Seymour Board of Education

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2016
Central Office
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Jennifer Magri
Allison Sobieski
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Fred Stanek

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Nick Caruso, CABE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance 7:00 p.m.

II. CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Workshop

The meeting was facilitated by Nick Caruso from CABE. The Board began by discussing what they hoped to accomplish during the course of the evening. Jim Garofolo wanted to know how to gather more information about progress made or not made when presented information on school improvement plans or other topics. Who should such inquiries be addressed to, the administration or specifically the Superintendent? What will we accept as evidence of progress toward expected outcomes? Kristen Harmeling wanted to know how the Board can get closer to having discussions about student learning and student engagement. We don't have discussions about instructional strategies. Jay Hatfield stated he wanted to discuss how to increase the connection with the community. The Board watched a TED Talk by Simon Sinek called "How Great Leaders Inspire Action." Nick Caruso also reviewed with the Board of Education the roles of the Board: To set clear expectations, create conditions for success, hold the system accountable, etc. The Board briefly discussed possible goal areas for further exploration. One area is to develop a strategic plan and the other was for the Board to review its governance structure to align with the focus on improving student achievement. The Board is considering going back to two meetings per month, one as a business meeting and one as a discussion meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Ms. Sobieski, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm

Submitted by:
Christine Syriac