

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
May 1, 2023
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Bruno
Shannon Levey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions at 7:34 .m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Charlotte Allegretto
 - b. Leah Guarino
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Camden Kelley
 - b. J.R. Qosja
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Natalie Kitlas
 - b. Kelsey Sproles
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Brett Calabrese

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions

1. Duncan Plude – Valedictorian
2. Madison Jarvis – Salutatorian

III. STUDENT REPORTS

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

- Prom Saturday @ Aqua Turf
- Underclassmen field trip to Lake Compounce is in the works.
- AP tests are going on currently,
- College decision day was today, seniors were encouraged to wear apparel with the college or future endeavor which they are attending.
- Through the next month seniors have several end-of-year activities such as holiday hill picnic day, awards night, senior banquet, and honors breakfast.
- Buttons, Bows, Dresses, and More will open across from the cafeteria and have available dress attire for any occasion.

STUCO -

- 12-day recycling challenge which we spoke about previously during the previous report is currently going on

NHS -

- NHS Ceremony June 1 / renewing old members, inducting new.
- NHS is trying to hold a decathlon; one was held last year was a big hit with students Best Buddies
- Friendship walk Fundraiser for Best Buddy chapters took place on April 29 some members from our school went and participated.

Sports -

- Tennis had a match today against Ansonia.
- Girls and Boys Track and Field has a meet tomorrow @ Holy Cross against Holy Cross and Kennedy.
- Softball game today home against Ansonia .

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 the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

None

V. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Football Kickoff Club Fundraising Proposal

Ms. Amber Burton, of the Seymour Kickoff Club will present a proposal for a fundraising suggestion for the Seymour High School Weight Room. Please visit <https://www.giftbricks.com/>
Ms. Burton introduced a fundraising idea to sell tiles that will be installed on the wall in the weightroom. The website can be viewed at the website indicated above. The Board liked the idea and indicated the Superintendent is the one who is charged with approving fundraising. There was a question about who would install the tiles and Ms. Burton said they are in the very early stages of this project and have not worked out the fine details. Coach Kearns said he thought this was a great opportunity to commemorate family. This would be a fundraiser throughout Seymour High School and would benefit all future athletes. Dr. Compton felt this was a great fundraiser and she has seen this in lots of schools, and it looks great. Ms. Nesteriak asked if Mr. Connors was ok with this and Dr. Compton said he has been consulted. Mr. Champagne wondered about all of the colors of tiles offered, saying it was a lot. Ms. Burton said they have not chosen a color yet but have given blue some consideration. Mr. Strumello said the tradition has always been blue and gold and that should be given some thought. Ms. Burton reiterated that the details have not been worked out yet. The Board asked that they come back to the Board just to communicate what their final plan is.

- B. Strategic Coherence Planning Process – Jonathan Costa
Dr. Compton introduced Jonathan Costa to present to the Board a quick overview of the Strategic Coherence Planning Process that Dr. Compton would like to consider doing in the coming year. After the presentation, Dr. Compton indicated more information will be forthcoming. She said she would like to have two or three Board members participate in the process.
- C. Curriculum and Instruction Update – Mary Sue Feige
Ms. Feige gave her first report to the Board. She reported that she and several administrators and teachers have been reviewing the Science of Reading Literacy program. The ELL Summer Learning program will coincide with the ESL Program from July 3, 2023 – July 27, 2023. She talked about our shortage of substitute teachers. She said we currently have five homeless students. We have three students being tutored by a homebound tutor. She said the walkthroughs have been positive and she feels things are going wonderfully. The Board asked that the professional development days be more consistent next year. For example; have professional development days occur on the third Thursday of the month.
- D. Special Education Enrollment Report – Kris Boyle
Dr. Compton thanked Dr. Boyle for the training he provided to parents for the SEDS program. He indicated last month he was asked why the middle school data was different than the other schools. Dr. Boyle indicated he has done his research and found the report is accurate.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2023
- B. Financial Management Reports – May 1, 2023
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – May 1, 2023
- ~~D. Donations

 - 1. ~~Weightlifting Equipment~~
Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of a donation from the Seymour High School Kickoff Club of several pieces of equipment for the weightlifting room and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.
 - 2. ~~Horowitz, Ronald~~
Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of the donation of \$250 from Mr. Ronald Horowitz for the after-school stem program at Bungay School and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.
 - 3. ~~Seymour Culture and Arts Commission~~
Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of a donation of \$1000, to the Seymour Public Schools Marc Mero Anti-Bullying Program and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.~~
- E. Staff Hiring
 - 1. Gentile, Jenna
 - o Long Term Substitute, Physical Education/Health
 - o Bungay School
 - o Replacing Jeremiah Roman

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the consent agenda with items D1,2,3 removed

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to remove Items D. 1, 2, 3 (Donations) from the consent agenda
SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

D. Donations

1. Weightlifting Equipment

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the donation of all pieces of equipment donated by the Seymour High School Wildcat Kickoff Club and the BOE directs the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

2. Horowitz, Ronald

Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of the donation of \$250 from Mr. Ronald Horowitz for the after-school stem program at Bungay School and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) approve the donation of \$250 from Ronald Horowitz and the BOE directs the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

3. Seymour Culture and Arts Commission

Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of a donation of \$1000, to the Seymour Public Schools Marc Mero Anti-Bullying Program and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the donation of \$1000 from Seymour Culture and Arts Commission and the BOE directs the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Memorial Benches

Ms. Linda Bellavance is seeking approval to install memorial benches for Theresa Hannon at Seymour High School and Holly Zuraw at Chatfield-LoPresti School. Ms. Bellavance is seeking permission to place a memorial bench at Seymour High School and Chatfield-LoPresti School. The benches will be wooden and have a memorial plaque on them. They will be built by high school students. Ms. Bellavance indicated the placement would be near the flag at SHS and near the swings at CLS.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the recommendation of Dr. Susan Compton to give permission for the placement of a memorial bench at Seymour High School in honor of Theresa Hannon and the placement of a memorial bench at Chatfield-LoPresti School in honor of Holly Zuraw.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

- B. Awards Advisory Committee – 2023 Award Recipients
1. 2023 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award
Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2023 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award to _____.
 2. 2023 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award
Recommendation from of the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2023 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to _____.
 3. 2023 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award
Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2023 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to _____.
 4. 2023 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award
Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2023 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award to _____.
 5. 2023 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award
Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2023 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award to _____.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2023 David A. Brumer Award, the John J. Gallagher Award, the Vincentena Kobasa Award, the Thomas J. Petruny Award, and the Karen R. Stanek Award as recommended

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

- C. MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion and possible action on a Senior Class Trip

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

Senior Class President Caden Drezek explained the proposed trip to Boston was cancelled because not enough students signed up to attend. He has been approached by many senior class members asking him to present a new trip to the Board of Education. After some discussion with Senior Class members, Caden Drezek asked for permission for a day trip to Six Flags on June 1, 2023. A coach bus will not be required because there is parking in Connecticut which makes it an in-state trip. To satisfy the educational requirement of trips, Caden has asked the science teachers to submit an assignment on the physics of roller coasters. The trip would be from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Mr. Freund approves of this trip.

MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve a senior class trip to Sic Flags on June 1, 2023

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

OPPOSED: Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 5-1-1

- D. MOTION (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to add to the agenda a discussion and possible adoption on a resolution of the Seymour Board of Education honoring the Class of 2022 inductees of the Seymour High School Alumni Hall of Fame

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adopt the resolution of the Seymour Board of Education honoring the Class of 2022 inductees of the Seymour High School Alumni Hall of Fame

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

- E. MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda a discussion and possible action on the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Chernecky as the 2023 Seymour High School Distinguished Alumnus

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

IX. INFORMATION

- A. Interim Elementary Assistant Principal/Consultant

- o Gentile, John
- o Retired Administrator, Seymour Public Schools
- o May 2, 2023 – June 13, 2023

Dr. Compton explained Mr. Gentile will be working between the two elementary schools and it is a good way to finish up the school year with the personnel changes that have taken place.

- B. Graduation/Moving Up/Promotion Ceremonies

- C. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Minutes – March 6, 2023

- D. School Activities and Recognitions

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

- E. Staff Transfers

1. FitzGerald, John
 - o to split position music teacher, SMS and SHS
 - o 2023-2024 School Year
 - o from full time music teacher, SHS
2. Iadarola, Jocelyn
 - o to full time secretary, SHS
 - o from part time secretary, SHS
 - o Replacing Theresa Hannon
3. Parrish, Courtney
 - o to music teacher, CLS
 - o 2023-2024 School Year
 - o from music teacher, SMS

- F. Staff Resignations

1. Arms, Donna
 - o Instructional Paraeducator
 - o Bungay School
 - o Effective April 5, 2023

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Champagne thanked Ms. Bruno for being the temporary chairperson at the last meeting. He congratulated the Class of 2023 Top 10 Students.

He reminded the public that the referendum is on Thursday, May 4, 2023, and asked that the public support both the Town and Education budgets.

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Harmeling said there is a lot of chatter on social media, yet no direct questions have been asked of the Board of Education. She encouraged people to ask questions. A vote of no is not a show of dissatisfaction and will move the district backward. She also thanked the Seymour High School Wildcat Kickoff Club for their very generous donations. Mr. Behuniak also wanted to thank the kickoff club for their donations. Mr. Champagne said he has done some research and has found the current budget is \$163,000 less than when Mr. Belden was Business Manager. He said signs for the referendum are available. It was also noted that Mr. Belden was the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, which is a position that was eliminated.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton said the Board of Education is as lean as we can be, and we have done our due diligence. She reported that several great things have been going on in our district including the recognition of Officer Barnard on television. We also presented a Gun Safety program to students at Bungay School and will also present it at Chatfield-LoPresti School. Dr. Compton thanked Jay Hatfield and Rich Kearns for getting this program off the ground. Several of our students were honored at the SCASA Luncheon on April 28. Mr. Josh Swetts, Seymour High School Music and Social Studies Teacher and Advisor to the Performing Arts club recently applied, and was one of two schools to be accepted, into the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation, TeachRock and CT State Department of Education Cohort 3 class of 2023.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm

YouTube Link (May 1, 2023)

<https://youtube.com/live/N0maQQ43Yps?feature=share>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk