I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Salute to the Flag
      Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 pm
II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions
1. Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2015 who were recognized by Yale University in the New Haven Register
2. A very special recognition to Seymour Middle School student Marvin Matovu, who was credited with keeping a home from burning and potentially saving lives when he took immediate action after seeing a neighbor’s porch on fire
3. Congratulations to Katie Petroski (Class of 2014) who is spending the summer playing for the Stratford Brakettes Softball team

B. Correspondence
1. Letter dated July 8, 2015 to Nancy Snopkowski from Yashu Putorti congratulating her on her recent retirement
2. Letter dated July 1, 2015 to Jim Freund, Principal, Seymour High School from David Greenleaf, Chairman of the Connecticut American Legion Boys State informing him of the election of Dan Robinson to a leadership position in the Boys State Senate and his receipt of the Harry Barlett Award. Congratulations, Dan!
3. Letter dated July 13, 2015 to Christine Syriac from Boys & Girls Club requesting approval of after school transportation from Bungay and Chatfield-LoPresti to the Seymour Satellite Boys & Girls Club.
4. Letter dated July 21, 2015 to Boys & Girls Club approval the request to provide after school transportation from Bungay and Chatfield-LoPresti to the Seymour Satellite Boys & Girls Club
5. Letter dated August 10, 2015 from Christine Syriac to all Seymour Public Schools parents welcoming them to the start of the 2015-16 school year

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT
Anthony DiMilia, 6 Wild Duck Drive, Seymour - Mr. DiMilia reviewed the petition which is requesting the auditorium at Seymour Middle School be named in former principal Paul Porter's honor. He asked if people would be allowed to speak when the agenda item is discussed. Mr. Putorti said that would not be possible. Mr. DiMilia recalled the building committee tried to name the Seymour Middle School in Dr. Nolan's name. Mr. Porter did not support this because he felt the name should be a name the students could relate to.
Pamela Finkle, 1 Jay Lane, Seymour – Ms. Finkle said she was born and raised in Seymour and has spent 45 years in education in Seymour. Mr. Porter was the heart and soul of middle school education. Paul felt the school should be somewhere where kids wanted to be. What is the best way to honor his memory? I think naming the auditorium in his honor. He loved a show and having a plaque on the door would be a very fitting honor for him.
Ken Ewaskie, 9 Highland Avenue, Seymour – Mr. Ewaskie recalled he knew Paul when he was a candidate for the position of principal of Seymour Middle School. In addition to education, he brought the business side. He understood middle school age students. He put together a program that bridged elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school. He said Paul would never let the weather get him down, he often said it's the people you are with. Mr. Porter was not just an administrator; he was a leader. He had a collaborative approach. He was a protector and a provider. Not a micro manager. The auditorium was a place where he brought everyone together.
Chris Kaszeta, 483 Summit Drive, Orange – She worked in the gifted program at the middle school. She said Paul Porter believed everyone can soar and you are only limited by your own imagination. He made everyone feel loved and involved. He developed a partnership with the Senior Center. He was instrumental in the community as well as in the school system. He always asked “what can we do as a school to help you?” At Mr. Porter’s memorial service, his impact was evidenced by who attended: former students, former colleagues, and the guy who sold office furniture who said Paul changed his life. She is asking for the Board’s support so we can honor him since he meant so much to so many.
Deborah Esposito, 23 Mead Farm Road, Seymour – Paul Porter hired me 17 years ago. During her interview, he talked with her for an hour; he showed her the plans for the new middle school and said he couldn’t wait to use the new auditorium. He was Inspirational to students.

V. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
   1. Regular BOE Minutes – July 6, 2015

B. Finance Committee Meeting – August 17, 2015
      To approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept the June 30, 2015 Financial Management Summary as presented
   2. Year End Proposed Transfers
      To approve the year end proposed transfers as recommended by the Finance Committee

C. Adopt Policy Revisions that were Approved at the BOE meeting of July 6, 2015
   1. 5141.7 School Wellness
   2. 5141 Student Health Services
   3. 5114.12 Student Handbooks

D. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notifications and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program
   1. Nicole and Samantha Gardecki
      Ms. Kathy Gardecki has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Nicole and Samantha Gardecki for the 2015-2016 school year
   2. John and Marya Kostick
      Ms. Cynthia Kostick has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, John and Marya Kostick, for the 2015-2016 school year

E. Intra District Transfers
   1. Intra District Waiver Requests – student currently attending waiver school
      MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2016-2016 intra district transfer request for student Tierney Baldwin who currently attends Chatfield-LoPresti School Under an intra district waiver and therefore, has no impact to class size
   2. New Intra District Waiver Request
      MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the intra district waiver request for student Aerilyn Baldwin to attend Chatfield-LoPresti School for the 2015-16 school year

Mr. Hatfield asked if this was the way we would do the Consent Agenda in the future. He noted the addition of homeschooling requests and intra district transfer requests which are new to the Consent Agenda and wanted to know if from this point forward this is the way the Consent Agenda would be handled. Mr. Putorti explained the Consent Agenda may be different from meeting to meeting depending on content but we try to include items on the Consent Agenda that normally don’t have a lot of discussion associated with them. This was to help keep the meeting moving. He said if there is anything that anyone needs to discuss, the item can always be removed from the Consent Agenda and asked Mr. Hatfield if there was something he wanted to remove from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hatfield said no but he wanted to know if the Consent Agenda would be handled this way from this point forward. Mr. Stanek said as far as the policy changes the approval of the changes should be on the Recommended Actions portion of the agenda but he feels after the approval when the polices are adopted, it is appropriate for it to be on the Consent agenda. Mr. Stanek said he is not a big fan of the Consent Agenda.
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Magri) move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. REPORTS

A. Chairman’s Report
   a. Chairman’s Report
      None
   b. Board Member Comments
      Mr. Strumello voiced his disappointment that the State Legislators did not fight to have added to the selection criteria for Education Commissioner a background in education. He said he felt the SEA needs to make their voices heard. Having another Education Commissioner who does not have a background in education would be an insult to all educators. He also asked Christine about the recent ruling regarding the administration of the SAT to all 11th graders. Mr. Hatfield said he echoed Mr. Strumello’s comments saying he felt this was ludicrous and shameful. He said he had little faith that CABE would help. He said he felt that the Governor would allow this after the last commissioner is ludicrous. He said as an educator, I am insulted. Mr. Hatfield congratulated the high school and middle school on their graduation ceremonies. Both were done very well. He was happy that the high school graduation was able to be held on the field but was disappointed with the comments that were made. Ms. Gesek asked for an update on contracts at the next meeting. Mr. Strumello and Mr. Hatfield reported an update from the turf committee. Mr. Strumello reported that the track will not be blue as they had hoped; it will be black. This is due to the lack of extra money. We have to remember that the grant was for the field and bleachers. He said it will be very nice. He described the big “S” in the middle of the field. Bleachers will have some blue on them. Mr. Hatfield reminded everyone that we will be better off than we were. Mr. Strumello said the handicapped access will be in a much better place and will have access to tennis as well as football. Mr. Hatfield reported that a little more money was received for the softball field lighting. Mr. Belden said the softball lighting committee meets at 6:00 before the turf committee. Mr. Hatfield asked how the softball lighting meetings came about. Mr. Belden said he did not know and only attended as an observer. Mr. Stanek asked that the committee allow students to play on the softball field until actual work begins. Use of the football field was restricted well before actual work began and that is what caused a lot of problems. Mr. Hatfield said he felt that a BOE administrator should be part of the lighting committee. Mrs. Syriac said Mr. Natzel or Mr. Belden will attend but she feels a Board of Education member should attend since we (the administration) cannot vote. Mr. Strumello said he felt our voice should be heard on that committee. Mr. Hatfield said they have not communicated with the high school. Ms. Harmeling asked if private businesses have made contributions to the turf field. She said she felt the public will be disappointed if there are no real bathrooms. Mr. Strumello said this is not our charge. Ms. Harmeling asked what will happen to the sign listing contributors that is already at the field.
B. Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Syriac reported that the Senior Citizens passes have been delivered to the Seymour Senior Center and are available to any Seymour resident who is 62 years or older. She reminded the Board that the discounted price for the CABE conference is coming to a close and if Board members want to attend; they should register soon. Mrs. Syriac talked about the decision to replace the Smarter Balance Assessment with the SAT to all 11th graders. She said she would learn more at the Commissioner’s meeting on Wednesday. She said her concern was the differences; K-8 using one test, 9-12 are using a different assessment. Her opinion is they should have waited until spring. There will be special accommodations for special needs students. The State will pick up the cost of this assessment. We will give the SAT to all Grade 11 students. Mrs. Syriac said she will share more as she gets more information. Mr. Hatfield asked what Christine’s organization felt about the SAT testing and she responded that she did not know because they have not met since this was announced. Mr. Putorti asked if every grade 11 student will take the SAT. Mrs. Syriac said every student will be given the SAT. When asked when the SAT will be administered; Mrs. Syriac said no time table has been shared but it will be given sometime in the spring. Mr. Strumello asked if the Senior Citizens passes were only available at the Senior Center. Mrs. Syriac said they were available at the Senior Center but would be advertised on our website.

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Petition – Naming of the Seymour Middle School Auditorium

Mr. Putorti acknowledged those who spoke during Public Comment saying their comments were very good and he thanked them for coming to the meeting this evening. He acknowledged that naming the middle school auditorium had come up a while back. The Board decided to give it back to the Facilities Committee so they could develop a criterion to name parts of our buildings. Their purpose was to develop the right way to handle requests such as this. There was some discussion on the criteria that was already developed and asked that the draft be shared with the Facilities Committee so it can be discussed at the meeting tomorrow night.

