

**COMBINED MEETING OF
THE SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Caitlin Hamilton, Student Representative
Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Caroline Sweeney, Student Council Advisor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Compton welcomed the Seymour High School. Student council at 5:38 pm.

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 Chairperson is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairperson's Comments port 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.

III. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

A. Informal Discussion between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour High School Student Council

The Board of Education introduced themselves and encouraged the students to feel free to discuss anything they would like. The Seymour High School Student Council then introduced themselves. The items the students discussed were:

1. Wi-Fi – a discussion regarding the Wi-Fi in Seymour High School with regard to the speed and the ability to access on personal devices ensued. Students explained the needs regarding their work and having access during the day. They explained the speed of the Wi-Fi impacted many facets of their day and their schoolwork. They also voiced their concerns should there be an emergency and they were unable to get in touch with the parents. The Board responded to each of their concerns and Dr. Compton assured them the emergency system is the place.
2. eHall Pass – The students explained there are only a certain number of passes available. If they need to use the bathroom and all the passes are being used, they have to wait. They have to keep checking into the system which disrupts class time. Mr. Freund explained how the system should work and said he would check why passes requested are not put into queue. He explained there

are a limited number of bathrooms available for use due to the limited number of people to supervise the bathrooms. The discussion moved to the situation of the bathroom doors being propped open. Mr. Freund said this has proven to speed up the time used in the bathrooms and said the stall doors provide the necessary privacy. Some students indicated it was still uncomfortable.

3. Air conditioning in the gym – Students asked why there is no air conditioning in the gym and stated it is very uncomfortable in there. Several people agreed it seemed worse this year. Mr. Connors stepped in to say the new floor needs air conditioning in order for it to last a longer period of time. They have obtained a quote and have approached Haynes Construction and Connecticut Basement Systems for possible donations for this project. He said they hope to be able to install this air conditioning by summer. He also indicated they have priced the repair of the bathrooms in the cafeteria, and it is expected to be between \$18,000 – \$20,000 to repair them. He noted that there were several items that should not have been flushed were flushed causing significant damage. One student wondered if we should go back to paper hall passes and use the money we are using to pay for the e-pass system to pay for the repairs. Mr. Freund said the e-pass system provides them with valuable data.
4. Seniors eating outside – Dr. Compton and Mr. Freund agreed it would be nice to provide an outside eating area for seniors. A safe alternative would be setting up tables/chairs in the courtyard. In addition, a monitor would be required.
5. When will we have a library? – Many students said they would love to use the library to check out books, to read, and to study. They said access to the library would help them out a lot. Mr. Freund said at this time there is no one available to monitor the library. Ms. Harmeling said all of the topics brought up are 100% about the budget. She said the Board does not even ask for all the money that we need to run the district. She reminded the students to encourage all of the people they have in their lives that can vote to definitely vote. We need support for the budget and asked all of them to spread the word. She also said if any student would like more explanation on the budget, she would be happy explain it further.
6. Business Donations in Exchange for Advertising – Several students said offering advertising in our gym and fields could bring in quite a bit of revenue. The idea of forming a group to reach out to local businesses was suggested. Mr. Strumello mentioned the Matties Foundation as a possible source of funding.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Compton thanked the students for attending and said the students make us proud. She reminded the students that they are the voice and should never hesitate to speak up. The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk