

**SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (Revised)**

Seymour Middle School

November 7, 2022

7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Shannon Levey
Beth Nesteriak
Tyler Lang, Student Representative
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Jay Hatfield
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS
Karen Blood
Michael Milia
Lisa Mariano
Ashley Bell
Elizabeth White

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School – Mary Sue Feige, Lauren Reid
 - a. Lucas DelSole (Absent)
 - b. Jaasiya Noori
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School – David Olechna, Stacey Albertson
 - a. Sophia Hicks
 - b. Kylie Turlis
3. Seymour Middle School – Jodie Roden, Kathleen Reynolds
 - a. Mackenzie Blood
 - b. Nathan Franssen
4. Seymour High School – Jim Freund, Paul Lucke
 - a. Charles Savary

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions – Dr. Susan Compton

1. Cross Country Champions
 - a. Emma Hartshorn – All Division
 - b. PJ Dauphinais – All NVL
 - c. Willow Cappa – All Division
 - d. Lily Moir – All NVL
2. Ella Santanelli (Absent)

III. **STUDENT REPORTS**

HS Student Representative Report- Tyler Lang, Sophia Motyl

- Student Council:
 - Homecoming was a success, students seemed to enjoy the event.
 - We had spirit week the week leading up to the dance. This year involvement was good and students seemed to enjoy the days which were chosen for the themes.
 - The week finished off with our usual pep rally, which went good.
 - Mr. Seymour
- National Honor Society:
 - This year, NHS has been working with the Student Council to organize the Mr. Seymour male beauty pageant, scheduled for November 21. We plan to create volunteer opportunities for our members by offering tutoring positions for their peers across all subjects, helping them reach their 15 hour community service requirement by the end of the year. Hopefully for the holiday season, NHS will be able to fully sponsor a child from a financially struggling family with clothes and toys.
- Hope club:
 - So far this year, Hope Club sponsored Socktober throughout the whole month of October, and collected a good amount of socks to donate to the homeless shelter. We also had great success with the can and bottle drive this past month to raise funds for our club. Coming up in November and December we are running a coat drive and collecting warm clothing for those in need. We additionally have volunteering events coming up at the Seymour Historical Society and making cards for the elderly at Shady Knoll around the Holiday times.
- Art Club
 - The art club will be running throughout the school year. Students can come to the art club if they need extra time to work on art assignments for their classes, work on anything art-related from the clay, canvas, paper, and art supplies provided, or participate in club activities. We painted landscapes recently, but we have more activities in mind in the future. We are currently planning and working on what we should do for the Christmas parade float.
- Spanish Club
 - The Spanish Club continues to celebrate Spanish culture. Most recently we celebrated los día de los muertos (the day of the dead) by creating an altar and decorating it with our sugar skulls we created. Additionally, we are working on planning a trip hopefully for the end of this school year.
- Environmental
 - The Environmental Club has grown tremendously this year. The club recently visited the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk to promote awareness and appreciation of the long island ecosystem. The club experienced a 4-D IMAX movie, learning in depth about the octopus. Students gained an appreciation for conservation of our local ecosystems.
- Electrathon:
 - So far this year, we raced our two cars at the racetrack in Limerock. Our cars placed 5th and 6th out of 16 cars. We have now started the research portion of the design process to see how we can improve the cars to be able to place higher. Our club is determined to win the race while learning what goes into building a race car from scratch.

- Drama Club:
 - This year, the Drama Club is performing an original, Seymour High School exclusive musical. This was written by Jonathan David and Kai Dupee, with music by Jonathan. This is also being directed by Jonathan David and Mia Gramolini. Our team is working really hard to perform the show by December 9th and 10th.
- Sports Report:
 - Football
 - Record 6 and 2
 - Next game Thursday home Ansonia
 - Cross country
 - Girls won NVL title
 - Two all state girls runners
 - Boys had a successful season finishing in the top of the NVL
 - Volleyball - record 19-3
 - Placed 2nd in the NVL
 - In states currently
- Swimming girls
 - 3rd in the NVL at the finals meet
 - Several school and pool records were made by swimmers.
- Boys soccer record (9-5-3) in states playoffs
- Girls soccer record (8-7-1) in states playoffs as well

IV. 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 Chairman's Comments portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and no longer than 3 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

Public Comment closed at 7:45

V. REPORTS

- A. School Improvement Plan
 - 1. Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School -Mr. Olechna, Ms. Albertson
Mr. David Olechna, Principal and Ms. Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal at Chatfield-LoPresti School presented the School Improvement Plan for 2022-2023 school year. They were excited over the growth Chatfield-LoPresti students showed. The plan can be viewed on the Seymour Public School website by using the link: <https://www.seymourschools.org/fs/resource-manager/view/3568ab63-cd88-4794-add5-65d38001f07f>

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2022
- B. Financial Management Reports – November 7, 2022
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – November 7, 2022
- D. Staff Hiring
 - 1. Hiring, Certified
 - a. Parrish, Courtney
 - Music/Chorus Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Alexandra LaMendola

- b. Schoenig, Suzanne
 - Teacher, Special Education
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Amber Zargos
 - c. Testroet, Tressa
 - Teacher, Kindergarten
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Allison Liberda
 - 2. Hiring, Non-Certified
 - a. Veach, Kelly
 - Custodian, Part Time
 - Districtwide
 - Replacing Brad Kuzma
- E. Donation from Mr. Fred Stanek

Mr. Fred Stanek would like to donate an indoor American Flag with a seven-foot pole and flag stand for use in the conference room of the soon to be relocated Board of Education office.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to agenda

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to hire Shelbie Taylor as an instructional paraeducator at Bungay Elementary School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

A. Parking Lot Painting Student Proposal

Dr. Compton told the Board that they may want to consider sending this proposal to the Facilities and Transportation Committee for further consideration. She commended the student on the work he put into this proposal. She said after conversations with Mr. Freund, Mr. Connors and Mr. Kearns and concerns about maintenance, environmental issues, and messaging, she recommends not approving this proposal. Ms. Harmeling said this student did a lot of research on this and has addressed many of the concerns that were stated such as having the sketch approved and if the paint comes off then it comes off. Mr. Behuniak agreed saying the staff will be approving the sketches well before they go on the ground. Ms. Bruno said it reminds her very much of the time, the Board was asked to approve the decorating of graduation caps. It was approved and the students have followed the rules and have not violated them. There was a discussion on why this is a Board issue. Dr. Compton said she thought it was because it is a facilities issue. Ms. Harmeling noted that half the money collected for the painting of the parking space will go toward the cleaning supplies. Mr. Behuniak said this is nice idea and he would like to see it approved. Ms. Harmeling said the student has talked to Mr. Connors.

Mr. Connors asked if we want to send to the Facilities and Transportation Committee.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve/deny the proposal of student Zachary Manson, Class of 2023 asking for permission to give seniors the privilege to paint their parking spaces during the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION RESCINDED: Ms. Harmeling.

The proposal will be sent to the Facilities and Transportation Committee for review.

B. Free Breakfast/Lunch Program

Approval to extend the free breakfast and lunch program through December 31, 2022 at a cost of approximately \$3158.

Dr. Compton said she is excited about this program and wants to extend it so the kids can eat free through the end of December. The cost is estimated to be around \$3158. If the extension is not approved the free program will end at the end of November since partial months are not allowed. Ms. Harmeling said when communicating this, it might be wise to mention that snacks, water, and extra lunches are not included in the free program

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve/deny the request of Ms. Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition Services to extend the free breakfast and lunch program through December 31, 2022 at a cost of approximately \$3158

AMENDED MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve/deny the request of Ms. Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition Services to extend the free breakfast and lunch program through December 31, 2022 at a cost not to extend past \$5000

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

C. Out of State Field Trip

Mr. David Willadsen would like to continue the CLOSE UP Program in the 2022-23 School year by having approximately 12-20 students attend the program in Washington DC on April 2, 2023 through April 6, 2023.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve/ the request of Mr. David Willadsen to have approximately 12-20 students attend the CLOSE UP Program in Washington DC on April 2, 2022 through April 6, 2022

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

D. New Position – ELL Tutor

Add a new position at Chatfield-LoPresti School for an ELL Tutor for the 2022-2023 school year

Dr. Compton recommends approval for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. They currently have 61 students in the ELL program. The position can be funded by using the money allocated for two recess monitors that we have been unable to hire. Ms. Harmeling asked if the other schools did not have the same amount of growth. Dr. Compton confirmed they did not.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve/deny the addition of an ELL Tutor at Chatfield-LoPresti School for the 2022-2023 school year

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

E. Union Contracts

1. Administrators

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the Agreement between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour School Administrators Association for the term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 and to authorize Christopher Champagne, Chairperson of the Seymour Board of Education, to execute the same on behalf of the Board.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

2. Secretaries

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the Agreement between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour BOE Secretaries UPSEU, Local 424-Unit 125 for the term from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 and to authorize Christopher Champagne, Chairperson of the Seymour Board of Education, to execute the same on behalf of the Board

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

3. Custodians

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the Agreement between the Seymour Board of Education and the School Custodial Employees, Local 1303-25 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the term from September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025 and to authorize Christopher Champagne, Chairperson of the Seymour Board of Education, to execute the same on behalf of the Board

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

4. Nurses

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the Agreement between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour BOE School Nurses United Public Service Employees Union Local 424-Unit 93 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 and to authorize Christopher Champagne, Chairperson of the Seymour Board of Education, to execute the same on behalf of the Board

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

- F. Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2023-2024 (Draft)
MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the 2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

Ms. Harmeling mentioned that she felt the acoustics in the SHS auditorium would be better than the SMS Library Media Center.

- G. School Calendar 2023-2024 (Draft)
After a discussion it was decided to move this to the December 5 meeting.

IX. INFORMATION

- A. Special Education Enrollment Report
- B. School Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School
- C. Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2022
- D. Staff Resignations
 - 1. Certified Staff
 - a. Goldberg, Lisa
 - Music Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective November 29, 2022
 - b. LaMendola, Alexandra
 - Music/Chorus Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective October 31, 2022

Ms. Harmeling asked if there is a problem with music teachers. Dr. Compton said for one it was just not a good fit and was not happy in the position. She confirmed that it is difficult to get music teachers right now. She suggested we need to look at the curriculum of Chorus as there may be a problem. She is confident the new teacher will build a good program.

- 2. Non-Certified Staff
 - a. Pettinella, Lauren
 - Float Nurse
 - All Schools
 - Effective November 11, 2022
 - b. Lucuk, Sara
 - Literacy Numeracy Tutor
 - Chatfield-LoPresti
 - Effective November 4, 2022
- 3. Appendix D
 - a. Perrucci, Joseph
 - Advisor, Alternative Energy Club (Split position)
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective November 02, 2022

- E. Staff Transfers
 - 1. Non-Certified Staff
 - a. Hamel, Jodie
 - Literacy Numeracy Tutor
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Samantha Fenton

- F. Green Leaf Contract

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments
 - 1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Champagne said he received a letter from Mr. Stanek thanking the staff at Seymour High School for their support during the Class of 1972 tour. Mr. Champagne thanked the members of the Liaison Committee for all of their work on the contracts.
 - 2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Behuniak said the negotiation process was great. Ms. Bruno reported that she attending the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame and they did a great job. It was inspirational and she complimented Cathy Federowicz on her speech regarding the 50th anniversary of Title IX.
- B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton complimented the SHSSHOF Banquet and said Ms. Federowicz did an outstanding job with her speech on Title IX. She said they sincerely appreciated the Board of Education Resolution. She was able to attend the State Recognition of Lauren Reid as the Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year. She reminded the Board that there are many Veterans Day activities going on at the schools. She also reminded the Board that the Football Game between Ansonia and Seymour will be taking place at home. She thanked the members of the Student Council who attended our meeting tonight and said she appreciated all of their input. Tomorrow is professional development for teachers, and she thanked Ms. Tencza for her work on this. There will also be training for all paraeducators.

XI. ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT SALARY

- *A. Discussion and possible action concerning the salary for the Associate Superintendent. This may be discussed in executive session.

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

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) move that the Board enter executive session for discussion and possible action concerning of the salary of the Associate Superintendent. Further move that Dr. Susan Compton and Ms. Vonda Tencza be invited to participate in the executive session

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:25 pm

ENTER REGULAR SESSION: 9:44 pm

XII. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Champagne) To provide a 2% salary increase, for a salary of \$182,699.20, for the associate superintendent of schools for the 2022-2023 school year, retroactive to July 1, 2022.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

YouTube Link (November 7, 2022)

https://youtu.be/UzDiK_zpOtQ