

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
February 6, 2023
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello
Tyler Lang, Student Representative
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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.
- B. Moment of Silence – Arnold Renkewith 1938-2022
Mr. Strumello spoke about Mr. Arnold Renkewith.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Seymour Champion Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - a. Liliana Nowak
 - b. Maxine Sciarra
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Cole Dillman
 - b. Cadence Fetcho
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Jacob Raymo
 - b. Danelys Reyes
 - 4. Seymour High School
 - a. Ashley Desrosiers

- B. Superintendent Student Recognitions
1. Sophia Velleco
 2. Katrine O'Leary
 3. Concern, Compassion, and Care to a Student Who was Injured
 - a. Tyler Lang
 - b. Brian Cleveland
 - c. Cathy Federowicz
 - d. Samantha Rigoli
 4. Teacher of the Year – Mallory Knutson
 5. Volleyball Hall of Fame – Cathy Federowicz

III. STUDENT REPORTS

- A. HS Student Representative Report- Tyler Lang, Sophia Motyl
- Student council
 - The senior class is currently voting on their “senior gift” to Seymour high school, some ideas include donating funds to a “general travel fund” teachers and staff can use to reduce transportation costs for school sponsored activities such as field trips. Other ideas include a senior trip, where funds can be used to reduce the cost of attendance.
 - Running a valentine's day fundraiser which includes selling chocolate roses during lunch waves.
 - SUPER FRIDAY will be this Friday Feb 10th, students are encouraged to wear their favorite sports apparel and write notes thanking someone Super.
 - This Tuesday the student council will be working with best buddies to paint various windows around the school for the super bowl.
 - Next week, Student Council will have the results of the matchmaker survey for students to purchase - \$2 per page
 - Plans to have a Powderpuff game in the spring are starting to get talked about, we are hoping to make this a whole community not just Seymour high event.
 - NHS
 - Members assisted the math club with tutoring students prior to midterm exams.
 - Athletics
 - Dance team placed 3rd overall at their NVL competition.
 - Seymour Girls basketball hosted their PINK game last Friday night Feb 3rd - the girls beat Oxford and raised over \$2100 for Seymour PINK, improving their record to 11-6, with 3 remaining games.
 - Boys basketball 11-5, with 4 more copper division games remaining
 - Boys swim has had a successful season so far, with good competitors against rival towns.
 - Indoor track states This Thursday at Hillhouse high school, NVL's were two weeks ago at Hillhouse with several competitors qualifying for the state tournament.
 - Co-op hockey team won their second game on Saturday improving to 2 and 10, with 8 remaining games.
 - Gymnastics and wrestling competitors have been competing in matches and still have several for the remainder of the winter season.
 - Schoolwide
 - On February 15 there will be a second after school trip to mohawk mountain, the first took place last Wednesday night and was very successful.
 - On March 4th there will be a day-long ski trip to the Berkshire east ski resort and tickets will be on sale until the end of this month.
 - March 17 and 18 will be the performing arts show.
 - As many of you were present, we had a sample of about 18 students from the SHS student body who were invited today to speak with members of the BOE about various topics for SHS.

- Best buddies
 - Collaborating with student council members to paint various windows for the upcoming Super Bowl staircasing individuals in Seymour high who people think have been super

Recess: 8:19 pm

Reconvene: 8:23 pm

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

Closed at 8:23 pm

V. REPORTS

A. Special Education Enrollment Report

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2023
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2023
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023
4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2023

B. Financial Management Reports – February 6, 2023

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – February 6, 2023

D. Staff Hiring

1. Hiring, Certified

a. Ricard, Deborah

- Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Emily Spear

2. Hiring, Non-Certified

a. Arms, Donna

- Instructional Paraeducator
- Bungay School
- Replacing Jodie Hamel

b. Cole, Erica

- Instructional Paraeducator
- Chatfield-LoPresti School
- Replacing Allison Bopp

E. Staff Appointments

1. Esposito, Christopher

- Sports Volunteer, Softball
- Seymour High School

2. Gampel, Lily

- School Volunteer
- Bungay School

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-1

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Donations

1. All CT Realty, LLS

All CT Realty, LLS would like to donate \$200.00 to the Electrathon Club at Seymour High School

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of \$200.00 to the Electrathon Club at Seymour High School and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

B. Connecticut K-3 Reading Curriculum Model

Dr. Compton and the Districtwide Literacy Ad Hoc Committee would like to apply for an extension of Connecticut K-3 Reading Curriculum Model.

Dr. Compton explained that asking for an extension is the best option for the district. The Ad Hoc Literacy Committee did their due diligence and this option will allow the district to do their research and pick the best program for our students. Mr. Hatfield confirmed the extension is for one year and it is not a waiver but an extension to give the district more time to choose a program. Mr. Strumello noted that many districts who are requesting a waiver are being denied. Mr. Hatfield asked if extensions were being denied and Dr. Compton said no. Ms. Bruno said there is an urgency in Literacy and doing our research to choose a program is a good thing.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Ad Hoc District Wide Literacy Committee to approve the application of a one year extension for the Connecticut K-3 Reading Curriculum Model

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

C. Create a Position

Create an additional preschool teacher position for the Districtwide Preschool Program due to state mandates.

The Board stated that this does not need to be approved because it is already in the budget. Ms. Bruno asked that we look at expenses related to a new position such as instructional paraeducators and supplies. Ms. Nesteriak asked if the district has a School Readiness Council and Ms. Brett said it is in development.

- D. MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add to the agenda the appointment of a school volunteer
SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the appointment of Kaylee Sudimick as a school
volunteer in Bungay School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

IX. INFORMATION

A. 22 Mandated Policies

Dr. Compton distributed notebooks with all 22 mandated policies included. Mr. Champagne asked the Board to review the mandated policies and come ready to vote for the next several months or all at once depending on how they would like to proceed. Dr. Compton reminded the Board that these policies are mandated so there is not a lot of room to make changes. Mr. Hatfield pointed out that some policies are missing information. Mr. Hatfield suggested someone wordsmith the document. Dr. Compton assured Mr. Hatfield that the information would be included and shared with the Board.

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2023
2. Athletic and Health Committee – January 18, 2023
3. Curriculum and Technology Committee – January 30, 2023
4. Policy Committee – January 30, 2023

C. School Activities and Recognitions

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

D. Staff Hiring – Appendix D

1. Garofalo, Kelley
 - Guided Student Support Instructor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - New Position
- 2.. Garrow, Dina
 - Guided Student Support Instructor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - New Position

E. Staff Resignations

1. Non-Certified Staff
 - a. DeFeo, Marissa
 - Health Aide
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective January 13, 2023
2. Appendix D
 - a. FitzGerald, John
 - Advisor, Drama Club
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 17, 2023

- b. Sylvester, David
 - Assistant Coach, Softball
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 13, 2023

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Champagne reminded the Board that the Board of Finance meeting is on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 pm. He said Dr. Compton and Mr. Bucci will be presenting. Ms. Harmeling said they should stress something with regard to Special Education driving the cost.

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Levey complimented the administrators and teachers that presented the preschool information saying, "Nice job, preschool!".

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton reported that she and Mr. DiStasi attended the Football banquet over the weekend saying it lasted about four hours and they did a wonderful job. She said it was wonderful to see the kids be recognized for their hard work. She reported that she attended a boys basketball game and a girls basketball game. She hosted an administrator meeting and shared the mandated policies with them among other issues they discussed. She was sad to report that over the weekend we had a sprinkler malfunction in the high school near the server and the water caused about \$20,000 in damage to the server switches. Mr. Dyer was there working on it for several hours over the weekend and he was able to get it resolved. She thanked the students who showed up for our special meeting tonight and she was so happy to hear the student voice. She was happy to report that the Seymour High School Alumni Association is up and running; they have chosen officers and established their bylaws. Dr. Miller, Superintendent of Oxford Schools toured our new facility and also the high school. Oxford is considering moving their Central Office to one of their schools. She also toured their schools to help make recommendations on what school would work best for Central Office. She said it was a great visit.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

YouTube Link (February 6, 2023)

<https://youtu.be/qSKwjc7eAhY>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk