

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Bungay School
Library Media Center
April 10, 2024
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello
Sophia Motyl, Student Representative
Caitlin Hamilton, Student Representative
Kristen Harmeling
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
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BES
David Olechna, Principal, CLS

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 p.m.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Delilah Mikula
 - b. Lilliana DeCola
 - c. Madyson Pelatowski
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Jenna Brian
 - b. Guiliana DelMonico
 - c. Camden Cunningham
 - d. Cora Willox
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Geet Sachdeva
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Jay Patel (February)
 - b. Laura Grim (March)

B. Superintendent Student Recognitions

1. Lily Fappiano – Special STEM Project

C. Retirement Recognitions

1. Glenn Frosceno – Custodian, CLS

Best of luck to Glen Frosceno on his retirement after a career of 22 years.

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.

None

Intermission: 7:35 pm

Reconvene: 7:40 pm

IV. REPORTS

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

National Honors Society -

- Hosting Decathlon on Thursday, including multiple events such as an eating contest, trivia, the 4 x 100 and tug of war!
- NHS students are currently crafting and filling boxes of gifts to send over to the Yale Children's Hospital to give to kids who need a pick-me-up.

Sports -

- Spring competition officially opened on 3/30. Each sport was able to get a game/match in before the rain started. Lots of postponed events last week. Next two weeks should be full of athletic competition.

Kinder Cats -

- In the last visits with the kindergarten students, the seniors planted sunflower seeds and went over how a flower grows from a seed by making a flip book. SHosteniors also helped the kinders with creating a plant journal and logging the first day of seed planting into the journal. Every visit continues to work on reinforcing reading and writing skills the kinders have been learning in class and a wonderful bond has been made. Seniors look forward to the kinders escorting them during the procession at graduation.

Student Council -

- Powder Puff game on Friday
- Spirit week at SHS gearing up for the Powder Puff and Decathlon

HOPE Club -

- Students are hosting a school-wide rock, paper, scissors contest- the top winners across the day, both teachers, staff and students will face off during the NHS decathlon for a prize/
- Students have created a kindness yard sign and are looking to place them around town and at the end of each of the school driveways to promote kindness. Currently in the process of getting permission to do so.
- HOPE Club members will be putting together a small token of appreciation for members of the staff for Teacher appreciation week.

FBLA -

- Had 5 winners out of the 11 who went
- Three 1st place wins, one 3rd place win, and two 5th place wins
- Gearing up for the spring elections and fundraising and to prepare for next year

Newspaper Club -

- We are putting out our April edition this week. Stay Tuned for some fantastic news headed your way!

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2024

B. Financial Management Reports – March 26, 2024

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – April 8, 2024

D. Donation

1. Eversource Energy Foundation Inc.

The Superintendent recommends the approval of the donation of a check in the amount of \$1000.00 from Eversource Energy Foundation and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

E. Hiring

1. Non-Certified

- a. Osborne, Deana

- Food Service Worker
- Seymour Middle School
- Replacing Evelyn Olivetti

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-2

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION.0

A. Incubator Club: Track and Field Club, SMS – Mr. Keith O'Rourke

With over 80 students expressing interest, it is evident that there is a strong demand for this club at SMS. To ensure the success and effective management of this club, I propose the appointment of four advisors, each receiving a stipend of \$500. The presence of four advisors will enable us to provide adequate support and supervision to the large number of students expected to participate in this club. I believe this club will greatly contribute to the extracurricular offerings at SMS and enhance the overall student experience.

MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the request of Mr. Keith O'Rourke for a incubator club for Track and Field at Seymour Middle School

SO VOTED

AMENDED MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the request of Mr. Keith O'Rourke for an incubator club for Track and Field which will include up to four advisors at \$500 each at Seymour Middle School in the 2024 - 2025 school year.

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

Mr. Hatfield joined the meeting at 7:56 pm

- B. Set High School Graduation Date – Class of 2024
Set the graduation date for the Class of 2024 as June 11, 2024, with a rain date of June 12, 2024, based on the recommendation of Principal Jim Freund and Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to set the Class of 2024 graduation date as June 11, 2024 with a rain date of June 12, 2024

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

- C. Last Day of School for the 2023-2024 School Year
Dr. Compton would like approval to set the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year as June 12, 2024, provided there are no further school closings.
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the request of Dr. Susan Compton to set the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year as June 12, 2024, provided there are no further school closings.

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

- D. Seymour School Educator and Support Plan
MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Levey) Approve the Seymour Public School Educator and Support Plan for the 2024-2025 school year as presented by the Professional Development Committee

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

- E. Seymour School Leadership Evaluation Plan
MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Levey) approve the Seymour Public Schools Leadership Evaluation Plan for the 2024-2025 school year as presented by the Professional Development Committee

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

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Committee Reports
1. Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024
 2. Awards Committee Minutes – March 12, 2024
 3. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2024
 4. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2024
- B. New Schedule at Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
Mr. O'Rourke explained the new schedule and noted that the new schedule will result in increased instructional time.
- C. Staffing Proposal, Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
Relocate current Computer Science teacher to the open STEM teaching position. Convert the Computer Science position into a Library Media Specialist. This change will better align our staffing structure with the evolving needs of our school and provide enhanced support for our students in the realm of technology and media literacy.

- D. Butterfly Garden at Seymour Middle School
- E. Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners
- F. Special Education Enrollment Report – Kristopher Boyle
- G. School Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EQ_1cd0NpH6iUa-JEe0SnamfCNQK7hccHzDcMmtN1gE/edit?usp=sharing
- H. Staff Hiring (Current Staff)
 - 3. Appendix D
 - a. Burns, James
 - Assistant Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing James Burns (rehire)
 - b. Jepson, Emily
 - Assistant Coach, Girls Tennis
 - Seymour High School
 - New Position
 - c. Moir, Brian
 - Assistant Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Chris Jeannett
 - d. Moir, Brian
 - Assistant Coach, Baseball
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Jim Vartelas
 - e. Pettinella, Jared
 - Head Coach, Baseball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Zachary Goldstein
 - f. Wandel, Shawn
 - Assistant Coach, Football
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Steve George
- I. Staff Transfers
 - 1. Non-Certified
 - a. Kubik, Nicholas
 - Head Custodian
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Glen Froscono
- J. Staff Resignations
 - 1. Non-Certified
 - a. Gonzalez, Victor
 - Head Custodian
 - Retirement
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective December 31, 2024

- b. Olivetti, Evelyn
 - School Food Service Worker
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective March 20, 2024

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairperson's Comments

Mr. Champagne said the Town Meeting will be held next Wednesday and that he will be attending the 6th Grade Orientation to discuss the budget with parents.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield spoke of Mrs. Florence Johnson who passed away recently. He spoke fondly of her as his kindergarten teacher. Ms. Nespoli reported that the Buddy Benches have been donated to each of the schools.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton spoke of Charles Daniels who was a district computer technician for many years. He passed away recently. She also reported that we lost one of our Bungay paraeducators, William Marrinan. She talked about the use of our track by Woodland High School as they are working to replace theirs. She said they will provide us with a certificate of liability and would work around our schedule for our student athletes.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

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

YouTube Link (04/08/2024): <https://youtube.com/live/U4S5HRL5BCE?feature=share>

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk