

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL BOE MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP 2 MINUTES
January 22, 2024
Library Media Center, SMS
6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling
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
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BES
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, BES
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Ed Henry, Director of Security
Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Champagne asked Dr. Compton to speak. Dr. Compton encouraged all who are listening to go back and listen to the first Budget Workshop on YouTube. She said she will ask each administrator to speak about their needs assessment reports. First to speak is Mr. Ed Henry, Director of Security, who spoke about cameras and software in schools. Mr. Henry will do an analysis of each building to determine the needs. There was also a discussion about the need for a security guard.

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

None

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (Continued)

A. Schools/District Needs Assessment Reports

Dr. Compton asked each administrator to talk about their needs assessment report and to tell the Board the order of importance for each item. Ms. Reid, Principal at Bungay School, spoke about her priorities. Dr. Boyle, Director of Special Services, spoke about his needs for the coming year. Next to speak was Keith O'Rourke, principal of Seymour Middle School. Mr. Freund spoke about his needs assessment report next. Mr. Olechna spoke of his needs at Chatfield-LoPresti School. Mr. Hatfield said the discussions on the needs assessments was a great exercise but inquired how it would relate to the budget. There was a discussion by Board members regarding what needs would be included in the budget so they can come to a consensus on the total budget. Mr. Champagne asked the Superintendent to prioritize the needs of the administrators. The Board also asked for an updated budget showing the increases for these needs. The Board also discussed the substitute rate of pay. Mr. Bucci reported back to the Board on his research into what it cost to cover substitutes positions by using teachers. After hearing the data, the Board decided to add the hiring of three building subs to the next meeting agenda, stating it needs to happen now since there is no reason to wait. There was also a brief discussion on placeholders that were at the highest step and whether this is a change in the Board's philosophy.

B. Seymour Education Budget 2024-2025

Mr. Champagne asked the Board to contact him regarding their availability for the next meeting, stating that the budget will be due soon and we need to come to a consensus.

V. REPORT

A. Chairman's Report

Mr. Champagne wished there was more concern about the budget from the public. And again reminded Board members to be in touch regarding their availability.

B. Superintendent's Report

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

To view this meeting in its entirety, please use the link below.

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/RzgBKmB1Sww?feature=share>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk