

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2023
6:30 pm
Central Office

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Beth Nesteriak

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:35 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. Purchase of Website Redesign Vendor

Mr. Martin demonstrated the template we are considering for the website redesign. After some research, this one feels like it would be the best choice for us. He also shared some examples of school districts that have use a similar template. Mr. Martin feels confident that this will be easier for users and parents will be happy with this choice. He noted that it has been seven years since the last design update was done. Dr. Compton said the \$13,000 cost for this redesign can come from our remaining ESSER funds that are in the budget.

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the contract from Finalsight for the redesign of the Seymour Public School website.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

B. Possible Non-Renewals for the 2022-23 School Year

1. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers

Dr. Compton explained that the two teachers who were being non-renewed have submitted their resignations so no action by the Board is necessary.

2. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers (Long Term Substitute Teachers)

Dr. Compton explained that it is standard procedure for Long Term Substitutes to be non-renewed at the end of the school year.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non-renew two non-tenured teachers (Samantha Fenton and Deborah Richard) at the end of the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the non-renewed teacher and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

SO VOTED

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

Levey, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

C. Revised 2023-2024 Education Budget

Dr. Compton shared the possible reductions that she and Mr. Bucci came up with the previous evening. She explained that this is an effort to work with the Town and try to reduce our budget if we can. This was based on the outcome of a meeting she attended with the Town on March 15, 2023. At this meeting, there was a discussion about reducing our budget to a 2% increase. The list she shared with the Board are items that can be considered but the decision will be up to the Board to approve. The Board said they would like more information on each item being considered and what the impact would be if it were cut. They went through the list item by item. This led to several discussions about healthcare coverage, facilities maintenance, electricity, instructional supplies/software office supplies, professional dues, and pool maintenance. There was a discussion on the grants and how ESSER funds will be depleted this year. The effort to cut our budget was a very emotional one and the Board tried very hard to make the cuts. The discussion ended with the possibility of cutting staff which was difficult for the Board to consider. This discussion concluded with the decision to non-renew a music teacher for budgetary reasons. MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec, Mr. Behuniak) to submit a revised 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$38,659,535.

SO VOTED

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

Levey, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

D. Hiring Process (Recruitment and Selection)

Dr. Compton distributed Policy 4111 which has to do with hiring and reviewed the hiring process. She also shared two draft job postings with the Board. She asked how the Board wanted to proceed with the posting for Principal at Bungay School and if they wanted a committee for the interviews. The interviewing committee will consist of two Board members, two teachers and two administrators along with Dr. Compton.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Board Member Comments

None

C. Superintendent's Report

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk