

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
June 20, 2023
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
Jay Hatfield
Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Shannon Levey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
David Moktan, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Alana Zhingri, Interim Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions at 7:02 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions (Final for 22-23)

1. Bungay School
 - a. Brittany Grandieri
 - b. Vienna Zanfardino
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Camden Kelley (May Recipient)
 - b. Etta Hansen
 - c. Ryan Edwards
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Kimora Pierre
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Brett Calabrese (May Recipient)
 - b. Meagan Keeffe
 - c. Alexa Lambert

Dr. Compton thanked the parents for supporting the program. She brought it from New Jersey, but Seymour brought it to another level.

III. 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

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Special Education Enrollment Report – Dr. Kris Boyle

Dr. Boyle explained that three outplaced students are in process of changing from one school to another. Their current schools asked us to exit them from our system. Once placed, they will show back up again in the fall.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2023
2. Special BOE Meeting – May 15, 2023
3. Special BOE Meeting – May 31, 2023

B. Financial Management Reports – June 13, 2023

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – June 13, 2023

~~D. Donations~~

~~1. Seymour Pumpkin Festival~~

~~Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of a donation of \$500 from the Seymour Pumpkin Festival to the Seymour High School Unified Cheer Team and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.~~

E. Staff Hiring – Certified

1. Hunt, Jessica
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Samantha Schofield

F. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified

1. Marrinan, William
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Lindsay Oddo

~~G. Staff Hiring – Appendix D~~

- ~~1. Griscorn, Emily~~
 - ~~• Yearbook Advisor, 2022-2023 School Year~~
 - ~~• Seymour Middle School~~
 - ~~• Replacing Nick Frosolone~~

H. Staff Hiring – Appendix D

1. Gentile, Jenna
 - Physical Education Teacher
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Jeremiah Roman

~~I. Salary Increase, Nutrition Services – Ms. Cindy Brooks~~

~~Ms. Brooks is recommending a 2% increase in wages for all Nutrition Services employees for the 2023-2024 School Year.~~

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the consent agenda with items D, G, I removed

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to remove Items D,G,I

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

D. Donations

1. Seymour Pumpkin Festival

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the donation of \$500 donated by the Seymour Pumpkin Festival to the Seymour Unified Cheer Team and the BOE directs the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

G. Staff Hiring – Appendix D

1. Griscom, Emily

- Yearbook Advisor, 2022-2023 School Year
- Seymour Middle School
- Replacing Nick Frosolone

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the hiring of Emily Griscom for Yearbook Advisor for the 22-23 School Year.

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

I. Salary Increase, Nutrition Services – Ms. Cindy Brooks

Ms. Brooks is recommending a 2% increase in wages for all Nutrition Services employees for the 2023-2024 School Year.

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the 2% increase of wages for all Nutrition Services employees for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Dr. Compton explained that this year due to a tighter budget due to no free meals, that is why it is a 2% raise. Ms. Brooks does an outstanding job, one of the best Food Service Directors in Connecticut.

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Independent Contracts

1. Barnard, Ronald

- School Security Officer
- Bungay School

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the contract for Mr. Ron Barnard for the 2023-2024 School Year.

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

2. Brooks, Cindy
 - Director of Nutrition Services
 - Districtwide

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the contract for Ms. Cindy Brooks for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

3. Cleveland, Meaghan
 - Part Time Athletic Trainer
 - Seymour High School

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the contract for Ms. Meaghan Cleveland for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

4. Daniels, Charles
 - Computer Technician
 - Districtwide

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the contract for Mr. Charles Daniels for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

5. Dauerty, Lee-Ann
 - Executive Administrative Assistant
 - Central Office

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the contract for Ms. Lee-Ann Dauerty for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

6. Dauerty, Lee-Ann
 - Facebook Facilitator
 - Central Office

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the contract for Ms. Lee-Ann Dauerty for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

7. Kochan, Charles
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Districtwide

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the contract for Mr. Kochan for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

8. Martin, Derrick

- Website Maintenance
- Central Office

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the contract for Mr. Derrick Martin for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

9. Pimpinelli, Kevin
 - School Security Officer
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the contract for Mr. Kevin Pimpinelli for the 2023-2024 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

B. Health Aide

1. To extend the position of Health Aide to the 2023-2024 school year ending June 30, 2024.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to extend the position of Health Aide to the 2023-2024 school year ending June 30, 2024.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

2. To hire Jarely Rodriquez for the position of Health Aide for the 2023-2024 school year

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to hire Jarely Rodriquez for the position of Health Aide for the 2023-2024 school year

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

C. Bilingual PreK-12 Teacher

Create a position of .5 Bilingual and TESOL Certified PreK-12 Teacher based upon State of Connecticut mandated requirements.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to table the creation of Bilingual PreK-12 Teacher based upon the State of Connecticut mandated requirements until the July meeting

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

Dr. Compton reassured we will come back with a job description.

D. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading Program

To approve, based on the C.G.S. 10-14ii, a six-year contract to purchase Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's, Into Reading, an evidenced-based and scientifically based reading program for kindergarten through grade three for the 2023-2024 school year that is mandated to be implemented by all public-school districts effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

Selection of the committee. Dr. Compton commented that other districts are going with this program as well. It meets the criteria. Oxford and Fairfield are going with it, along with many school districts in Massachusetts. Mr. Bucci commented that the 6 year program is significantly less than purchasing one year at a time. Mr. Bucci commented on the cost of the program and is trying to work out a payment plan over a 3-4 year term. He thinks he can make this work in the budget. Mrs. Feige has been working on the CSDE Right to Read Grant and Mr. Bucci indicated Mr. Lucke's been doing a terrific job to find money. Ms. Bruno has asked if the extension has been approved. Dr. Compton said that we are better off to move forward and try to do this. Dr. Compton reminded the Board they had an opportunity to come and view/be a part of it. There was discussion about the cost, available grants, and how some districts are paying up front. Mr. Bucci shared that he feels that this is doable.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to table this topic to the July meeting to allow to collect more information

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

E. mClass dibels 8th Edition

To approve, pursuant to Section 10-14t(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), mCLASS DIBELS 8th edition, to identify students in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, who are below proficiency in reading, as a way to “assist in identifying, in whole or in part, students at risk for Dyslexia, as defined in Section 10-3d of the C.G.S., or other reading-related learning disabilities.”

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to also table this similar topic to the July meeting to allow to collect more information

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

F. NWEA Map – Seymour High School

Approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology committee meeting to replace the NWEA Map with IXL Assessments for Seymour High School

Ms. Bruno recommended Mr. Freund makes a change as to how we are progress monitoring at the High School. Mr. Freund spoke briefly about how most districts do not have NWEA MAP at the high school because it is not efficient as far as preparing for SATs and AP classes. Less instructional time would be lost if we replace NWEA MAP at the high school level with IXL

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve to replace NWEA with IXL assessments

DISCUSSION: Ms. Nesteriak said it sounds like a great improvement to consistency and best practice.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

G. Settlement Agreement

To approve the settlement agreement presented to the Board in the matter of Joseph Falzone v. Seymour Public Schools on the terms set forth therein.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the settlement agreement presented to the Board in the matter of Joseph Falzone v. Seymour Public Schools on the terms set forth therein.

DISCUSSION: Discussion was held regarding it was a personnel situation before the Superintendent’s time, and that it is hard because no one present was involved or informed about the situation. The community should know it wasn’t in the Board’s hands and hard to account financially for it. However, Mr. Champagne expressed to his knowledge, the town insurance should cover it.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

H. 2023-2024 Education Budget

To approve the budget of \$38,158,839 (2.5%) for the 2023-2024 Board of Education

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve the budget of \$38,158,839 (2.5%) for the 2023-2024 Board of Education

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Minutes – May 1, 2023

B. School Activities and Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 3. Seymour Middle School
 4. Seymour High School
- C. Staff Resignations – Appendix D
1. Cleveland, Brian
 - Assistant Coach, Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 13, 2023
 2. Cleveland, Brian
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 13, 2023
- D. Staff Resignations – Certified
1. Pellerito, Laura
 - School Psychologist
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 30, 2023
 2. Verlezza, Kathleen
 - Business Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 30, 2023 (Retirement)
- E. Staff Resignations – Non-Certified
1. Frisbie, Trevor
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 13, 2023
 2. Kearns, Rich
 - Director of Security
 - Districtwide
 - Effective June 9, 2023 (Retirement)
 3. Mowers, Tyler
 - Social Studies Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2023
 4. Neddermann, Kim
 - Literacy Numeracy Tutor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective May 19, 2023
 5. Tucci, Barbara
 - Nutrition Services
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 13, 2023 (Retirement)
 6. Randolph, Jan
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 13, 2023 (Retirement)

Dr. Compton wants to wish all the best to Ms. Pellerito. After 15 years of service she's moving on to Newtown Public Schools as the head psychologist of their preschool program. Special thank you to her and all the other people on the list for various reasons. Ms. Bruno commended Dr. Boyle has a dream team for the extended school year program. Wished a great ESY. Dr. Compton said Dr. Boyle and Ms. Brett have both worked extremely hard.

F. Staff Transfers – Non-Certified

1. Swan-Buhl, Erin
 - Nutrition Services
 - From Seymour Middle School to Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective July 1, 2023

G. ESY/ELL Summer Hiring

1. Acknowledge the hiring of Sarah Acevedo(Nurse), Sandra Andes, Deborah Baldarelli, Bruno Battaglia, Deborah Bennett, Allison Brett, Allyson Burroughs, Mridula Chaudhary, Erica Cole, Caitlin Davies, Marissa DeCola(Nurse), Samantha Fenton, Rachel Ferruggia, Kelley Garofalo, Lisa Goodfellow, Emily Griscom, Barbara Haste, Deane Herde, Wanda Horenian(Nurse), Jennifer Karpovich, Kerilyn Karpovich, Dawn LaLlave, Alyssa Latanowich, Amy Lebetkin, Lisa Mariano, Lucille McGinn, Lindsay Oddo, Suzanne O'Hara, Jennifer Piscioniere, Julia Roshkind, Deborah Schietromo, Jacqueline Sullivan, Chelsea Troxell, Jeanine Weaver, Jennifer Widlar, and Lauren Zeidler for the 2022-2023 Extended School Year Program.

H. SHS Credit Recovery Program

If you or your high schooler failed classes with a final grade of 50-59, they are eligible to attend summer school to restore credit.

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments
Mr. Champagne commented that graduation was nice, organized, Fire, Police, EMS, nice day, rain held off a bit.
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Strumello mentioned he attended all of the moving up ceremonies and concurs with Mr. Champagne that the high school ceremony and all of them were excellent. Mr. Strumello mentioned the Bungay School Facility Needs Study Committee, a meeting was held. Chair is Mr. Stanek, Vice Chair Mr. Connors, Secretary is Ms. Bennett. Talked about things going on such as it is the only school that doesn't have a separate parent bus loop, challenging due to topography and limited options. Also, the only school without central air. It is air-cooled, but not air conditioned. Ms. Bruno wanted to congratulate the Superintendent and Board Chair on the Valley Independent saying Seymour has a gold standard for meeting agendas.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton wanted to say a wonderful thank you to employees, students, and parents. All of the moving up/graduation ceremonies were tremendous. Nothing more spectacular than graduation. She thought it was done with class, dignity, and the Alumni hall of fame and Awards night were excellent. Special thank you to all our employees. Proud of everyone, including the board, having seven people in attendance. Thank you to the town and the First Selectwoman, it is important to come together as a town and school community and embrace the graduates. We had an Athletic committee meeting. Looking to come back to the board to restructure.

X. SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- *A. Discussion and possible action concerning the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (maybe discussed in executive session)

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

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to go into Executive Session and invite Dr. Compton.

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

XI. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to adjourn the Executive Session

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

MOTION PASSES 6-0-0

The Executive Session ended at 9:28 p.m.

YouTube Link (July 20, 2023)

https://youtube.com/live/e-VgqLT5O_M?feature=share