

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL BOE MEETING MINUTES
Central Office
May 15, 2023
6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephan Behuniak

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
Amber Burton
Jake Velleco

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:06 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.

Amber Burton, 18 Edgehill Terrace – Thanked the Board for all that they do, noting it is not an easy job especially around this time of year with the budget. She also commented on the impact a possible pay to play program would have on the booster clubs. She said they collect dues from the parents and if parents would have to pay to play it would impact the money that comes into the booster clubs. She noted that parents could possibly want more from the district if they have to pay to play.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Seymour Education Budget 2023-2024

Dr. Compton opened the discussion by explaining this meeting is a working session to try and reduce the budget by \$434,000, which is the amount the Town Board of Finance most recently cut from the education budget. She noted this is in addition to the \$516,227 previously cut. The total cut for this budget is \$950,227. She explained we need to make cuts to the budget but not affect the education of our students, which are our most valuable commodity. She proposed the following cuts to reduce the budget:

Building Maintenance	\$100,000	The discussion involved us having to give up maintenance of the buildings in order to keep services for our children. It was decided that there will be no Sunday use of the school or practices as this results in double time for the custodians in the building. Last year, a part-time secretary was approved for one year only. She recently was hired to replace a full-time secretary. It was decided not to replace the part-time secretarial position. A social studies teacher at SMS has resigned and it was decided there is not a need to replace him. If there is a need we have a special education teacher on staff who has a social studies certificate who can possible step in part-time. Mr. Bucci suggested this reduction because as a result of the negotiation of new health care coverage, we will have a 0% increase in healthcare premiums this year. Changes in software technology contracts Decided not to provide matching funds for a 2:1 grant which was to be used to install additional interior cameras.
Custodial Overtime	\$100,000	
Part Time Secretary (SHS)	\$22,000	
Social Studies Teacher (SMS)	\$78,000	
Employee Benefits (0% Premium)	\$100,000	
Technology	\$80,000	
Equipment Non-Instructional	\$75,000	

There was a discussion by Board members on the process for budgets in the Town of Seymour and what we may expect in the future. Several Board members gave Dr. Compton the authority to present various plans to make changes that might possibly avoid these budget issues in the future. The Board agreed we need to do more outreach during the budget season, so our voters are better informed of the “how’s and why’s” of our education budget.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman’s Report

B. Superintendent’s Report

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk