

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Seymour Middle School  
Library Media Center  
October 2, 2023  
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield  
Ed Strumello  
Stephan Behuniak  
Kristen Bruno  
Shannon Levey

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling  
Beth Nesteriak

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools  
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager  
Alana Zhingri, Interim Board Clerk  
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Derrick Martin, Technology  
Dr. Kristopher Boyle, Director of Pupil Services  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Keith O'Rourke, Principal, SMS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Stacey Long, Interim Principal, BES  
Stephanie Ciccone, Teacher, SHS  
Jeff Gilbert, Teacher, SHS  
Karen Studley, Social Worker, SMS  
Sarah Quinn, Music Teacher, SMS  
Chloe Germain, School Psychologist, BES  
Rebecca DeAngelis, Teacher, CLS  
Allison Cunningham, Teacher, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.  
Dr. Compton said a special thank you to all of our administrators, staff and faculty for carrying out the C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N. vision.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School

- a. Kylee George
- b. Fabian Gutierrez

2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - a. Charlotte Tucker
    - b. Zoe Rice
  3. Seymour Middle School
    - a. Juliana Bell
    - b. Jason Sciaraffa
  4. Seymour High School
    - a. Kaya Dupee
- B. Superintendent Student Recognitions
1. Nathan Carbajal
  2. Zachary Jones
  3. Jillian Sullivan
  4. U.S. News and World Report - 2023-2024 Best High Schools
- Seymour High School was recognized as one of the top performing high schools. We are proud of this National recognition.

### III. STUDENT REPORTS

- A. BOE Student Representative  
 MOTION (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak): to approve the recommendation of the High School Administration and the Student Council to appoint Kaitlyn Hamilton as the Alternate BOE Student Representative

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

- B. HS Student Representative Report- Sophia Motyl, Kaitlyn Hamilton  
National Honor Society  
 elections occurred this past week, big ideas going around to give back to the school community.  
Newspaper Club  
 First newspaper will come out at the end of October.  
Homecoming  
 Homecoming is 10/21 at SHS. It will be the Tangled theme "At last I see the light". Spirit week is right before that.  
Senior Class  
 Rock design has been chosen.  
PowderPuff game  
 between Senior and Junior girls is in the works.  
KinderCats  
 Starting mid-October. 2 Kindergarten classes at Bungay school and seniors at the High school.  
Football  
 Record 1-3. 7 games left. Next game Home Friday vs. Derby  
Boys Soccer  
 3-1-3  
 10 games left.  
 Next game Wednesday Home vs. WCA  
Girls Soccer  
 Record 1-1. 9 games left. Next game Thursday Home vs. St. Paul  
Volleyball

10-0. 11 games left. Next match is tomorrow Away vs. Kennedy

Girls Swimming

Next meet Tuesday Home vs. Kennedy.

Hope Club and Environmental Club

Worked together on 9/22 to pick up trash on school grounds. Upcoming fundraiser to raise money to purchase supplies and make blankets for the homeless.

Yearbook

In early stages of development.

Art Club

Working on clay pumpkins and next project is fall landscape painting

Performing Arts

Preparing for show next spring

Environmental Club

Members will be visiting the Maritime Aquarium on 10/6 to become acquainted with flora and fauna of Long Island Sound and how humans have an impact on aquatic lives.

Debate Club

First match at Joel Barlow High School

Spanish Club

Preparing for Dia de los Muertos, making papel picado and decorating sugar skulls.

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

A. Director of Curriculum & Instruction District Highlights – Mary Sue Feige

B. School Improvement Plan CLS – David Olechna and Ernie DiStasi

C. School Improvement Plan CLS PowerPoint Presentation– David Olechna and Ernie DiStasi gave their School Improvement Plan for CLS Presentation

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to remove Reports 5 to after items under discussion and possible action.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. ~~Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023~~

B. ~~Financial Management Reports – October 2, 2023~~

C. Nutrition Services Finance Report – October 2, 2023

D. Staff Hiring

1. Certified

- a. DeGrave, Jennifer
  - Mathematics Teacher
  - Seymour Middle School
  - New Position
- b. Avena, Michael
  - Attendance/Tardy Officer
  - Seymour High School
  - New Position - Stipend
- c. Cheney, Lisa
  - Attendance/Tardy Officer
  - Seymour High School
  - New Position - Stipend
- d. Ciccone, Stephanie
  - Attendance/Tardy Officer
  - Seymour High School
  - New Position - Stipend
- e. Fearon, Nicole
  - Attendance/Tardy Officer
  - Seymour High School
  - New Position - Stipend
- f. Verchili, Laura
  - Attendance/Tardy Officer
  - Seymour High School
  - New Position - Stipend
- g. Ferruggia, Rachel
  - BCBA/Teacher Specialist
  - Districtwide
  - New Position - Stipend
- h. Anelli, Melissa
  - Content Area Coordinator School Counselor
  - Secondary Education
  - New Position - Stipend
2. Non-Certified
  - a. Andrews, Tarra
    - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Replacing Kim Nederman
  - b. Danka, Melanie
    - Instructional Paraeducator
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Replacing Linda Souza
  - c. Holz, Heather
    - Instructional Paraeducator
    - Bungay School
    - New Position
  - d. Johora, Fatema
    - Nutrition Services Worker

- Bungay School
- Replacing Courtney McCarthy
- e. Megale, Lindsay
  - Secretary
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Jenilee Hon
- f. Soriano-Perez, Daibi
  - Instructional Paraeducator
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Replacing Sarah Heslin
- g. Tantrum, Jamie
  - Instructional Paraeducator
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Replacing

MOTION: to approve the consent agenda with removal of approval of Sept. 11th minutes (to correct Attendance Officers to Attendance/Tardy Officers) and item B.

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

#### VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

~~A. Approval of Minutes~~

~~1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023~~

~~B. Financial Management Reports – October 2, 2023~~

#### VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Out of State Field Trip

Approve the request of Erin Scozzafava to take Grade 9 and 10 Biology Classes to the American Museum of Natural History and Carmine's Upper West Side on Friday, March 8, 2024.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Mr. Behuniak) to approve the request of Erin Scozzafava to take Grade 9 and 10 Biology Classes to the American Museum of Natural History and Carmine's Upper West Side on Friday, March 8, 2024.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

B. Europe Summer Trip

Stephanie Ciccone and Dave Willadsen gave details of the trip and name of the company, EF Tours.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the Europe Trip proposed by Stephanie Ciccone and Dave Willadsen, teachers at Seymour High School.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

C. Wrestling Mats

Mr. Strumello explained they are working to find a location in town to store the wrestling mats vs. giving them away to North Haven High School. Can't continue to be stored where they are currently. Ms. Drugonis is going to try to assist him in finding a place in town to store them.

NO ACTION NEEDED.

D. Tuition Rate for Out of District Students

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to set the tuition rate for out of district students as \$12,317.15 for elementary students and \$14,882.92 for middle school and high school students.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

E. Draft of Resolution of the Seymour Board of Education Honoring the 1998 Seymour High School Football State Champions

Dr. Compton has a working draft. Asked for it to be approved with understanding there will be some revision. Mr. Stanek will work with Mr. Hatfield to finalize.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the resolution honoring the 1998 state championship.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) that it is a draft and we empower Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Compton and Mr. Stanek to finalize it.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

V. REPORTS

A. Director of Curriculum & Instruction District Highlights – Mary Sue Feige

Mrs. Feige has applied for three different grants and received them. \$93,000 was received to support the reading program. Another grant is for the ELL program. We will have professional learning from ACES who will work with our TESOL teacher, elementary teachers, but high school teachers interested in TESOL are invited as well. The last grant received was \$2,790 for the bilingual grant. She also mentioned she is excited where we are going with HMM. Teachers have access to a coaching studio. Training is coming up for all teachers involved.

B. School Improvement Plan CLS – David Olechna and Ernie DiStasi

C. School Improvement Plan CLS PowerPoint Presentation– David Olechna and Ernie DiStasi gave their School Improvement Plan for CLS Presentation to the Board.

F. DONATION

1. Theresa Conroy and Mary Ellen LoGuidice

- a. The family of Ann and Frank Conroy would like to make a donation of \$1200.00 to the Seymour Public Schools. (Superintendent, Dr. Susan Compton, would like to recommend to the Board that the donation of \$1200.00 be specifically used for the SMS Band Program, under the direction of Sarah Quinn, to purchase two marching snare drums and harnesses and one marching bass drum with carrier and harness. to the Seymour Public Schools and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.)

- b. The family of Ann and Frank Conroy are thrilled to be able to support the building of a recording studio to support the music program at Seymour High School through the Frank and Ann Conroy Fund for the Joy of Music administered through the Valley Community Foundation.

Theresa Conroy spoke about her parent's involvement in the town and Board of Education. Both were music enthusiasts, and her mother had a special love for the SMS band. She always wanted the first donation to go to the SMS band. They also presented Ms. Quinn with a player piano music box donation.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the donation from the family of Ann and Frank Conroy and direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

2. Valentin Katreczko

Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton recommends the approval of a donation of toolmaker tools to Seymour High School and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the donation of toolmaker tools to Seymour High School from Valentin Katreczko and direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

## IX. INFORMATION

### A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023

### B. Special Education Enrollment Report

Dr. Compton stated Dr. Boyle has received an over \$100,000 grant to go toward mental health services for the ESY summer program.

### C. School Activities and Recognitions

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

### D. Staff Hiring (Teachers)

1. Appendix D
  - a. Bennett, Deborah
    - Student Council Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Replacing Jennifer Batterton
  - a. Esposito, Deborah
    - Student Council Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School

- Replacing Jennifer Batterton
  - b. Garrow, Dinalyn
    - Junior National Honor Society Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - New Position
- 2. Appendix E
  - a. Fitzgerald, John
    - Glee Club Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Replacing Courtney Parrish
- C. Staff Transfers
  - 1. Non-Certified
    - a. McCarthy, Courtney
      - From Nutrition Services
      - To Instructional Paraeducator
      - Bungay School
      - New Position
- D. Staff Resignations
  - 1. Certified
    - a. Goldstein, Zachary
      - Special Education Teacher
      - Seymour Middle School
      - Effective September 13, 2023
  - 2. Non-Certified
    - a. Altamirano, Lydia
      - Instructional Paraeducator
      - Seymour High School
      - Effective September 25, 2023
    - b. McCarthy, Courtney
      - Nutrition Services Worker
      - Seymour High School
      - Effective September 19, 2023

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments
  - 1. Chairman's Comments
  - 2. Board Member Comments
- B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton stated that an item had to be added to the agenda, adding a Content Area Coordinator School Counselor hire.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to add Content Area Coordinator School Counselor to the agenda under Part VI, D. of Hires.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to appoint Melissa Anelli for Content Area Coordinator School Counselor.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Rebecca DeAngelis, 51 North St. Seymour, came forward as a parent and teacher at Chatfield LoPresti School. Advocated for a 5th unified arts teacher at the elementary level. We need foreign language or STEM. We are lacking in that area. It would really benefit our kids. Science is hard to get in as it is. This way, they would have at least once a week STEM/language.

Dr. Compton mentioned a STEM lab and/or second language would be very beneficial.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

YouTube Link: (10/02/23)

[https://youtube.com/live/d\\_4L\\_cuNkbk?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/d_4L_cuNkbk?feature=share)

Submitted by:  
Alana Zhingri, Interim Board Clerk