

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
May 6, 2024
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Bruno
James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Shannon Levey
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello
Caitlin Hamilton, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristen Harmeling
Chris Champagne
Stephan Behuniak

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Keith O'Rourke, Principal SMS
Lauren Reid, Principal, BES
David Olechna, Principal, CLS

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 p.m.

B. Moment of Silence

1. Ms. Florence Johns – Former Teacher
2. Mr. Charles Daniels – Seymour Districtwide Computer Technician
3. Mr. William Marrinan – Bungay School Instructional Paraeducator
4. Mr. John McGinn – Long Term Volunteer of Seymour Schools

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School
 - a. Michael Butcaris
 - b. Jack Hanson
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Ened Menga
 - b. Brayden Sloat
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. William Randall (April)
 - b. Natalia Figueroa
 - c. Jacob Olsen
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Timothy Lester

- B. Superintendent Student Recognitions
 - 1. School of Distinction – Chatfield-LoPresti
 - 2. Jake Velleco – Harvard University Graduate Admissions
- C. Student Ambassadors – Chatfield-LoPresti School

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.

Cara Bordonaro, 21 Hidden Meadow Road - thanked the Board of Education for their work and acknowledged the amount of time that goes into the budget. Very daunting and unfortunately the vote was not the result we wanted. Said she felt better informed this year because a couple of chairpersons helped to educate me. Very informative and honest. I, along with friends, have been able to be more active this year. They went above and beyond attending meetings. Just wanted to thank you.

Ms. Bruno acknowledged the Board's disappointment with the outcome of the first referendum and encouraged the public to get out and vote.

IV. REPORTS

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

Prom:

- Happened on Saturday at the Aqua Turf. Everyone had an amazing time, as always. Photos are posted through the CT Post along with the newsletter from Mr. Freund

AP Tests:

- AP testing weeks started today with AP Gov and AP Chem, this will continue until next Wednesday for our school.

Pawprint:

- Working to put out one final issue in late May to early June.
- Just wrapped up our meetings with the Bungay Buzz and will now be working on putting together the final paper including writing from Buzz and Pawprint journalists.

Kinder Cats:

- KinderCats are wrapping up their visits this month. On May 1st Seniors had their last visit with Mrs. Yustin's class- they worked on a Math activity, checked on the growth of the flowers they planted as seeds- which grew amazingly well, and got to play on the playground.
- The last visit with Mrs. Florin's class will be May 15th.
- A letter will go home to kindergarten parents inviting the kindergarten students to attend the procession with the seniors at graduation.
- Seniors are hoping to attend the kindergarten moving up ceremony later this month as well.

Student Council:

- Had a successful powder puff game with good attendance from friends and family filling up the stands. Along with that came a good number of food donations that we will be dropping off this Friday.

HOPE Club:

- HOPE Club students painted kindness rocks and placed them outside around the school. HOPE Club has also had "Be Kind" yard signs printed and will be distributing them to schools this week and the Town Hall as well.
- Small tokens of appreciation will be put together for the teachers and staff by club members for Teacher Appreciation Week this week.

Spanish Club:

- The Spanish club is planning a Zumba class on May 18 at 11:00 at the SHS gym to raise funds for the Spanish trip.

Performing Arts:

- The Performing Arts club had their yearly show in March, and school assembly in April. The members are excited to start recording in the upcoming music studio currently being built in the school.

Environmental Club:

- Earth Day stickers and temporary tattoos were distributed to help raise environmental awareness and Earth Day posters were created to help increase environmental literacy and continue to raise environmental awareness. The Environmental Club is planning a campus clean-up on June 10th, after exams, in preparation for the graduation ceremonies that will be happening at SHS. We will try to ensure the campus is free from litter and trash.

Debate Club:

- Congratulations to Alyssa Vergati and Anuhya Shah who trophied at the Connecticut Debate Association State Tournament (Varsity and Novice Divisions) held at Joel Barlow High School on Saturday, March 23rd. The sophomore team ranked FIFTH out of 37th QUALIFYING NOVICE TEAMS at the conclusion of the State tournament. In addition, ALYSSA VERGATI won the FIFTH place Novice Speaker Award (out of 74 QUALIFYING Novice debaters). This earns a trophy for each and a medal for Alyssa. The future is looking bright for Seymour High School debate. If you are interested in joining the debate team, please see a current member or visit Mrs. Scozzafava in room 183. You can also email her at escozzafava@seymourschools.org. FYI - Next year (2024-2025) STUDENT DEBATE LEADERS: Anuhya Shah, Alyssa Vergati, and Ariel Zedek (my Triple A's - all juniors.)

Sports:

- Baseball is currently 8-8. Softball is 13-2. Golf 7-1 and Tennis is 8-7. Track continues to add qualifiers to both the NVL and State meets.
- Next week will complete the regular season of play. NVL's will begin on the 18th with the higher seed being the home game. Track NVL's will be held at Torrington High School. Seymour has been scheduled as the site for the semi-finals of the NVL tournament on Monday the 20th.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2024

B. Financial Management Reports – April 24, 2024

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report May 6, 2024

D. Donation

1. In Memory of Florence Johns – Former Seymour Teacher

The Superintendent recommends the approval of the donation of a check in the amount of \$50.00 to be used to buy children's books from Chatfield-LoPresti School from the family of Florence Johns and asks that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

2. Dr. Susan Compton

The Superintendent recommends the approval of the donation of a piano that will be available at end of Dr. Susan Compton's service to the Seymour Public Schools and asks that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent determine placement of this donation.

E. Hiring

1. Non-Certified

a. Fuchs, Diane

- Secretary/Bookkeeper
- Central Office
- Replacing Linda Bellavance

- b. Mitchell, Penelope
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing William Van Pelt

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Alternative Education Program/Policies

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve policy 6178.1, 6178.2, 6178.3, and 6178.4 as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Ms. Bruno

MOTION PASSES: 5-1-0

B. Tuition Rate for Out of District Students 2024-2025

To set the tuition rate for out of district student as \$14,118.15 for elementary students and \$15,260.36 for middle school and high school students for the 2024-2025 school year

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the tuition rate for out of district students as \$14,118.15 for elementary students and \$15,260.36 for middle school and high school students for the 2024-2025 school year

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

C. MOTION (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on the Seymour Middle School Rise Program

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Mr. O'Rourke introduced the SMS Rise Program to the Board. The Board determined that no action was needed.

D. MOTION (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on the recommendations from the Awards Committee.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec. Ms. Levey) to approve the recommendations of the Awards Committee for the 2024 recipients of the David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award, the John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award, the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award, the Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award and the Karen R. Stanek "Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat" Award.

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 5-0-1

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Committee Reports
 - 1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2024
 - 2. Awards Committee Minutes – April 23, 2024
 - 3. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2024
- B. ~~Seymour Middle School “RISE” Program~~
Moved to Discussion and Possible Action VII C.
- C. Special Education Enrollment Report – Kristopher Boyle
- D. School Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Bungay School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School
 - a. Pawprint Issue 4
- E. Staff Hiring (Current Staff)
 - 1. Appendix D
 - a. Henry, Ed
 - Long Term Substitute Assistant Coach
 - Golf Team
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Paul O'Connor
- F. Staff Transfers
 - 1. Non-Certified
 - a. Spence, Miriah
 - Supervisor, Accounting Services
 - Central Office
 - New Position
- G. Staff Resignations
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Kochan, Charles
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Effective June 28, 2024
 - b. O'Connor, Chelsea
 - Teacher, Business Education
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 1, 2024
 - 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Hamel, Jodie
 - Educational Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Effective April 26, 2024
 - 3. Appendix D
 - a. Bopp, Peyton
 - Assistant Coach, Cheerleading
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective April 28, 2024

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairperson's Comments

Ms. Bruno sent her recognitions/congratulations to the Paraeducators for Paraeducator Day, to the Teachers for Teacher Appreciation Day, to the Administrators for Administrators Day, and to the nurses for School Nurse day. She also thanked Dr. Compton for the tours of our schools this week, saying our schools are beautiful even though some of them need some updating. She acknowledged that what makes them beautiful is the people inside makes them special.

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Levey reminded the public that they need to get out and vote. Mr. Garofolo thanked Dr. Compton for her passionate remarks. Mr. Strumello encouraged all taxpayers to vote.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton reminded the Board of the moving up ceremonies and graduation which is coming up quickly. She thanked the Teacher of the Year committee for their dedication to the process and let us know that the outcome will be decided this week.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Tuition Student

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) Move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records, or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Further, that the Board invite the following individuals to attend the executive session: Student's Parent(s), Superintendent

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Into Executive Session: 8:39 pm

Into Regular Session: 8:58 pm

XI. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to admit the non-resident student as a tuition student for the 2024-2025 school year.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

YouTube Link (05/06/2024): <https://youtube.com/live/caRnZu1Gy3M?feature=share>