

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Beth Nesteriak
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Kristen Harmeling
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
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Kathleen Reynolds, Assistant Principal, SMS
Allison Brett
Ronald Barnard

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Champagne reported he had received a letter from CABC regarding the renewal of our membership. He also congratulated Mr. Strumello on his designation as a Distinguished Member. Dr. Compton said we will do a special presentation for Mr. Strumello to honor him.

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.

Mr. Paul Roy, Seymour High School Sports Hall Fame – wanted to let the Board of Education know the induction ceremony is on October 28, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the Birchwoods at Oak Lane. This year's inductees are:

Dan Paul - Class of 1959, Baseball, Basketball, and Football, Jack Moresko – Class of 1967, Football, Baseball, Basketball, Ernie Greywacz – Class of 1972, Football, Heather Landolfi – Class of 1990, Softball, Basketball, Rebecca Blake – Class of 1991, Swimming, Bill Brooks – Class of 1992, Baseball, Football. He reported the Outstanding Contribution Award was being presented to Rich Lewis, Sportswriter, Statistician, Team Manager. Public Comment closed at 7:34 pm.

IV. REPORTS- AND PRESENTATIONS

A. None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes 5:00 pm – July 17, 2023
 - 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes 7:30 pm – July 17, 2023
 - 3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023
- B. Financial Management Reports – August 7, 2023
- C. Interim Principal, BES
To appoint Stacey Long as Bungay School Interim Principal for Lauren Reid while she is on leave for six weeks.
- D. Interim Principal, SMS
To appoint Kathleen Reynolds as Seymour Middle School Interim Principal until a principal is appointed (30 days)
- ~~E. Memorandum of Understanding – School Resource Officer~~
- F. Foreign Exchange Student
- G. Staff Hiring
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Perugini, Haleigh
 - Library Media Specialist
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Alyssa Generali
 - b. O'Connor, Chelsea
 - Business Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Kathleen Verlezza
 - ~~c. Rubbo, BriAnna~~
 - ~~· Student Support Services Psychologist~~
 - ~~· Chatfield-LoPresti School~~
 - ~~· Replacing Laura Pellerito~~
 - d. Gauthier, Erica
 - Long Term Substitute Guidance Counselor
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Kayla Salvati
 - e. Herlihy, Kayla
 - Kindergarten Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - New Position
 - 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Anderson, Danielle
 - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Laurel Morris
 - b. DeFrank, Andrea
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Jan Randolph
 - c. Gutgsell, Whitney
 - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Jodie Hamel

- d. Juergensen, Anneliese
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Lauren Ziedler
- e. Nowotny, Toni
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Genienne Gilormino
- f. Dzwonkowski, Madison
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Donna Arms

3. Appendix D

- a. Monaco, Jennifer
 - Teachers Contract
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Brian Cleveland
- b. Widlar, Jennifer
 - Teachers Contract
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Swim
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Brian Cleveland
- c. Recklet, Christopher
 - Coach, Boys Soccer
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Zachary Goldstein
- d. Snell, Lorena
 - Coach, Volleyball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Alyssa Generali

MOTION: to approve the consent agenda with the following items removed:

G. 1. c – Brianna Rubbo and E. Memorandum of Understanding School Resource Officer

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- E. Memorandum of Understanding School Resource Officer

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to table the Memorandum of Understanding School Resource Officer to the September 11, 2023 Board of Education meeting

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

G. 1. c – This candidate declined the offer. No action is needed.

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Part Time Secretary – Seymour High School

Dr. Compton said we did this year last year. This is in the budget and will not add any cost. This secretary will be crucial and will do attendance and tardies.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the addition of a part time secretary position for Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

B. Appendix D Position – Robotics

Mr. Freund said the DECA Advisor retired and the funds have gone unused. Changing this to Robotics will allow the Robotic Team to go to competition. No cost to the budget.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield, sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve the change of an Appendix D for DECA Advisor to Robotics for Seymour High School

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

C. Non-Resident Enrollment Parent Request

Dr. Compton is requesting the Board waive the 90-day limit so that this family can enroll their child at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. The family is building a home in Seymour but are currently living in Oxford until the home is done. Construction is supposed to be complete by January 31.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve the request of Dr. Susan Compton to waive the 90-day limit in Policy 5118 and allow the registration of Antonio Izzo at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

D. New Position – Speech-Language Pathologist (0.5 FTE)

Dr. Compton explained this position is mandated due to an IEP.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the addition of a new position, Speech-Language Pathologist (0.5 FTE) as presented by Dr. Susan Compton

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

E. Cooperative Agreement with Oxford Public Schools for Student Transfers

Dr. Compton is working with Oxford Public Schools to send one of our students to Oxford and take one of their students to attend in Seymour. She hoped to have an agreement in place but has not finalized it. She hopes to have it for the next Board of Education meeting on September 11, 2023.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to defer this item to the September 11, 2023, Board of Education meeting.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

F. Transfer

1. Long, Stacey

- Assistant Principal
- Bungay Elementary School
- Replacing Lauren Reid

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the transfer of Stacey Long to the position of Assistant Principal at Bungay Elementary School to replace Lauren Reid

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

2. DiStasi, Ernie

- Assistant Principal
- Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
- Replacing Stacey Long

Dr. Compton said Mr. DiStasi is a long-term dedicated educator who wanted a change. She supports this transfer and appreciates his devotion.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the transfer of Ernie DiStasi to the position of Assistant Principal at Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School to replace Stacey Long

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

G. Additional New Hires

1. Henry, Edward

- Director of Security
- Districtwide
- Replacing Rich Kearns

Dr. Compton said the interviewing process for the Director of Security position was thorough and the committee was made up of 3 Board of Education members, the Police Chief, and Mr. Steven Ditria. Their selection of Mr. Edward Henry will allow the continuance of the legacy of Mr. Rich Kearns. Safety is our number one concern. Mr. Henry has an impressive resume. Dr. Compton said he is an outstanding choice.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to appoint Mr. Edward Henry to the position of Director of Security (Districtwide) for the period of August 7, 2023, to June 30, 2024 to replace Rich Kearns

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

2. Federowicz, Cathy

- Director of Athletics
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Ernie DiStasi

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to appoint Cathy Federowicz to the position of Athletic Director at Seymour High School to replace Ernie DiStasi

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

3. Assistant Athletic Director

Willadsen, David

- Director of Athletics
- Seymour High School
- Replacing Cathy Federowicz

Mr. Strumello asked about the status of coaching for the Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director. Dr. Compton said they will be allowed to continue to coach. Mr. Hatfield noted that neither one of them coach at the same time.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to appoint David Willadsen to the position of Assistant Athletic Director at Seymour High School to replace Cathy Federowicz

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

H. Authorization to Carry a Firearm on School Grounds 2023-2024 School Year

To allow the Superintendent in collaboration with the Seymour Chief of Police to authorize Edward Henry (Director of Security), Ronald Barnard (School Security Officer BES), Kevin Pimpinelli (School Security Officer CLS) and Thomas Bennett (School Security Officer Substitute) to carry a firearm on school grounds through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This arrangement will be reviewed and reauthorized prior to the beginning of each school year.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to allow the Superintendent in collaboration with the Seymour Chief of Police to authorize Edward Henry (Director of Security), Ronald Barnard (School Security Officer BES), Kevin Pimpinelli (School Security Officer CLS) and Thomas Bennett (School Security Officer Substitute) to carry a firearm on school grounds through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This arrangement will be reviewed and reauthorized prior to the beginning of each school year.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

I. ProActive Sports Contract 2023-2024

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to defer the approval of the ProActive Sports Contract for the 2023-2024 school year and send it to the Athletic and Health Committee for further discussion as soon as possible.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Staff Resignations

1. Certified

- a. Liberda, Alison
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective July 17, 2023
- b. Parrish, Courtney
 - Music Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective July 28, 2023

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add the resignation of Catlin Jurkowski, Kindergarten Teacher CLS to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add the resignation of Dawn Black, Special Education Teacher BES to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add the resignation of Jocelyn Iadarola, Secretary SHS, to the agenda

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

2. Non-Certified

a. Bergstrom, Deborah

- Instructional Paraprofessional
- Chatfield-LoPresti School
- Effective July 17, 2023

b. LaLlave, Dawn

- Instructional Paraprofessional
- Seymour Middle School
- Effective August 14, 2023

3. Appendix D

a. Prasauckas, Craig

- Head Coach, Girls Basketball
- Seymour Middle School
- Effective June 12, 2023

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments

Mr. Champagne congratulated Mr. Strumello on being recognized as a CABA Master Board of Education member.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield thanked Dr. Compton for her leadership over the summer. Dr. Compton did a lot of work over the summer. Dr. Compton thanked Mr. Hatfield for his support and thanked her staff at Central Office, administrators, and staff for their support. Mr. Garofolo echoed Mr. Hatfield's thoughts on Dr. Compton and added that he is pleased with the Superintendent's work and thanked her for the fine job.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton noted that we lost two great educators this month. Catlin Jurkowski is leaving Seymour to work in Bethlehem as reading consultant. Dr. Compton wants to honor her outstanding service to the Seymour Public Schools. She said Caitlin has a bright future. We also lost Dawn Black, a special education teacher at BES after 19 years with us. She has landed a job in Milford about one mile from her home. She is an outstanding educator and one of our super stars. She said we can't fault someone for taking a job so close to home. Dr. Compton reported that the new teacher orientation will be on August 23-24 and thanked the four teachers who put the program together. The administrative retreat will be on August 22-23 and will include training and goals. She gave a quick update on the 2nd round of interviews for the Seymour Middle School Principal position and hoped to have a special meeting based on the recommendation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

YouTube Link: (08/07/23)

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

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk