

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES Revised

December 11, 2023
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

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

Unless changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present, the order of business for the organizational meeting of the Board of Education shall be as follows:

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
Dr. Compton called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:15 p.m.
- B. Opening of Meeting by the Superintendent – Dr. Compton

II. ELECTIONS

- A. Temporary Chairperson
Dr. Compton asked for nominations for a temporary chairperson
Ms. Levey nominated Mr. Champagne as the temporary chairperson

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

Mr. Champagne was appointed as temporary Chairperson.
Dr. Compton turned the meeting over to Mr. Champagne, temporary chairperson.

B. Chairperson

Mr. Champagne, temporary chairperson, asked for nominations for the Chairperson of the Board of Education

Mr. Garofolo nominated Ms. Harmeling for Chairperson of the Board of Education

Ms. Levey nominated Mr. Champagne for Chairperson of the Board of Education

Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

Ms. Harmeling asked that the Board members who were nominated for BOE Chairperson be able to speak. Ms. Harmeling shared her vision if she were to lead the Board. She talked about building relationships and strengthening communication with Board members and Administration. She said she has skills that she would like to use as Board chair and stated she is entering her 13th year. Mr. Champagne said he was going into his 7th year on the Board and would like to continue the work that we have worked so hard on for the past 2 years. He noted that there is a lot more work to be done especially with communication and budgets. He reminded people that his door is always open and if there is an issue to please reach out. He feels next year will be great. Mr. Garofolo spoke on behalf of Ms. Harmeling. He said she was the steward of the Board for all the years she had served. He feels communication has been lacking and she is a good communicator and does not serve the political agenda. She has excellent skills and is not a political pawn. She has served our community's needs and the needs of our children.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Champagne, temporary chairperson called for a vote by ballot.

For Ms. Harmeling as Chairperson, Dr. Compton announced there were three (3) yes votes – Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

For Mr. Champagne as Chairperson, Dr. Compton announced there were six (6) yes votes – Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

By a vote of 3 to 6, Mr. Champagne was elected Chairperson of the Board of Education.

C. Vice Chairperson

Mr. Champagne, Chairperson, asked for nominations for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education. Mr. Garofolo nominated Ms. Harmeling for Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education.

Ms. Levey nominated Ms. Bruno for Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Champagne called for a vote by ballot.

For Ms. Bruno as Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Compton announced there were five (5) yes votes - Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

For Ms. Harmeling as Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Compton announced there were four (4) yes votes - Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield

By a vote of 5 to 4 Ms. Bruno was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education.

D. Secretary

Mr. Champagne, Chairperson, asked for nominations for the Secretary of the Board of Education

Ms. Harmeling nominated Mr. Behuniak for Secretary of the Board of Education.

Ms. Bruno nominated Mr. Hatfield for Secretary of the Board of Education. Mr. Hatfield declined the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Champagne called for a vote by ballot.

For Mr. Behuniak as Secretary, Dr. Compton announced there were nine (9) yes votes –

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

By a vote of 9-0, Mr. Behuniak was elected Secretary of the Board of Education.

III. COMMITTEES – APPOINTED BY CHAIRMAN

- A. Athletic and Health Committee
- B. Curriculum & Technology Committee
- C. Facilities and Transportation Committee
- D. Finance Committee
- E. Liaison Committee
- F. Policy Committee

Mr. Champagne asked for a motion to table the committee assignments so he can get input from the Board members on what committees they would like to serve on.

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Strumello) move to table Item III Committees – Appointed by Chairperson to the January 8, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

IV. ADJOURNMENT

After adjournment of this meeting, the Board shall reconvene in regular or special meeting if it wishes to consider additional matters. The order of business for any such special meeting shall be that established for regular and adjourned business meetings.

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 9-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

After adjournment of this meeting, the Board shall reconvene in regular or special meeting if it wishes to consider additional matters. The order of business for any such special meeting shall be that established for regular and adjourned business meetings.

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/vWRkMkEnk7Q?feature=share>