

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Kathleen Reynolds, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS
First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
Al Bruno, Selectman
Allison Brett
Ron Barnard

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.

B. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence to honor Theresa Rasmussen, former principal at Anna LoPresti School and for Jim Kingston, a former custodian at Bungay School.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Clarissa Horowitz
 - b. Jacob Stockmal
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Emmy Barber
 - b. Joseph Marchetti
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Payton Motyl
 - b. Sean O'Neill
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Liliana Falcone

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions

1. Madison Jarvis- Madison was unable to attend this meeting so she will be honored at the April BOE Meeting.

C. Student Ambassadors – Mr. Olechna

1. Juliana Bell
2. Arianna Bordonaro
3. Dahlia Demand
4. Sydney Dushi
5. Liana Lopez
6. Tyler McCarthy
7. Isabelle Milia
8. Lucy Milia
9. Sophia Miranda
10. Adley Overkamp
11. Myles Scott
12. Adriana Wasko

D. Proclamations

1. Town of Seymour-First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
2. Board of Education – Dr. Compton

III. STUDENT REPORTS

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

Schoolwide- Berkshire east ski trip was Saturday, March 3. Guidance department is collecting used prom dresses for those in need. Senior trip was approved, and more details will be to follow from those organizing the event.

Sports

Boys Basketball team has their first-round states game tomorrow home @6:30 against Bristol Eastern. Girls basketball season ended last week with a loss in the state tournament. Family id open for spring sports. Pitchers and catchers start Saturday. All other sports start 3/18 for first practices.

Best buddies

Seymour High Best Buddies is doing a Friendship walk on April 29th with other chapters in the state to spread awareness about inclusion for all students.

Student council

Chocolate roses and matchmaker fundraiser are complete from Valentines Day.

NHS

Planning for community service events. Planning for a schoolwide event to end the school year. Mr. Strumello reported that Caden Drezek achieved 1000 points at the NVL Tournament game.

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.

Allison Brett, Elementary Inclusion Facilitator – Gave a shout out to the Unified Cheer team who performed at the States competition, and they also perform at some basketball games. They are amazing to watch. She praised the coaches for the support they give this team.

Ron Horowitz, 65 Brookfield Road, Seymour – Expressed his gratitude for the after-school program called Club Invention. He said he is honored to partner with Bungay School on this program and encouraged the district to include more programs like this. Programs such as this develop critical skills. He pledged \$250 and his employer matched this for a total of \$500 toward programs like this.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. State of Connecticut Department of Education, RE: Extension - Email Request and Response
Dr. Compton said our request is in process.

VI. REPORTS

- A. Special Education Enrollment Report
B. Club Invention – Bungay School

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2023
 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023
 3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2023
- B. Financial Management Reports – March 6, 2023
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – March 6, 2023
- D. Staff Hiring
1. Hiring, Non-Certified
 - a. Rodriguez, Jarely
 - Health Aide
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Marissa DiFeo
 2. Hiring, Appendix D
 - a. Condo, Meghan
 - Assistant Coach, Softball
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Dave Sylvester
- E. Staff Appointments
1. Volunteers
 - a. Findley, Rebecca
 - Assistant Coach, Softball
 - Seymour High School
 - b. Wandel, Shawn
 - Assistant Football Coach
 - Seymour High School

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

VIII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

IX. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Creation of a Stipend Position

Superintendent Compton would like approval to create a stipend position for a district grant writer/coordinator excluding #13 on the job description.

Dr. Compton pointed out the need in the district for someone to write grants as we are missing out on some grant opportunities. She said we have some staff who are interested in doing this above and beyond the scope of their normal job responsibilities. She feels this will be a worthwhile position. Ms. Harmeling expressed her concern with the requirements of 5 years administrative experience and 4 years of research experience. She feels there is not anyone on staff who can fit this bill. Ms. Nesteriak agreed saying it may limit the pool of candidates. She would like #13 removed. Dr. Compton said she would like to get the interviews set up and get this person in place as soon as possible so we don't continue to miss out on grant opportunities. Ms. Harmeling expressed her concern that this job will encroach on the full time position the person holds, especially with the incentive. Dr. Compton said we can take out the incentive and put in back at a later date. The Board asked that the grant writer present a quarterly report of their work to the Board. Mr. Behuniak said he trusts Dr. Compton to manage staff. Dr. Compton said there will be monitoring, and the person will come and report to the Board. She said we can try this and if it doesn't work, we can discontinue. She feels this position will be worth it. Ms. Nesteriak asked about the administration of the grants. Dr. Compton said this will be done by the business manager.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the creation of a stipend position for a district grant writer/coordinator.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

B. Donation

1. Ms. Lindsey Smith would like to donate 288 valentine cards to Bungay School

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the donation of 288 valentine cards from Ms. Lindsey Smith and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

C. Out of State Field Trip

1. Teacher John Fitzgerald would like to take music students to ICCA Northeast Semi Final *a Cappella* Competition at the Berklee Performance Center in Boston MA on March 26, 2023

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the field trip request of teacher John Fitzgerald to take music students on an out of state field trip to Boston, MA on March 26, 2023.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

D. Paraeducators Contract 2022-2025

Dr. Compton thanked the members of the Liaison Committee for the hours that have spent on this contract, saying it has been a long road. Ms. Bruno thanked them also saying that you for the concern fore the students and for the union.

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) move to approve the United Public Service Employees Union Local 424-Unit 80, Seymour BOE Paraeducators contract covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

E. Karen R. Stanek Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat Award

As a former student of Mrs. Stanek, Mr. Hatfield talked about how she inspired him for his love of learning. She always talked about how proud she was to be a wildcat. This is an excellent way to honor her spirit. This award will be added to the list of district awards.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to approve the creation of the Karen R. Stanek Memorial Award

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Harmeling

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

F. Purchase of Track and Field Equipment

Dr. Compton said she is happy to be able to offer a solution so that we can buy the necessary Track and Field equipment that has been needed for two years. She said this situation really bothered her. Mr. Behuniak talked about what equipment is needed so that we can host home meets. The total for this equipment is \$37,600. Dr. Compton confirmed that this money can be taken from the administrative vacancy that has already been budgeted. She said unfortunately we have yet to figure out the swimming program issues. Mr. Behuniak reminded the Board that Track and Field is not more important than other sports, but it is one of the biggest sports we have. Anyone can join. He said it has been disappointing to be unable to host home meets. Seymour is very competitive in Track and Field. Ms. Harmeling wondered out loud why this happened, why it went on so long, and why it was not in the budget. She said the Board needs to know. Mr. Behuniak reminded the Board that the AD brought this to the Board several times.

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to purchase the needed Track and field equipment at a cost of not more than \$37,600.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

X. INFORMATION

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Minutes – February 6, 2023
2. Curriculum and Technology Minutes – February 6, 2023
3. Athletic and Health Committee – February 23, 2023

- B. School Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School
- C. Staff Hiring – Appendix D
 - 1. Stock, Michael
 - Advisor, Alternative Energy Club
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Joe Perrucci
- D. Staff Transfers
 - 1. Hamel, Jodie
 - From Tutor to Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Jasmine Singh Sookhai
 - 2. Rozum, Hannah
 - From Special Education Teacher to Preschool Teacher
 - Districtwide Preschool
- E. Staff Resignations, Non-Certified Staff
 - a. Singh Sookhai, Jasmin
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Effective January 31, 2023
- F. Staff Resignations, Appendix D
 - a. Goldstein, Zachary
 - Head Coach, Boys Basketball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective March 1, 2023

XI. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

Mr. Champagne reminded the Board that the Awards Committee met this week and there is going to be a push to get more nominations this year.
 - 2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see the award meeting in June split into two meetings one for the kids and one for the adults. Mr. Strumello brought up his concern that downtown maybe has not put money aside for the turf field maintenance as agreed upon when the installation was done. He also mentioned that the gym floor is in bad shape and will need to be dealt with. Ms. Nesteriak said we need to do a better job on sports needs. We need to develop our five-year plan. This will keep us from making decisions now without knowing the future. She said the Facilities and Transportation Committee will be meeting again soon.
- B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton said a nice discussion occurred at the Communications Committee surrounding the redesign of the website. Currently we are looking at vendors. The meeting went well, and she feels we are moving forward. She said the work on the strategic plan will commence after April break. She also talked about the Vision of a Graduate. She said the Awards and Policy committee meetings went well. She reminded the Board that the Commissioner of Education will be visiting Seymour on March 8 at 8:30 am.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*A. Director of Curriculum and Instruction (PK-12)

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) move that the Board enter Executive Session for discussion and possible action on the appointment of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction (PK-12). The Board invites Dr. Susan Compton and the candidate into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

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

Into regular session: 10:41 pm

XIII. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Ms. Mary Sue Feige as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction (PK-12).

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 pm

YouTube Link (March 6, 2023)

https://youtube.com/live/M0agF_FeKsg?feature=share