

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (Revised)
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
March 4, 2024
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Christopher Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Caitlin Hamilton, Student Representative
Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Mary Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BES
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, BES
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Cathy Federowicz

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:09 p.m.
Introductions.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Sofia Gonzalez
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Juana Jara-Jimenez
 - b. Liana Lopez
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Logan Andrews (February)
 - b. Colin Holmes
 - c. Kimora Pierre

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions

1. Great American Rivalry Scholar Athlete
 - a. Trevor Burns
2. CAPSS Superintendents' Award of Excellence
 - a. Vivian Chraibi, SMS
 - b. Ana David, SMS
 - c. Zachary Jones, SHS
 - d. Emily Masotta, SHS

C. Lions Peace Poster Contest

1. Peyton Billy – Grand Prize Winner (2nd in the state)
2. Lily Contreras – 1st Place
3. Celine Benitez – 2nd Place
4. Masa Asami – 3rd Place

Intermission: 7:31 pm

Reconvene: 7:35 pm

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 Chairperson is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairperson'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 the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board. Mr. Champagne read the following statement: We are here to set goals, listen to reports of the Superintendent, approve budgets, contracts and personnel appointments: and make policy for the district. We are not here to make management decisions or solve the problems of individuals. Management is the responsibility of the Superintendent.

Michael Kearney, 72 Mountain Road – Commander of the Seymour American Legion – Mr. Kearney congratulated the students who received an award tonight and to Mr. Paul Lucke for his award as Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year. He said he was a member of the Seymour Class of 1970. He also reminded the Board that his members have volunteered in the schools in the past and would like to volunteer and offer their assistance to any programs at all levels. In the past he has volunteered as a book buddy at Maple Street School and later at Chatfield-LoPresti School. Our assistance in the schools was shut down by the pandemic. He talked about our application process; and his feeling it was cumbersome and wanted the Board to know that we are still waiting for clearance to go back into the schools. He reminded the Board that they go into Bungay School and are interviewed by 4th graders and do some involved programs at the Middle School and Chatfield-LoPresti School on Veterans Day. He congratulated the four high school seniors who were sponsored by the American Legion this past year. He is reaching out again this year with the hope of continuing with students this year. His fear is we are losing touch with our veterans who are living history. He said he is here today offering their assistance to the school system.

IV. REPORTS

A. HS Student Representative Report- Sophia Motyl, Kaitlyn Hamilton
Student Council -

- Working on Powder Puff Game
- Date set for April 12 @ 7:00 PM
- Signups are out and open for players.

Sports -

- Boys' basketball finished NVL competition with an overall record of 14-7. They will begin state tournament play tomorrow night with a home game against South Windsor. Game will start at 6:30, at the middle school, and tickets will be sold only on-line through gofan.
- Girls' basketball finished 13-11. They were defeated in the second round of the state tournament by the number one seed, East Hampton.
- Boys swimming competed in NVL's on Friday.
- Cheer competed in the state tournament on Saturday, got 6th place out of 19 teams.
- Dance competed in the state tournament in Hamden, winning second place in Kick. They have been invited to regionals this coming Saturday in Vermont.
- Springs sports officially start March 18

National Honors Society -

- The week before spring break NHS will be hosting a volleyball game and decathlon to pump everyone up for break.
- Triple H is still going on.

- Working on craft baskets to go to children in hospital + any leftovers could be sold to SHS student body.

Kinder Cats -

- Meeting with Kinder Cats in the upcoming weeks doing a project for St. Patrick's Day.

Newspaper -

- Started on the next issue, planning to come out around the beginning of April (likely before April break)

Spanish Club -

- Made tacos to explore Spanish culture.

Environmental -

- Meeting on Wednesday to plan next steps for the club.

FBLA -

- Objective tests done two weeks ago, meeting on Friday to finalize things for the conference which is on Tuesday.

B. Bungay School Improvement Plan – Lauren Reid, Stacey Long

Ms. Reid and Ms. Long presented the Bungay School Improvement plan. The full school improvement plan can be found on the district website.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2024

B. Financial Management Reports – February 26, 2024

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – March 4, 2024

D. Staff Hiring

1. Certified

- a. Bisailon, Christy
 - Special Education Teacher
 - SMS
 - Replacing Zachary Goldstein
- b. Lubowiecki, Edmund
 - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - CLS
 - Replacing Caroline Gieger
- c. Halligan, Catherine
 - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - SMS
 - Vacant Position

2. Non-Certified

- a. Olivetti, Evelyn
 - Food Service Staff
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Barbara Manente
- b. Deeley-Shay, Olivia
 - Monitor Paraeducator, Part Time
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Taylor DeMarco
- c. Romeo, Cheryl
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Vacant Position

- d. Santillo, Lynn
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Jacqueline Sullivan
 3. Appendix D
 - a. Carboni, Daniel
 - Assistant Coach, Outdoor Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Brian Cleveland
 - b. Dunaj, Daniel
 - Head Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Mike Kearns
 4. Volunteer Appointment
 - a. Bogen, Kimberlyn
 - Volunteer Assistant Coach, Softball
 - Seymour High School
 - Pending Certification
- E. Out of State Field Trip

Ms. Ciccone, Ms. Sodan, Mr. Stock, and Mr. Freund would like to take any interested grade 9 – 12 students to Magic Mountain in Londonderry, VT on Saturday, March 9, 2024

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) move item VII. E Healthy Food Certification into the Consent Agenda as Item F.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

F Healthy Food Certification

1. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Seymour Public Schools certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, **will comply** with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
 2. The Seymour Public Schools **will allow** the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.
- sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the Consent Agenda as amended

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli

RECUSE: Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-1

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Increasing Educator Diversity

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the plan for increasing educator diversity as presented and to submit to the Connecticut Department of Education by the March 15, 2024, deadline

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

B. Class Trip to Spain – Ms. Laura Verchili

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the request of Ms. Verchili to organize a trip to Spain in June 2025

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

C. New Position – Appendix D

1. Assistant Coach Girls Tennis repurposing Assistant Coach Golf appendix D position

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the request to repurpose the appendix D position of Assistant Golf Coach to Assistant Coach Tennis

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

D. SHS New Course Proposal 2024-2025 as recommended by the Curriculum and Technology Committee contingent on budget restraints.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of the curriculum and technology committee to accept the 2024-2025 SHS New Course Proposal contingent on budget restraints.

Ms. Harmeling asked for an explanation on budget restraints. Mr. Lucke assured the Board there are no budget considerations, no teachers will need to be hired. Dr. Compton agreed there is no financial issue at all.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

F. Seymour Board of Education Budget 2024-2025

Dr. Compton reported the process has been completed and it was fairly smooth. She thanked the Board members who attended the Board of Finance meeting.

MOTION TO ADD: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to add a discussion and possible action on Spring Coaches

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

G. Spring Coaching Hires

Mr. Hatfield voiced a concern about the timing of this and it could slow down the process of getting coaches in that are needed now. He suggests we do this for the fall, winter, and spring seasons well before the seasons start. Ms. Harmeling agreed, saying there are a ton of things to work out.

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum and Technology Committee Minutes – February 12, 2024

2. Finance Committee Minutes – February 26, 2024

B. Special Education Enrollment Report – Kristopher Boyle

- C. School Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School
 - a. Seymour High School News Blast
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZdXiR4Wt21ZYVX3MHMwBHKUBJP4dYXsqVMQvefyJ8LE/edit?usp=sharing>
 - b. The Paw Print
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fjPF7GpKucnazpCQLICWylS7cwmTFMtD/view?usp=sharing>

D. Substitute Teacher Handbook

E. Staff Transfers

- 1. Certified
 - a. Rush, Kerry
 - STEM Teacher to Science Teacher
 - 2024-2025 School Year
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Michele Scarpa
- 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Davies, James
 - Day Custodian to Night Custodian
 - Bungay School to Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Fred Kershaw

F. Staff Resignations

- 1. Non-Certified
 - a. Sullivan, Jacqueline
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Effective March 1, 2024
- 2. Appendix D
 - a. Vartelas, Jimmy
 - Assistant Coach, Baseball
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective February 28, 2024

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

- 1. Chairperson's Comments
None
- 2. Board Member Comments
None

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton gave a Proclamation to the Board of Education for Board of Education Appreciation month. She thanked them for all that they do. She said she plans to honor Glen Frosceno next month on his retirement. Also to be honored is Lisa Stowe, Cathy Guerra, Linda Bellavance, and Lisa Willadsen. She congratulated the cheerleading team and the dance team and wished them good luck. There is an awards committee meeting and Teacher of the Year committee meeting on March 12. She said work on a Vision of a Graduate continues.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

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

YouTube Link (03/04/2024): <https://youtube.com/live/40HZDZAC7t8?feature=share>

Submitted by
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk