

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL BOE MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP 1 – MINUTES
January 11, 2024
Library Media Center, SMS
6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Shannon Levey
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:11 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. Schools/District Needs Assessment Reports

Dr. Compton presented the Administrators' Needs Assessment Reports explaining they were unable to attend this meeting because of a Union Meeting/Dinner that has been planned for quite some time. She reviewed each school Needs Assessment and discussed some of the items the administrators included. The Board was very interested in these reports and asked for more information on several of the items. Dr. Compton said at the next workshop, the administrators would like an opportunity to speak to the Board about these reports.

B. Seymour Education Budget 2024-2025

Dr. Compton presented her PowerPoint about the Budget saying we are going to ask for a 4.5% increase. 2.7% of this increase is due to contractual obligations. The Board said they would like to include a list of the cuts/reductions we have had over the last 10-15 years. They said it is important that the story be told. There was a discussion about deficits and Mr. Behuniak explained the Town is able to run with a deficit and they have a reserve account. The Town and the Education budgets are very different. The Board of Education cannot have a deficit. Dr. Compton said we can freeze positions that have not been filled. She said the Town is open to discussions regarding building maintenance. There was a discussion about restoring the Facilities line item back to what it was before the cuts last year. When asked about unexpected expenses with the facilities, Mr. Bucci and Dr. Compton listed several including the problem with the geothermal at CLS, the pool tanks disintegrating, many mechanical visits, and HVAC problems. Dr. Compton said Mr. Connors can prepare a more in-depth report of our unexpected repairs. There was a conversation about the increase in healthcare costs and Dr. Compton said this is a problem across the country. Mr. Behuniak suggested it was a good time to break for the night and asked that Board members do their homework so they can make suggestions at our next Budget Workshop. Dr. Compton reminded the Board that Ms. Drugonis said we are all in this together. Mr. Champagne added that we do so much with so little; when will we not have to?

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

A Doodle has been sent out for our next Budget Workshop, proposed dates are January 17, January 22, and January 29 which Dr. Compton said is too close to the Town's deadline. Mr. Champagne encouraged all Board members to respond to the Doodle so the next meeting can be put on the calendar.

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTIONS: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

To view this meeting please use the link below.

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/CaX21-Yyxn8?feature=share>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk