

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Seymour Middle School

December 5, 2022

7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Derrick Martin, Technology
Tim Connors, Director of Operations
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant 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
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Lucas DeSole (November Champion)
 - b. Lincoln Valli
 - c. Jeremiah White
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Drew George
 - b. Audriana Poulin

3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Michael Griffith
 - b. Tristyn Lapke
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Conor Recine
- B. Superintendent Student Recognitions
 1. Ella Santanelli (November Honor)

Dr. Compton also recognized Ella Santanelli and Tyler Lang as the recipients of the CAPSS Superintendents Award of Excellence
- C. Associate Superintendent Recognitions
 1. Vonda Tencza

III. STUDENT REPORTS

- A. HS Student Representative Report- Tyler Lang, Sophia Motyl

Student Council - Food drive was completed and was successful

The Thanksgiving football game had a food drive which allowed spectators free entry to the game if they brought two items of food to be donated. Food will be delivered to Blessing Pantry on Monday 12/12/22. Student Council working on creating video announcements every Friday (similar to what is done in Middle School - with help of Mr. Cleveland). National Honor Society-Nothing new from last meeting. Performing Arts - Performed during the Seymour Christmas parade. Hope Club- Hat, Coat, Glove and Scarf Drive through the month of December. Yearbook Club- Sales for this year yearbook have begun. Sports - Girls swimming - Girls Swimming finished their season at State Opens. Overall, the team placed 7th out of all schools in the State, with several school records and personal best times from athletes. Football - season ended last week with the state tournament loss to Bloomfield, they finished 6 and 5 overall. Volleyball - lost in the state tournament, after a successful season. Winter sports have begun, including - Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Boys swimming, Boys wrestling, Boys and Girls basketball, with the first practice being last week.

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.

Elizabeth White, 49 Sagamore Drive – Spoke about the proposed State mandated Literacy Programs and she encouraged the Board not to submit a waiver.

Public Comment ended at 8:04 pm

V. REPORTS

- A. School Improvement Plan
 1. Seymour High School -Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke, Mr. DiStasi

Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke, and Mr. DiStasi presented the School Improvement Plan for 2022-2023 school year. The plan can be viewed on the Seymour Public School website by using the link: <https://www.seymourschools.org/fs/resource-manager/view/fd5bf240-a98f-45dc-8923-61a6ee48d0e1>
- B. Central Office Relocation Building Committee Report – Mr. Fred Stanek

Mr. Fred Stanek was happy to report the work of the Central Office Relocation Committee is almost complete. One of the biggest changes and one of the more important changes is Central Office will now have handicap accessibility. He thanked the members of the committee, the staff, and the custodians. He said he is proud of the transformation of the building into such a nice office space. He let everyone know there will be an open house on December 15 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm and all are welcome. There will be formal speaking program at 6:30 pm. A plaque commemorating the Building Committee for their work

will be installed in the new office. Mr. Stanek thanked everyone for their support. He also mentioned that the Central Office sign was moved so that the senior rock view will not be blocked.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022

B. Financial Management Reports – December 5, 2022

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – December 5, 2022

D. Out of State Field Trip

Mr. Jim Freund is requesting approval of an out of state field trip to Magic Mountain Ski Resort in Londonderry VT on February 4, 2023 (snow date February 11, 2023). The trip is open to all interested students in Grades 9-12

E. Staff Hiring

1. Hiring, Certified

a. Rozum, Hannah

- Special Education Teacher
- Bungay Elementary School
- Replacing Ashley Kochan

2. Hiring, Non-Certified

a. Frey, Colin

- Part Time Custodian Floater
- Districtwide
- Replacing Lanny Bercier

b. Gonzalez, Melissa

- Part Time Monitor Paraeducator
- Seymour Middle School
- Replacing Sandy Parks-Betts

c. Stockmal, Nicole

- Instructional Paraeducator
- Bungay School
- Replacing Lauren Bresson

3. Hiring, Appendix D

a. Jurzynski, Tom

- Head Coach, Boys Swimming
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Nick Blade

b. Tacinelli, Cristina

- Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Nick Frosolone

4. Volunteer Appointment

a. Sadick, Ian

- Sports Volunteer
- Seymour High School

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the December 5, 2022 Consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Course Proposals - Seymour High School

The Curriculum and Technology Committee is seeking approval for several course proposals for the 2023-2024 school year including Robotics courses, Certified in Accounting courses, World Language coursed, and revisions to the SAT Prep course. Also asking for approval for the Science Sequence requirement with a focus on NGSS performance improvement.

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to recommend to the full Board the adoption of the Robotics courses, Certified in Accounting courses, World Language courses, and revisions to the SAT Prep course for the 2023-2024 school year.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the proposed Science Sequence requirement to focus on NGSS performance improvement for the 2023-2024 school year

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

B. New Appendix D position, Grant Funded — Elementary After-School Club Inventor – three positions available

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request to add three Appendix D positions for advisors for the Elementary After-School Club Inventor program at Bungay School and Chatfield-LoPresti School for the 2022-2023 school year

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

C. 2023-2024 School Calendar (Draft)

MOTION:(Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the 2023-2024 school calendar to the January 9, 2023 Board of Education meeting

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling

MOTION PASSES/FAILS: 6-1-0

IX. INFORMATION

A. Purchase of Rectangle Portable Stage with Hardboard Deck and Accessories

B. Special Education Enrollment Report

C. School Activities and Recognitions

1. Bungay School
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
3. Seymour Middle School
4. Seymour High School

D. Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022

- E. Staff Hiring – Appendix D
3. Milia, Michael
- Elementary After-School Club Inventor Instructor
 - Bungay School
 - New Position

- F. Staff Resignations
1. Certified Staff
- a. Tencza, Vonda
- Associate Superintendent
 - Central Office
 - Effective December 9, 2022

- G. Staff Retirement
1. Certified Staff
- a. Verlezza, Kathleen
- Business Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 30, 2023

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments
1. Chairman's Comments
- Mr. Champagne thanked Mrs. Tencza for her service to the Seymour Public Schools.
2. Board Member Comments
- Ms. Bruno said she was able to attend the Seymour Christmas parade and was proud of the great participation of our staff and students. She also expressed gratitude for Mrs. Tencza's service to our district. Mr. Hatfield suggested we add a professional learning day to the day after Halloween and suggested the Board could be more innovative and creative when it comes to the calendar. Dr. Compton reminded the Board that we would be discussing the State Literacy program at the January 9 meeting. Mr. Garofolo suggested we not have committee meetings before the Board meeting as there is not enough time to discuss the items. Ms. Harmeling suggested we consider the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as a holiday since it is a big day for people to travel. She suggests we build in 3-5 snow days so we have a better idea of when school will end. Mr. Behuniak agreed.
- B. Superintendent Report
- Dr. Compton reported she attended the Connecticut Teacher of the Year ceremony in Hartford, and it was a wonderful evening. She was unable to attend the Hall of Fame presentation for Cathy Federowicz but said it was also a wonderful program. Both will be honored at our January meeting. She attended the Christmas Parade and was proud that all four schools were represented. She spoke about the Veterans Day ceremonies at each school. She reminded the Board that we will be laying out the plan for our policies. She told the Board she plans to come back to the Board in January with a plan for the position that Ms. Tencza vacated. Dr. Compton spoke fondly of the work that Ms. Tencza has done for us and the legacy she is leaving. She is certain she will do a wonderful job in Woodbridge.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at _____pm

YouTube Link (December 5, 2022)

<https://youtu.be/YSzkS9Qkox8>