

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
November 8, 2023
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Beth Nesteriak
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Kaitlyn Williams, Student Representative
James Garofolo
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BES
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, BES
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Jaxon Williams
 - b. Grace Butcaris
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Nathan Silva
 - b. Adam Zuraw
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Charlie Anderson
 - b. Isabella Melendez
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Kevin Faria

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions

1. Superintendent Recognition Award
 - a. Elena Farmer, 8th Grade

2. AP Scholars

a. AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

- Patel; Jay N., Class of 2024
- Sullivan; Jillian A, Class of 2024

b. AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

- Aquilina; Ramses A., Class of 2024
- Cabezas; Kaylee M., Class of 2024
- Eng; Elizabeth G., Class of 2024
- Goodrich; Robert J., Class of 2024
- Hink; Madeline E., Class of 2024
- Kapadia; Neal, Class of 2024
- Khan; Shayan, Class of 2025
- Machnicz; Lindsey H., Class of 2024

C. Board Member Appreciation of Service

1. Ms. Beth Nesteriak

The Board bid farewell to a beloved member, Ms. Nesteriak. Mr. Champagne noted this was Ms. Nesteriak's last meeting after serving four years on the Board. He thanked her for everything she had done and noted that she was the one he called, and she was the one who talked him off the ledge when needed. He said if she ever gets bored with all the extra free time, maybe we can have you come back. Ms. Harmeling repeated what she said during the Finance Committee meeting. She said Ms. Nesteriak was wonderful to work with. She brought a business acumen to this Board that we haven't seen in many years and may not see again. She said Ms. Nesteriak was a former COO for a water utility and she brought her knowledge, passion, and leadership to this Board. She tried to improve our processes. She said she will miss Ms. Nesteriak dearly on a friendship level, on a mentorship level, and on a leadership level. Thank you for everything. Dr. Compton said she first met Ms. Nesteriak on July 1, 2021, during a virtual meeting. On July 13, 2021, she met Ms. Nesteriak and six other Board members. She said she will never forget the two questions Ms. Nesteriak asked. She was intense and so serious about getting the right candidate who would be our next superintendent. She believes in accountability; she believes in student achievement, and she wants Seymour Public Schools to be the best it can be. She said Ms. Nesteriak has made a difference and she thanked Ms. Nesteriak for what she has done for our kids. She said we love you! Ms. Nesteriak told a quick story about when she started with the Board. She said started in December 2019 and at this first meeting she was unsure of what to do. In January 2020 we all know what came around. In February 2020 at the Board meeting she said she would never forget when Fred Stanek asked, have we ever thought about going remote? She said everyone looked at him and laughed. As you know, we did go remote. That year we dealt with COVID, public meetings, and parents surrounding COVID. She said she has made many friends and has learned a tremendous amount. She said being a Board member taught her so much about how this engine works. She thanked everyone.

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. Scott Jarzombek, 13 Maple Street – asked the Board to consider reinstating the late bus for Seymour Middle School. Because of the work schedule for himself and the kids' mother, his children are unable to participate in after school activities and sports. He doesn't not have anyone he can ask to pick up his kids. Having a late bus is the only answer, they cannot walk, they cannot ride their bikes. He reminded the Board how important after school activities are and how the lack of these activities can affect admission to college. Dr. Compton said a late bus was being looked into and she hoped we would be able to have one soon. Mr. Hatfield thanked Mr. Jarzombek for the calm and respectful way he presented his thoughts.

IV. REPORTS

A. HS Student Representative Report- Sophia Motyl, Kaitlyn Hamilton Newspaper Club -

- Halloween issue just released, beginning to work on the 2nd issue of the year.

Kinder Cats -

- Visited the classrooms of Mrs. Yustin and Mrs. Florin and worked on getting to know each other.
- This month we will complete an activity that integrates counting, subtracting, reading and writing based on a favorite children's story.
- Both seniors and kinders look forward to getting together each month.

Sports -

- *Cross country* - Season is over, for this year Lily Moir was All-NVL, Emma Hartshorn, Jenna Pollastro, and Ryan Solerti were named to the All-Division team.
- *Girls Soccer* - Season is over for them as well made it to NVL tournament but fell short to qualify for states. Sophia Motyl made All-NVL and Jillian Keough and Ariana Rivera made All-Cooper Division.
- *Girls Volleyball* - Finished the regular season 20-0. Their run came to an end with a defeat in the finals of the NVL tournament. Enter the state tournament as the number 4 seed in Class M. They had a home match tonight against Griswold and won. They are now moving forward, and their next game will be 11/10.
- *Boys Soccer* - Finished the regular season 7-6-3. Gerry Napoletano earned All-NVL while Joey Carrafiello and Indrit Peraj earned All-Copper Division. They entered the State tournament as the 23rd seed and played Abbott Tech yesterday final score was 3-1 they lost.
- *Football* - Currently 4-4 with two regular season games remaining. They will play Naugatuck Friday 11/10 @7pm home and to close out the season with Woodland away Wednesday 11/22 @6:30pm
- *Girls Swim* - Finished 4th in NVL's Kyle Mckerrier won 2 events and also won league MVP. Alyssa Toman won one event.

Student Council -

- Planning Powder Puff Game still, was supposed to be held Nov. 17 however with many other sporting events going on around that time and also little time left for planning we have decided to reschedule and push it back to a later date.
- Hoping to be running a food drive before Thanksgiving collecting items for putting boxes together for some of the families in our school. Hoping that some of the food collected can also be donated to the Seymour Oxford Food Bank.

HOPE Club -

- After a successful fundraiser we will be able to make blankets for the homeless shelter in Waterbury
- We will be making cards for the veterans residing at Shady Knoll to thank them for their service.
- We continue to work with the Environmental Club in cleaning up the campus.
- We will also be making a donation to the food pantry in town.
- During the holiday season we will be 'adopting a grandparent' at Shady Knoll and putting packages together for them.

Spanish Club -

- Decorated sugar skulls and made papel picado celebrate "El día de los Muertos" (the day of the dead)

Environmental Club -

- Second campus clean up was 11/3
- Went on a field trip to Maritime Aquarium on 10/6, learned about marine life in Connecticut.

Electrathon -

- Electrathon is currently developing a brand new race car from scratch
- They will also be building their first carbon fiber race car to compete in the composite category this spring for Electrathon.
- Will have 2 new race cars for the spring race.

FBLA -

- Officers of FBLA went to a Fall Leadership Conference at University of Hartford on Thursday, October 26th.
- We were the only Naugatuck Valley school representing.
- A lot of good feedback from members, felt that the conference was informative, they got to meet a lot of new people and make connections, helped develop public speaking skills.

Chemistry Club -

- Had their first meeting 11/6
- Discussed starting tutoring for the various sciences, preparing for the Olympiad, talked about the possibility of student lab assistants (they would help prepare labs for various classes)

B. School Improvement Plan – Seymour High School – Jim Freund, Paul Lucke

Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke and Ms. Anelli presented the School Improvement plan for Seymour High School.

The link to the School Improvement plan can be found here:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1699636931/seymourschoolsorg/jtwm0em0hdyhdzkvvtqe/SIPSHS.pdf>

Mr. Harvey Catlin talked about the Debate Tournament that was held over the weekend. 91 teams from across the state came to SMS Saturday, November 4th for the first debate of the season for the Connecticut Middle School Debate League. The motion for debate was "This House Supports School Uniforms."

60 Teams were in the Novice Division and 31 Teams were in the Open Division. Each team consisted of 3 debaters. Seymour entered 2 Novice teams. Four of the six Seymour Debaters had never participated in a tournament before.

At the end of the day, our results were as follows:

- The Seymour Teams won all 4 of their Debates.
- The team of Marleigh Stewart, Lexi Klisus and Ada Guzman earned the number 1 ranking of all 60 Novice Teams.
- Marleigh Stewart was the top scoring individual debater as measured by her speaker scores. There were 179 Novice
- Debaters that finished behind Marleigh.
- Seymour's other Novice Team of Kenzie Blood, Isabella Hanson and Kylie Gibson were also undefeated and finished among the top ten teams in the tournament.

This is a fantastic job by our team!

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2023
2. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes Revised – September 11, 2023

B. Financial Management Reports – November 8, 2023

C. Nutrition Services Finance Report – November 8, 2023

D. Athletic Training Contract with Griffin Hospital

- E. Staff Hiring
1. Non-Certified
 - a. Brough, Robert
 - Part Time Custodian
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Jesse Ahearn
 - b. Rossetti, Samantha
 - In School Suspension Monitor
 - Seymour Middle School
 - New Position
 2. Certified
 - a. Schraier, Jodie
 - Long Term Substitute Teacher - Grade 1
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Ashley Charochak
 3. Appendix E
 - a. O'Connor, Paul
 - Head Coach, Cross Country
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Split Position
 - Replacing Craig Prasaukas
 - b. Yakushewich, Jamie
 - Head Coach, Cross Country
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Split Position
 - Replacing Craig Prasaukas

MOTION: to approve the consent agenda as presented

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

SO VOTED

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

None

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. BOE Meeting Schedule 2024-2025

After a brief discussion on the proposed changes to the schedule, the Board made a motion.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve Draft 2 of the 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Schedule with one change to remove the Athletic Committee meeting in August

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Nesteriak

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

B. Donation

1. Katreczko, Valentin

- a. Mr. Valentin Katreczko would like to donate the remainder of his toolmaker tools which include several precision vises, blocks, calipers, chucks and bits to the Seymour Public Schools and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/Sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to accept the donation of Mr. Valentin Katreczko and direct the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation.

SO VOTED

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

2. Herlihy, Kayla

- a. Kindergarten Teacher Ms. Kayla Herlihy has donated 100 mini pumpkins to Chatfield-LoPresti School and asks that the BOE direct the Superintendent to acknowledge this donation.

