

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL BOE MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP 3 - MINUTES
January 29, 2024
Library Media Center, SMS
6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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 Inst.
Derrick Martin, Technology
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:05 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. [Seymour Education Budget 2024-2025](#)

Board of Education introductions. Dr. Compton addressed the Board of Education and those who may be listening on YouTube. She said we are being as open as possible. We are showing all of our expenses. She said this is not an easy process and we are facing issues. She thanked all of the staff who have worked so hard on this budget. She is recommending to the Board a 4.5% increase for the 2024-2025 Board of Education budget. She said we cannot go below this. We will not be able to do our job. After a long discussion regarding different items in the budget Mr. Strumello made the following motion: MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the 2024-2025 Seymour Board of Education Budget with a 4.5% increase that includes 3 building substitutes and 1 FT Teacher. Mr. Behuniak said he was not comfortable passing the budget at this percentage because we need to go for more. There are lots of needs including a social worker, a substance abuse counselor, additional BCBA's, and another teacher at CLS. Ms. Harmeling agreed with Mr. Behuniak saying that we need to add ELL to the list.

Dr. Compton reminded the Board that ELL is based on 20 kids because of state mandates. She said she does not agree with additional BCBA's as it is a very big expense. She offered some possible solutions using current staff. Mr. Behuniak said he would be willing to remove the BCBA's. She also noted one additional teacher is needed at the middle school because of the enrollment.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the 2024-2025 Seymour Board of Education Budget with a 4.5% increase that includes 3 building substitutes and 1 FT Teacher.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION FAILS: 0-8-0

The Board continued to discuss what they felt needed to be included in the Budget and prioritized those items. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to the following additions to the budget: additional classroom teacher based on enrollment at the middle school, additional ELL teacher at the elementary level, an additional unified arts teacher at the elementary level, a social worker to be shared between the elementary schools, an instructional coach at the middle school, and three permanent building substitutes for the elementary schools and the middle school.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve sending to the Town Finance Board an education budget of \$40,295,077 which represents a 5.6% total increase over last year

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) 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: 8-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

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

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOX66nTwhrE>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk