation will be on August 26, 2019. Coffee and treats will be available beginning at 7:15 and the program will begin at 8:00 am. All Board members are welcome to attend.
 6. Welcome back letters for the staff and parents will be sent on Monday, August 12.
- Mr. Wilson was asked about the status of hiring the armed security officers. He responded that they have done initial interviews and will be doing at least three more interviews. The interviews were conducted by Mr. Wilson, Chief Satkowski, and Mr. Kearns. Ms. Magri asked if they will be in place at the start of school and Mr. Wilson confirmed that they would be. Mr. Stanek asked if there would be substitute arrangements made for any extended absences that the officers would have. Mr. Hatfield said he would like to see the contract. He also wondered if this personnel would be attending sporting events. Mr. Wilson said we will continue to have police officers at sporting events. Mr. Hatfield said he thought it is a good idea to have them attend the Meet the Teachers events. Mr. Garofolo asked about psychological evaluations. Mr. Wilson explained these are former policy officers and have already been evaluated. This will be on the September BOE agenda. Mr. Strumello asked Mr. Wilson if there is any new information for the Unified Cheer team. Mr. Wilson said no.

VI. INFORMATION

- A. Staff Resignations – Certified
 - 1. Gionfriddo, Kristen
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective July 19, 2019
 - 2. Mann, Kayleigh
 - School Psychologist
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective July 22, 2019
 - 3. Cassone, Toni
 - Teacher, 7th Grade Mathematics
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective July 31, 2019
- B. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
 - 1. Barnes, Mistylynn
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Effective July 16, 2019
 - 2. Hoffman, Nicole
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective July 31, 2019
 - 3. Stec, Laura
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective July 14, 2019
 - 4. Villa, Alexa
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Effective July 18, 2019
- C. Staff Resignations – Appendix E
 - 1. Vartelas, Jim
 - Assistant Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective July 19, 2019

Mrs. Magri expressed her concern regarding the fact that we have two math openings at the middle school and that the new special education program at Bungay School has lost a teacher; she was concerned about continuity in that classroom.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

*A. Year-End Evaluation – Facilities Manager
Mrs. Magri questioned Mr. Wilson to confirm that Mr. Connors was invited to this meeting. Mr. Wilson confirmed that he was and that he would be speaking for Mr. Connors in his absence and he is ok with this.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Dr. Hendricks) move that the board enter Executive Session for a discussion of the performance and evaluation of the Facilities Manager. Only those invited by the Board can enter executive session; the Board invites Mr. Wilson into the executive session

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:44 pm

Ms. Harmeling joined the meeting by phone at 9:05 pm
The Board exited Executive Session at 9:11 pm
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Dr. Hendricks) based on the Superintendent's recommendation, to award a 3% increase in pay to the Facilities Manager for the 2019-2020 school year.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Harmeling

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

*B. Year End Evaluation, Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) move that the Board enter into executive session for discussion and possible action on the year end evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. The Board invites Michael Wilson into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:14 pm

Mr. Strumello left the meeting at 9:32 pm and returned at 9:37 pm. Mr. Wilson was excused from Executive Session at 10:28 pm. Ms. Harmeling left the meeting at 10:58 pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 11:12 pm

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to grant a 2.5% increase to the Superintendent of School for the 2019-20 school year and extend the termination date of the current contract by one year to June 30, 2021.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the request of the Ansonia Public Schools to have freshman Karolina Morrelli participate as a member of the Seymour Girls Swimming Team as a team of one

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk