

Seymour Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2020
Chatfield-LoPresti School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 2/11/20
TIME: 2:50 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (8:24 pm)
Peter Kubik
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative
Zachary Braca, Student Representative
Beth Nesteriak

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Aidan Loock
Stephanie Shelinsky
Laura Verchili
Christopher Bowen

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:40 p.m.
- B. Introductions

I. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to CLS Grade 5 students Titiladeoluwa Adeniran and Allie Kevalis who have been selected as this year's Chatfield-LoPresti Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Arts and Music Festival recipients. They will be honored at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington in February
2. Congratulations to Bungay School Geography Bee winner Ryan Rinko, a grade five student, who will now take the online qualifying test. The top 100 ranked students in each state qualify who represent their school in the state Geo Bee, to be held on March 27, 2020. Good luck Rayn, we are all cheering for you.
3. Congratulations to the Middle School Geography Bee Champion Ayden Ames and Runner Up Owen Marganaski!

III. 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.

Aidan Loock, 7 Jay Lane, Seymour – Has heard that the current music teacher will be moved to the middle school and asked what the plans are for the high school music teacher. Mr. Wilson said he has no answers at this time until the budget is completed. He said there have been no forced moves or requested moves. Ms. Harmeling pointed out that the course selections have not yet been made and Mr. Freund said we are in the middle of the process at this point.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2020
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2020

B. Nutrition Services Financial Report – December 2019

C. Healthy Food Option: The Seymour Public Schools will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. 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, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

D. Food & Beverage Exemption: The Seymour Public Schools will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and 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 food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

E. Financial Management Summary – Ending January 30, 2020

- F. Staff Hiring – Certified
 - 1. Westervelt-Crane, Danielle
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Ashley Charochak
- G. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
 - 1. Adinolfi, Michelina
 - Nutrition Services
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Ellen Beardsley
- H. Volunteer Appointment
 - 1. Tacinelli, Cristina
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
 - Seymour High School
- I. Out of State Field Trips
 - 1. Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, MA
Coach Zachary Goldstein would like to take the Seymour Middle School Basketball team to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield MA on April 1, 2020
 - 2. Boston Museum of Science, Boston, MA
Teachers Jennifer Peterson and Michael Nimons would like to take all Grade 8 students to the Boston Museum of Science in Boston MA on May 4, 2020

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 7-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Items I1 (Field trip to Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and I2 (Field trip to Boston Museum of Science) were removed from the consent agenda. Mr. Wilson noted that the field trip request to Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame has been withdrawn for consideration. Mr. Garofolo voiced concerns regarding how the field trip to the Boston Museum of Science meshed with the curriculum. Ms. Harmeling was concerned that the timing of the trip could be affected if it is not approved at this meeting. She reminded the Board that trips such as these are in replacement of the overnight trips that are no longer happening. Mr. Garofolo suggested all field trip requests be reviewed by the Associate Superintendent to assure curricular guidelines are met and then sent to the Curriculum Committee to accept, modify or reject. This is a discussion for a later date.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the field trip request of Ms. Peterson and Mr. Nimons request to take the 8th grade class to the Boston Museum of Science

Mr. Stanek asked why there are not any more 8th grade trips. Mr. Wilson said he would like to get back to the Board with more information on this. Mr. Stanek suggested this item be tabled. Ms. Harmeling said only out of state field trips are approved by the Board and voiced concern that if this is tabled would it jeopardize the trip. Ms. Roden indicated the need to collect the deposits for this trip. Mr. Strumello suggested tabling this item to a specific date. Ms. Bruno said she would not want to jeopardize the trip. Mr. Strumello said trips should be approved by the Superintendent and Associate Superintendent before it comes to the Board. Mr. Stanek said the current procedure was developed about 15 years ago. Ms. Roden said financial aid is provided for students who cannot afford the trip. Parents reach out to the social worker for assistance. The staff does dress down days to raise funds. No student who wants to go on the trip is turned down.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to postpone the previous motion until February 10, 2020

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

OPPOSED: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Strumello

MOTION FAILS: 2-5

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the trip to the Boston Museum of Science

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 5-2

VI.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. BOE Policy Committee

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy #9325.2- Bylaws of the Board, Order of Business as presented

Mr. Strumello indicated the Policy Committee wanted to clean up the wording on this policy and on the organizational meeting. This was a discussion on how many committees were needed and there was talk of reducing the committees to 1) Health/Athletics 2) Facilities/Safety 3) Finance 4) Liaison 5) Policy 6) Curriculum and Technology. Mr. Strumello said six committees would be good because there will be an equal number of members on each committee. Ms. Harmeling said she did not feel it was necessary to have an equal number on each committee.

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to table until the Policy Committee meets again

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

B. Add Signer to Liberty Bank Student Activity Account

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Business Manager to add Kathleen Freimuth as a signer for the Seymour Middle School Liberty Bank Student Activity account

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

C. MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda regarding the appointment of student representatives for the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the Principal of Seymour High School to appoint Oleh Stasyuk, grade 11 and Michael Starkey, grade 12 as the student representatives for the Awards Advisory Committee

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

- D. **MOTION:** (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda regarding the hiring of Ronda Taramelli

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Ronda Taramelli as an instructional paraprofessional at Chatfield-LoPresti School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

Ms. Taramelli is being hired to fill an open new position previously approved by the Board.

VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Sirowich, Mr. Braca

Miss Sirowich and Mr. Braca reported that they survived midterms and have started their new classes for the second semester. Drama Club put on a production of Clue, directed by Aidan Loock; it was awesome. There was a very fun trip to Magic Mountain and the Vermont country store. The Environmental Club went to the Maritime Aquarium. The Spanish Club has wrapped up a cookie fundraiser for the potential trip to Panama. Another fundraiser for this was a Zumba Class. The Future Business Leaders of America have invited the Vice President of Connecticut FBLA to come to the high school where she will sit in on a typical meeting. She is coming tomorrow to meet with them and it should be great. The HOPE Club is decorating the hallways for random acts of kindness month. There are at least four novice debaters that are going to States. On the sports front, boys basketball is facing Ansonia for a second time tomorrow night, Girls basketball is 11-4, Indoor track is at NVLs at this moment, and Boys Swimming has a meet Wednesday against Shelton. On January 27, EMT Class went to visit Seymour Ambulance to get an overview of layout and learn procedures to complete clinical hours. Coming up, the National Honor Society is hosting a winter dance on February 15.

- B. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee Minutes – January 21, 2020

Mr. Strumello reported on the Policy Committee meeting of January 21, 2020. He said there was a discussion on the Awards Committee and the Distinguished Alumnus Committee. These committees have never been formalized. Mr. Stanek said the Awards Committee was established in 1999 and should have a parent representative from each school. Mr. Stanek and Mr. Strumello represent the Board of Education.

- C. Panama Field Trip – Ms. Verchili

Spanish Teacher and Spanish Club Advisor Ms. Verchili wanted to inform the Board of the proposed trip to Panama by the Spanish Club. She has done extensive research and has found a company that does overseas trips. Students who volunteer to go on the trip will have cultural experiences as well as community service building a playground at an underprivileged school. Lodging, food, and transportation will be provided by the company. They are currently doing fundraising. Mr. Garofolo asked how many students are interested and Ms. Verchili said 15 but noted that they have not yet met with parents. She said the trip would take place after the end of school. When asked if she has checked on the company with other schools, she said she got very good recommendations from two schools. The company provides for one free chaperone for every 10 students on the trip so currently she is the sole chaperone right now.

Ms. Harmeling asked if we have done international trips in the past and it was noted that Ms. Silva did one in the past. Ms. Harmeling asked if this would be considered a field trip and asked about insurance liability. Ms. Verchili said the company would carry the insurance. Mr. Freund said this is for information only for the Board. Parents are choosing to send their children on this trip, much like what they would do to send them to summer camp. Mr. Wilson said the company carries all insurance and this is a trip outside of school. This is an experience to offer and right now, they are in the “express interest” phase. Mr. Wilson said the company could be invited to come in and talk to the Board if they want. Mr. Champagne said he thought this was great but wondered what would happen if the end of school extended past the departure date. Mr. Wilson said he did not know how flexible the company is. Mr. Stanek thought this was a great idea but felt if we do not endorse/sponsor then parents should know. Ms. Harmeling said she felt the “Seymour High School” should be removed from the handout and we need to be very clear that this is not a BOE sponsored trip. Mr. Strumello suggested a few more schools should be contacted for recommendations regarding the company.

D. Winter Assessment Update – Ms. Tencza

Mrs. Tencza did a brief presentation of the Winter Assessment Report. She covered the MAP ELA District Summary, the MAP Math District Summary, The MAP Science District Summary, the PSAT Benchmark Trend, the PSAT Cohort Percent, and the District Data Team Reflections. Overall, the district is progressing and experiencing strong growth. The members of the District Data Team are: Melissa Anelli, Jennifer Batterton, Dawn Black, Kris Boyle, Rob Dyer, Kim Freeman, Caitlin Jurkowski, Jen Magri, Darlene O’Callaghan, Karen Studley, Vonda Tencza, David Willadsen, and Michael Wilson. Mr. Hatfield questioned the role of Ms. Magri on this committee and Mrs. Tencza said the committee needed a community representative and she volunteered. Mr. Strumello added that she has a strong background and experience with testing. Ms. Harmeling asked about Board representation on this committee and Mrs. Tencza said the meetings are during the day (9:00-11:00 or 1:00-3:00) so teachers can be accommodated. This can be discussed further.

E. Board of Education Report

1. Chairperson Comments

Mr. Strumello reported that he and Mr. Wilson attended the Legislative Breakfast and was disappointed because he was expecting more feedback that is positive. There were discussions about funding. Mr. Strumello said the Derby facility was beautiful.

2. Board Member Comments

None

F. Superintendent Report – Mr. Wilson

1. “It’s Your Turn to Learn”

Mr. Wilson and his team will host “It’s Your Turn to Learn” community meeting tomorrow evening. Mr. Wilson will update the Board at our next meeting.

2. Geography Bee

A special thanks to Mr. Michael Milia who invited Mr. Strumello to moderate this year’s Geography Bee. It was a terrific event. Congratulations to all of the finalists and especially to our top three.

3. Anti-Bullying/Mental Health

Mr. Kearns has been working on bringing in an Anti-Bullying/ mental health icon to put on an Assembly for some time in late February.

4. Mid-Year Evaluation Process – Teachers/Administrators

Currently all of our teachers and administrators have been meeting with their primary evaluator in order to discuss progress towards their year-end goals and objectives. While this is a great deal of work, this is a necessary collaborative component that ensures teacher, administrator, and student growth.

5. Edgenuity – Mr. Lucke will present at the March 2, 2020 BOE Meeting.
Mr. Wilson gave a brief update on Edgenuity and let the Board know that Mr. Lucke will discuss in further detail at the March meeting.
6. Legislative Breakfast
7. Facebook Update
As of this afternoon, Mr. Wilson is proud to say that we have over 1600 followers on our Facebook page.

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Activities and Recognitions
 1. Seymour Middle School
 2. Bungay School
 3. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle
Ms. Bruno reminded Dr. Boyle that she would like to see SRBI data on this report.
- C. Staff Transfers – Certified
 1. Charochak, Ashley
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - New Position
- D. Staff Transfers – Non Certified
 2. Hirth, Shannon
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Suzanne Johnson
- E. Staff Resignations – Certified
 1. McMahon, Helenann
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Bungay School
 - Effective January 6, 2020
 2. Schneider, Brandt
 - Music Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective January 31, 2020

Mr. Hatfield thanked Mr. Schneider for his service and wished him good luck in his future endeavors.
 3. Wilkes, Christopher
 - Mathematics Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective January 6, 2020
- F. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
 1. Dunlop, Theresa
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective December 30, 2019
 2. Hummel, Alesandra
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective December 18, 2019

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*A. Contracts

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

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to discuss and take possible action on the contract of the Associate Superintendent for years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23. The Board invites Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Tencza into executive session.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:50 pm

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: 11:15 pm

X. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to offer the Associate Superintendent a new contract for three years

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 7-1

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Champagne) to change the salary of the Associate Superintendent in year one of the contract to \$175,605 (4.5%), year two, year three to be negotiated and change the life insurance to 3xSalary

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 5-3

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to postpone the Superintendent contract discussion until the March 2, 2020 Board of Education meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk