

COMBINED MEETING OF  
THE SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AND  
THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Kristen Bruno  
Christopher Champagne  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Beth Nesteriak  
Ed Strumello  
Tyler Lang, Student Representative  
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephan Behuniak  
James Garofolo  
Shannon Levey

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**III. INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

A. Informal Discussion between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour High School Student Council

Dr. Compton welcomed the students and thanked them for coming to this meeting. The students introduced themselves and then each Board member present introduced themselves and talked about their career. Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Freund talked about the possibility of bringing back a senior trip. Ms. Sweeney said they are looking at two locations. They were reminded that if the trip is out of state it must be approved by the Board. Dr. Compton reminded the students that at our last meeting there was discussion on athletic equipment. The students said the high jump, pole vault, and mats are still an issue. They are unable to host meets without this equipment. The pool timing equipment is also an issue. The students said they would like the joy of hosting a meet at their school. Mr. Freund said the entire timing and scoring system needs to be replaced. Dr. Compton said they would look into this. Mr. Strumello talked about the school not having a diving team. Mr. Freund indicated that we could host meets without diving. Our pool is not conducive for diving. When asked about Wi-Fi, the students said there are still issues. Mr. Freund explained that it would be helpful if students would turn off Wi-Fi while in the building. Ms. Nesteriak asked how often Wi-Fi passwords are changed. Ms. Sweeney said the connection problem is directly related to the students connecting to Wi-Fi with their cell phones. Dr. Compton confirmed there are dead spots at the high school and the middle school. She said this will be looked at as this as it is crucial. Dr. Compton said the weight room is being cleaned up. The shelf with the trophies has been removed. Mr. Freund mentioned we have a large number of trophies throughout the school. He said he likes the idea of digitizing them. Ms. Nesteriak said she thought this would be a good student project. Dr. Compton said it would be a great Capstone project.

Mr. Strumello asked the students how to encourage kids to be in a high school band or orchestra. Some of the responses were make it more of an activity instead of a class. Make it feel as though you are contributing to school pride like jazz band. Make it more important. One student mentioned that the dance team does a pilot team at the middle school and it has helped to increase participation at the high school. Maybe something like this could be done for band. Reactivate the instruments that are stashed all over the school, bring them out. Let kids do it at their own pace. Make it something that you can do on your own. Have more demonstrations to inspire kids to join and make them want to participate. Do performances like the performing arts club does, they do shows at the middle school. Bring some energy to band or chorus. Make it like football where people want to be there. Mr. Freund said one of the problems is we now require 26 credits for graduation and have trouble fitting in band. Many kids would have to decide between band and AP courses. Several kids said they were forced to give up band because it would not work with their schedule. They suggested maybe a summer program for band. Run band either before or after school. Dr. Compton confirmed the number one problem is scheduling but noted that other schools do it and she feels the problem can be fixed. Other suggestions were to have band as a class and have the school bring in younger kids after school to show them how its done. Do band like the Car Club having it after school. Transportation could be an issue maybe do as a video call. Dr. Compton said its important to rebrand band avoid the "band geeks" label. We need to be creative, its important. Other topics discussed included the restrooms which the kids said were a little better but felt that one more restroom should be open. Mr. Hatfield asked the kids what they needed from the Board as support as they transition out of high school. He encouraged them to think about it for the next meeting. The students mentioned that the stairwell that was closed for the BOE offices caused some congestion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT  
The meeting ended at 6:33 pm

Submitted by  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk