

Seymour Board of Education
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 8, 2023
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Beth Nesteriak

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

II. 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 public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

None

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Financial Management Summary – November 8, 2023

Mr. Bucci reviewed the Financial Summary. Mr. Bucci said it has been challenging thus far. There is a reduction of one high school administrator position plus savings from temporary vacancies in Special Education and Unified Arts. Offsetting these gains are increases in compensation relating to the appointment of a new athletic director and interim payments to current staff to fill acting principal and assistant principal roles at the Middle School and Bungay Elementary School. There is also an encumbrance to add one additional math teacher at the Middle School plus two BCBA/Teacher Specialist stipend positions, both of which were approved by the Board at the September 11 meeting. For Non-Certified staff, there is a net projected surplus in this category that is primarily attributable to a vacancy in a high school secretarial position which is partially offset by an anticipated increase in substitute teacher compensation due to the utilization of temporary agencies to fill vacancies. For Facilities, during the final budget reconciliation process, \$130K was cut from Building and Equipment Repair & Maintenance accounts. Aside from routine repairs, service calls, and equipment maintenance, there are several large unanticipated expenditures that have been completed or encumbered for. At Chatfield-LoPresti school, a geo-thermal pump failed and the pool filtration system at SHS requires replacement as the tanks have worn through and are leaking. In Technology a provision has been added to anticipated expenditures relating to the replacement of the intercom system at Chatfield-LoPresti elementary School. This is a preventive measure as the current system, while still operational, is approaching obsolescence. For reference, Athletic Supplies expenditures include a shot clock for SMS, lane dividers for the high school pool, and new cheerleading uniforms. These items are in addition to recurring expenditures in this category. Regarding the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Audit, the Field work relating to the audit for the FY22-23 fiscal year is substantially complete.

The BOE portion of the Town audit encompasses the Operating, Grant, Nutrition services and Student Activity Funds as well as the Education Financial System (EFS) and Special Education annual filings. As indicated in the September Report, all grant expenditure reports were completed and filed during August and the EFS filing was certified on August 30, in advance of the September 1 due date. The audit is expected to be finalized in December.

MOTION: (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Mr. Champagne) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the November 8, 2023 Financial Management Summary.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

Ms. Harmeling said she felt the structure of the committees of the Board of Education needed to be changed and she implored the restructuring of the committees. She concluded by saying she would miss Ms. Nesteriak as the rock that she depended on. She thanked her for all of her support.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Compton suggested the committees meet at least once a month. She said the Seymour Public Schools top priority is safety and the back door at Bungay School is being addressed. Cameras and doors are being addressed by the Director of Facilities and Director of Security. She said the Town will work collaboratively with the Seymour Public Schools with respect to the pool. She noted it was Ms. Nesteriak's wish to have a five-year facilities plan and hopes that it will happen. She thanked Ms. Nesteriak for her service.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

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