

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
July 17, 2023
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Beth Nesteriak
James Garofolo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Derrick Martin, Technology
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 at 7:38 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Compton shared that everyone is having a great summer. She gave recognition to Alison Brett who is overseeing the ESY program this summer which has almost 90 kids attending. Dr. Compton has visited, but plans on going to visit each room individually very soon. She stated all staff are doing a great job, and the students seem happy. She gave kudos to our custodians with the great work that they're doing, especially with waxing all the school floors this summer. Everyone at each school is working very hard. She gave a special thank you to all of the time and effort they put into everything they do. For overall communication, she stated we will talk about some administrative vacancies on the agenda, that process, and the Director of Security position as well, along with future postings, and how the board would like to handle that. Kindergarten signups are continuing, with most being fully registered. At this time, there are three classes projected for Bungay and five for Chatfield. She mentioned she spent two weeks in Kentucky and appreciated the time and it is nice to be back.

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

A. Elementary ELA Curriculum Review Into Reading (2023) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Grades K-5

Mrs. Feige presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the program and answering some questions the Board had at the last meeting. Dr. Compton thought it was a very thorough presentation and that literacy drives everything. She stated Oxford and Fairfield are going with the program.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023
2. Special BOE Meeting – June 20, 2023

B. Financial Management Reports – June 20, 2023

C. Staff Hiring – Certified

1. Murphy, Brianna
 - Fourth Grade Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Leigh Savoie
2. ~~TBD – Name by Monday~~
 - ~~Library Media Specialist~~
 - ~~Bungay Elementary School~~
 - ~~Replacing Alyssa Generali~~

D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. Berthold, Angela
 - Cook position – Nutritional Services
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Staci Faria
2. Molyneux, Alison
 - Monitor Paraprofessional – Part Time
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Alyssa Cosciello

E. Intra District Transfers Request 2023-24 School Year

F. District Wide Preschool Program

Pre-K program moving from Chatfield-LoPresti to Bungay Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the consent agenda with item C 2. Removed.

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

2. TBD – Name by Monday
 - Library Media Specialist
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Alyssa Generali

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Bilingual PreK-12 Teacher

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

Dr. Compton stated we have to create this position per state mandate based upon current numbers. At this time, it would be more geared towards elementary. The board then determined we would just hire a teacher, without creating a new position.

B. Approval of Job Description for .5 Bilingual/TESOL Teacher

The board thought it was beneficial to look at it, however action not needed if new position isn't being created.

C. 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.

MOTION: (Harmeling/sec., Behuniak) based on 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.

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 6-1-0

D. 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: (Ms. Nesteriak, sec., Ms. Harmeling) 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."

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

OPPOSED:

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

E. Athletic Training, 2023-2024

ProActive Sports Medicine, Seymour High School, 2023-2024 school year only

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Mr. Behuniak) to table until the August meeting.

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

OPPOSED: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES 3-1-3

F. Create a position of Teacher/Athletic Director for Seymour High School.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Mr. Behuniak) to create a position of Teacher/Athletic Director for Seymour High School.

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

OPPOSED:

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

G. Approve to post the Assistant Athletic Director Stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve to post the Assistant Athletic Director Stipend position for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

H. Discussion and next steps regarding the Director of Security vacancy.

We have a draft of a job description from the former Director of Security, also a good one from Shelton, which was shorter, but concise. This is not to approve, but to talk about next steps, and to move forward and post with your approval. Law enforcement degree is not necessary, any kind of law enforcement service capacity qualifies. Dr. Compton thinks the Board personnel committee should conduct interviews and select a candidate.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling, sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the posting of the Director of Security position.

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

MOTION PASSES 7-0-0

- I. Discussion and next steps regarding the hiring process of SMS Principal vacancy.
Dr. Compton stated that the Board should all be involved on how they would like the hiring conducted. Dr. Compton would like four Board members instead of two this time as it is one of the most important positions. Mr. Champagne asked for a time frame, and Dr. Compton stated it was posted internally last Wednesday, then after seven days it will be posted on CTREAP, and that in the end, the Board will make the final decision. The more Board members involved, the better. Dr. Compton also stated it could come down to two or three candidates brought before the Board for selection. All Board members were given the opportunity to serve on the personnel committee. Ms. Harmeling shared that there should be other qualified people on the hiring committee such as police chief, security officers, etc as they are the most qualified in the security field. Mr. Behuniak shared some concerns about this person being a pseudo-administrator or police officer in the school, as those titles are already covered. Dr. Compton stated we can take out the administrative language in the posting.

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Staff Resignations – Appendix D

1. Velleco, Jake
 - Assistant Coach, Boys and Girls Swim Team
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 27, 2023

B. Staff Resignations – Certified

1. Generali, Alyssa
 - Library Media Specialist
 - Bungay School
 - Effective June 21, 2023
2. Roden, Jodie
 - Principal
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2023

C. Staff Resignations – Non-Certified

1. Cosciello, Alyssa
 - Lunch Monitor
 - Bungay School
 - Effective June 13, 2023
2. Zeidler, Lauren
 - Paraprofessional
 - Bungay School
 - Effective July 27, 2023

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments
None.
2. Board Member Comments
None.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton gave a thank you to Jake Velleco for his time in helping with the boys and girls swim teams and understands the demands of his current graduate program and hopes he will come back to coaching. Dr. Compton also gave a thank you to Jodie Roden for four years of dedication to Seymour Public Schools, and that she was a very dedicated administrator.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak
MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

YouTube Link:

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

Submitted by: Alana Zhingri
Interim Board Clerk