MOTION.: (Ms. Harmeling/Sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to thank and acknowledge kindergarten teacher Kayla Herlihy for her donation of 100 mini pumpkins on behalf of the Board of Education

SO VOTED

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

B. Substitute Teacher Rate of Pay

Dr. Compton explained that she would like the Board to look into the information that has been sent on this subject and move it to the December 4, 2023, meeting to decide this issue.

C. New Position Central Office - Payroll/Benefits Specialist and Job Description

Dr. Compton acknowledged the service of Ms. Stowe, who has been an employee of the Board of Education since 1995. She acknowledged the dedication of Ms. Lisa Stowe who has made a phenomenal contribution to her work in Payroll. She noted her dedication to the job, stating that she has to be here every two weeks to process the payroll and she never missed a payroll except for the brief period she was out of work for knee surgery. This job description is for a Payroll Specialist, and it will not be part of the union. These jobs are not secretary bookkeepers. Cathy Guerra has verbally indicated that she will also be retiring this year. She also acknowledges both of these women practically kept the system going when when we had no business manager. Dr. Compton asked the Board to approve the payroll position as she wants to get it posted as soon as possible so the new person will have some time to work with Ms. Stowe before she leaves.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Sec., _____) to retire the position of Secretary/Bookkeeper in Central Office and replace it with the position of Payroll/Benefits Specialist

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to create the position of Payroll/Benefits Specialist for Central Office

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak
MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

D. Revision of Job Description – Supervisor of Accounting Services

Ms. Nesteriak recommended that the education level be changed to bachelor's so this person can grow into the position of Business Manager. She also suggested that these two job descriptions be in the same format. This item will be brought back to the Board in December.

E. School Resource Officers' Memorandum of Understanding

Dr. Compton noted that this Memorandum of Understanding is supported by our Attorney. She thanked Chief Bucherati for his support and noted that he reviewed it with regard to the law. This MOU meets all the requirements. She also thanked Attorney Floyd and Fred Stanek for their help on this matter.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the SRO Memorandum of Understanding for the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour Police Department as presented

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

- F. Discussion regarding School Resource Officer's Reports required to be submitted to the Board of Education in accordance with Public Act 23-208
Dr. Compton asked that this item be moved to the December agenda.

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Committee Reports
1. Athletic and Health Committee Minutes – October 11, 2023
- B. Central Office Relocation Committee Minutes – October 19, 2023
- C. Special Education Enrollment Report – Kristopher Boyle
- D. Professional Development Schedule
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U-SWUvSCnSIjWxpfP8wlaA1CUwn1CHb4u0ADpK3vzAY/edit?usp=sharing>
- E. School Activities and Recognitions
1. Bungay School
 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 3. Seymour Middle School
 4. Seymour High School
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y6EyhdF9gAS-t4rgBv7SBMIEmlYgA7zDkRZ0Ztq098w/edit?usp=sharing>
- F. Staff Hiring (Teachers)
1. Certified
 - a. Catlin, Harvey
 - Long Term Substitute Teacher - Business
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Michael Catanese
- G. Staff Transfers
1. Certified
 - a. Roshkind, Julia
 - Special Education Teacher
 - From Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - To Bungay School
 - Replacing Dawn Black
- H. Spanish Classes – Proposal for Coverage
- I. Staff Resignations
1. Certified
 - a. Perrucci, Joseph (Retirement)
 - Teacher (Computer Aided Drafting and Design/Construction Systems)
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 19, 2024
 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Battaglia, Bruno
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective October 20, 2023
 - b. Esteves, Miguel
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective November 10, 2023
 - c. Ricard, Deborah
 - Long Term Substitute Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective October 27, 2023

- d. Stowe, Lisa (Retirement)
 - Districtwide Bookkeeper
 - Central Office
 - Effective March 1, 2024

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments
Mr. Champagne wished Ms. Nesteriak best wishes.
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Behuniak said he appreciates the time working with Ms. Nesteriak and it is hard to say goodbye to someone you respect so much. He said we will talk soon. Ms. Bruno thanked Ms. Nesteriak for her intelligence, preparation and engagement. She has inspired her to use words such as procurement and strategic planning. She said she will see her in the Board of Education meeting audience and also in Town Hall. Mr. Hatfield wished Ms. Nesteriak well and thanked her for her valuable insight into the Board. Ms. Levey thanked Ms. Nesteriak for how welcoming she was when she joined the Board and said she appreciated her wealth of knowledge. She said she definitely appreciated her passion.

B. Superintendent Report

1. New Entry Age for Kindergarten Students
Dr. Compton suggested the Board members read the new legislation regarding the new entry age for kindergarten students.
2. Seymour Kindness Day, November 13, 2023 – Lori Nespoli
Ms. Nespoli said there will be banners displayed in each school and students can write a message on the clothes pin and clip it to the banner or give it to a classmate or teacher. The Buddy Bench will be installed soon. Kindness Day has been extended to Kindness Week at some schools. Dr. Compton said this is a good initiative to teach kindness.
3. Bungay Needs Assessment Committee – Fred Stanek
Mr. Stanek was unable to attend this meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

YouTube Link: (11/08/23) <https://youtube.com/live/zjxgKdfitH4?feature=share>