B. High School Discipline Procedure – Jim Freund, Paul Lucke, Tara Yusko

Mr. Freund described a new program at the high school that would give parents the choice between this new diversion program and detention/suspension. Officer Tomasella will be involved with the new program. They hope to have fewer tickets and summons issued. Students may come voluntarily to have an adult to talk to or be involved with physical exercise. The program will run from 5:30 am to 6:45 am. The main benefit is a student will not have to be removed from the classroom to serve ISS or OSS. Mr. Lucke and Officer Tomasella will volunteer to come in for the early morning program. Mr. Putorti asked how many participate in a similar program in Ansonia. Mr. Lucke said the number varies and some students come voluntarily. Mr. Putorti asked if there were any transportation issues and Mr. Lucke said no since transportation would be up to the parent. This program is in total collaboration with the parents. Mr. Hatfield asked about the e-cigarette policy. Mrs. Syriac said when the program was reviewed we found we did not violate any policies. Mr. Hatfield said he just wanted to make sure we are adhering to policy. Mr. Freund reminded Mr. Hatfield that e-cigarettes are illegal. Mrs. Syriac said when we take a cell phone; we are required to give it back at some point. When we take an e-cigarette, we are not required to return it since it is an illegal item. Mr. Freund said we remind all parents of the law. Ms. Harmeling said she did not care for the term “diversion program” which she feels has negative connotations. Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that this program is an alternative to in-school detention. Mr. Freund said collaborating and communicating with parents has been very successful. When it comes to the exorbitant amount of tardies; involving parents has caused a drop of 30% to 50% in the number of tardies so we know involving the parents works. Mr. Putorti asked what they would do if a parent declined the program. Mr. Freund said they would serve the traditional consequence.
He reminded the Board that we are trying this and it may need tweaking at the end of the year. They plan to send information to the parents possibly as early as tomorrow. The administrators talked about the possibility of students receiving credit for this program. Mr. Hatfield said he felt this should go to the Curriculum Committee for approval. Mr. Freund said this program is evolving. Mrs. Syriac said the program description will go out to parents without the class credit piece. She also said she felt the three administrators presenting are thinking outside of the box to solve a problem. They are changing a procedure. They are presenting to the Board for information only. In the past, the Board was often left uninformed and these administrators deserve credit for sharing the information with the Board. I support them and I support the program. Mr. Strumello compliments the high school administrators on what they are trying to do. Mr. Freund said this plan has the students in the forefront. Their goal is to keep kids in class. Ms. Harmeling said this was an extraordinarily creative solution. She suggested the 5:30 am Wildcats program be introduced to the students first. Mr. Freund confirmed that they had lots of work ahead of them to communicate this program.

E. **Board of Education Retreat.**

Mr. Putorti said he has not gotten in contact with CABE to discuss a Board of Education retreat. Mr. Strumello said he felt the first order of business would be when and for how long? He said this is more important than the topic. Mr. Putorti reminded the Board that they had talked about a Saturday date but that was not good for everyone. Ms. Harmeling said possibly in December but would rather not wait that long. If it is done in December, there would be newly elected Board members. Mr. Hatfield asked if we had to involve CABE saying he is not impressed with them. There was a brief discussion on a retreat that included the administration and possibly student council. Mr. Stanek said years ago we would do a joint Board meeting with Student Council.

IX. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. **Donation**

1. Donation from Chatfield-LoPresti PTA

   Mr. Hatfield said he thought this was a great idea and Mr. Olechna said he is very appreciative of the PTA putting money toward this. Mr. Hatfield wondered who will change the letters. Mr. Putorti asked if the sign was lighted. Mr. Olechna said it is not lighted and they did not explore lighting the sign, they are very happy with it as is. Ms. Harmeling said she would like the sign to include an acknowledgement that the sign was donated by the Chatfield-LoPresti PTA.

   **MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from Chatfield-LoPresti PTA of a marquee (approximate value $4654) be placed on the grounds of Chatfield-LoPresti School

   Mr. Hatfield rescinded his second.

   **MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from Chatfield-LoPresti PTA of a marquee be placed on the grounds of Chatfield-LoPresti School

   *SO VOTED*

   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

B. **Nutrition Services 2015-16 Budget**

Ms. Brooks said she has included 9000 line item for equipment purchases. This will mainly be used for Bungay School as the equipment there is almost 19 years old.

   **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the 2015-16 Nutrition Services budget as presented

   *SO VOTED*

   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
C. **Nutrition Services Salary Increases**  
*MOTION:* (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve a 2% increase in salary for all Nutrition Services staff  
*SO VOTED*  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

D. **Nutrition Services – Increase in School Lunch Prices**  
Ms. Brooks said they have been able to maintain prices and would rather not increase prices every year. The last increase was $0.25. They are still able to provide free breakfast to all free and reduced lunch students. Mr. Hatfield said he felt they were very lucky to have our nutrition services director, saying you can get a great lunch for $4.50! Ms. Brooks said elementary prices were $2.35, middle school prices were $2.60, and the high school was $2.85. Students can buy an extra entrée if they want to.  
*MOTION:* (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve a $0.10 increase in the price of school lunch for the 2015-016 school year  
*SO VOTED*  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
Ken Ewaskie, 9 Highland Avenue – Mr. Ewaskie said he does not attend BOE meetings very often and was impressed with how the Board was trying to do what is best. He felt if your heart is in the right place, doing right for Seymour kids is what is good. He felt very positive.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**  
*MOTION:* (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting  
*SO VOTED*  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Klarides, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

(ATTACHMENT)