



SPECIAL BOE MEETING

MINUTES

November 10, 2010
Seymour Middle School
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Ed Strumello, Mrs. Jeanne Loda, Mrs. Judy Flood, Mr. Jim Garofalo, Mr. Fred Stanek, Mr. Bruce Baker, Mr. Yashu Putorti

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. MaryAnne Mascolo, Mrs. Christine Syriac, Mr. Rick Belden, Mr. Paul Roy, Ms. Laurie Casey, Ms. Roberta Pratt, Mr. Raymond Catlin, Ms. Mary Deming, Ms. Cathy Goodrich, Mr. Frank Loda, Mr. Craig Zraggrin, Ms. Jennifer Magri, Ms. Cindy Dion, Mr. Mike Dion, Ms. Kristen Harmeling, Ms. Joan Gee, Ms. Dawn Adams, Ms. Tina Breree, Ms. Tara Petrino, Mr. Ernie DiStasi, Ms. Debbie Engstrom, Ms. Carol Rich, Ms. Lisa Raymond, Ms. Nancy Snopkowski, Mr. Mort Conlon, Mr. Joe Orlando, Mr. Tony LoPresti, Ms. Kelly Baker, Mr. Alan Skiparis, Ms. Monica Briggs, Ms. Jennifer DeBlasio, Ms. Deb Tucker, Ms. Jennifer Harkey, Mr. Todd Nates, Ms. Colleen Maguire, Mr. Andy Saksa, Ms. Erin Cavanaugh, Ms. Heather Bryant, Ms. Jennifer Smith, Mr. Vicent Daniele, Ms. Kriquette Pelletier, Ms. Leslie Sojka, Ms. Jackie Rossetti, Mr. Paul Rossetti, Mr. David Olechna, Ms. Beth Lomardi, Ms. Erica Marincryk, Ms. Allison Cunningham, Ms. Christine Brenning, Ms. Terri Ferrara, Mr. Jim Ferrara, Ms. Lynn Signoriello, Ms. Mary Reiter, Ms. Ingrid Conlan, Ms. Sandra Gesek, Ms. Evelyn Molner, Mr. Roger Ort, Ms. Donna Branner, Mr. Toney Bunosso, Ms. Lori Bonney

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Strumello made introductions.

Ms. Mascolo presented an overview of the mission of the Seymour Public Schools, the Seymour Strategic Plan, and the focus of improved student learning through enhanced school effectiveness. Ms. Mascolo also discussed some of the accomplishments in the district in the areas of curriculum, communication, and technology. Ms. Mascolo and Mr. Strumello gave a brief overview of the budget development process.

At 7:25, Mr. Strumello opened the meeting up for public comment. He requested comments first to focus on the elementary school level and then middle school and high school.

Comments from the public included comments in support of all day kindergarten, frustration with the budget process and wanting the BOE and town to work together, a concern for a waste of paper with hand carried school work and announcements going home with students, and discouragement that more parents were not present at the meeting. There were also comments in regard to the transition from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school. Parents want to know that their children are prepared for the transitions and that teachers are communicating to each other about preparing students for the next academic level.

Mr. Garofalo commented that we need to work together to generate the resources that our schools need. That it is important for everyone present to stay involved beyond just this meeting and to reach out to their neighbors and tell them that the BOE is looking for their input. There was further commentary about how do we convince the people to pass the budget, how do we involve the people who are not here and who do not go out to vote.

Two parents commented on their concern that there was not an athletic trainer at all sporting events and their concern about the safety for children. Parents indicated that they would like communication from the BOE and the Superintendent via short e-blasts. A parent commented that if the BOE receives additional funds that there is an expectation of results. It was stated that there is a perception that the district is administratively top heavy.

Ms. Mascolo spoke to clarify that while it may be the perception, the district is not top heavy. She clarified the caseload of each administrator and the responsibilities that go with the positions. Seymour does not have layers of support in place that other districts have between the administrative level and the teaching level thus that work is done by the administration. Ms. Mascolo stated that it is important when people make such comments to clarify that the district is not top heavy utilizing the information that she has shared.

MOTION: (Jim Garofalo, sec., Jeanne Loda) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Ed Strumello, Mrs. Jeanne Loda, Mrs. Judy Flood, Mr. Jim Garofalo, Mr. Fred Stanek, Mr. Bruce Baker, Mr. Yashu Putorti

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Submitted by:
Christine Syriac