

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2023
6:30 pm
Central Office

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Caroline Sweeney, SHS
Caden Drezek, President Student Council
William McKiernan, Vice President Student Council
Kevin Dong Treasurer Student Council

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:36 p.m.

II. 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

III. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Senior Class Trip to Boston

Kevin Dong, Treasurer of the Student Council started the discussion by saying students want to have a class trip because it is an opportunity to make final memories with our class after having missed so many things because of the pandemic. They propose May 15,16,17 as a good time for the trip as most of the schoolwork is finished for seniors. They want the class trip to return and hope that it will become a tradition for future classes. William McKiernan, Vice President of the Student Council says they will have chaperones and Mr. DiStasi will join the trip as the required administrator. Mr. Caden Drezek, President of the Student Council talked about how they wanted to do everything themselves at first because they thought it would keep costs down.

After meeting with Superintendent Compton, Principal Jim Freund, and Student Council Advisor Caroline Sweeney, it was decided it would be better to go with a tour company. He said they are looking at May 15, 16, 17 which is two nights and three days. They have decided to work with Adventure Student Travel. The plan is for the coach bus to leave Seymour at 10:00 am and arrive in Boston at approximately 1:00 pm depending on traffic. Upon arrival they will visit the guided freedom trail, then be on their own for dinner. They will attend the Red Sox vs. Mariners game and it will be a fun night. They will then check into the hotel and be in for the night. The next morning there will be a hotel provided breakfast. Among the activities for this day is the aquarium, Quincey Market, and Boston Common. Dinner again will be on their own. Day three will include Castle Island and Six Flags. Mr. Strumello thanked the students for changing the schedule to spend more time at Castle Island as this was more educational time. They will leave Six Flags at 8:00 pm. The students highly complimented the customer service of the tour company saying they have been available every time they have called. Pricing for the trip with transportation will be \$561 per student. If they arrange their own transportation the price per student will be \$406. The students have already talked about ways to help lower the cost of the trip such as fundraising, Go Fund Me, Snap Raise. They talked about getting their own transportation by booking their own coach bus. They also felt they could use the funds they have in the Student Council account. They said the tour company will require a \$75 deposit from each student and the balance will be due April 1, 2023. Mr. Garofolo asked if there is a target amount to raise. The students said they don't have an exact number but just want to help make the trip more affordable for students. If they are fortunate enough to raise more money than is needed, that money will be distributed to other programs in the school. He also asked who would handle the funds and Mr. Freund said the main office would take care of the money. There was also a discussion on how the payments would be made and the thought was they would be made directly to the tour company. The students said they are thinking there would be a minimum of 50 students and a maximum of 85 for the trip. The class consists of approximately 130 students. Mr. Strumello asked if the number could be increased if more are interested in going. They felt that it could be increased. As far as eligibility to participate, Mr. Freund said it would be the same eligibility guidelines as sports. There will be a tour guide for the freedom trail and other guides can be added for an additional cost. Mr. Strumello said in his experience, dinner on your own is not a good idea and he is concerned about safety. Mr. Freund noted that there would be security at the hotel for a cost of \$3 per person. Chaperones are required one for every 15 students. Chaperones do not have to pay for the trip. Chaperones are chosen based on the least number of classes and counselors. Dr. Compton thanked the students for the work on this proposal saying they had done a good job. Mr. Strumello asked if the tour company had been researched and Mr. Freund said they expect the student government to handle this.

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an out of state field trip to Boston MA for the members of the Class of 2023.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Mr. Behuniak praised the students on the work they did to put this proposal together. Mr. Champagne said he was very impressed with the presentation. He also reminded them that they will be representing Seymour in Boston and he expects them to follow the rules.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report
None

B. Superintendent's Report
None

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk