

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
August 5, 2024
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Champagne
Kristen Bruno
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephan Behuniak
Shannon Levey

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager
Keith O'Rourke, Principal, SMS
Rebecca Bennett, School Nurse, BES
Tom Bennett
Stephanie Ciccone
David Willadsen
Derrick Martin, Technology
Alana Zhingri, Interim Board Clerk

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.
 - B. Moment of Silence – Tom Federowicz
- II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Incoming Correspondence
 1. CAFE – Continuing Membership
- 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 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 the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

Paul Roy - 80 Washington Ave. Seymour, CT.
Mr. Roy is the Chairman of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame, and wanted to let the Board know that the Induction Banquet will be held at Oak Lane Country Club

in Woodbridge on Saturday October 26, 2024 at 5pm. – This year’s inductees are: Paul Pawlak Jr., Class of 1958, football, basketball, and baseball; Russ Rotko, Class of 1961, baseball, football, and basketball; Milt Cochran, Class of 1964, basketball; Bill Heffernan, Class of 1974, football, basketball, and baseball; Susan Baxter, Clas of 1980, cross country, winter and spring track; Ben Michaelson, Class of 1999, swimming; Kim Bogen, Class of 2009, softball; John Hummel will receive the Outstanding Contribution Award for his many years of support of the Wildcat athletic teams. Mr. Roy gave all Board members a copy of a press release for publication.

Mike Kearney 72 Mountain Rd. Seymour, CT.

Mr. Kearney is the Distinguished Alumuns carryover 2021. Mr. Kearney did not receive distinction for being the Alumunus. He also stated that the CT Hurricanes were billed \$4500 for having a concert between the police and school. It is a 501c non-profit. He is also on the board of Seymour Historical Society. He also stated this is the first time he had to pay for some of the transportation for some students field trips. All members are volunteers. He stated this year the American Legion program sponsored 5 junior girls and 1 boy. He wants to try to have the meet and greet in the conference room of the Board of Education Office, to honor the people who supported the program and give the students medals and certificates.

Dr. Compton stated she would love to host them in the Board conference room or somewhere in the High School, and that we will be in touch. Dr. Compton asked Mike to please clarify the \$4500 charge. Mike clarified that this year it was the first Saturday in May. Dr. Compton will check into the field trip transportation cost, it could have been a bill that was not supposed to go to them. Dr. Compton also stated she was not here in 2020, and for the first part of 2021. Alumnus are usually given the plaque at a ceremony, it was probably due to Covid. Dr. Compton stated we will make sure that Mike gets properly honored and we appreciate everything he does and his dedication.

James Garofolo commented that the Katharine Matthies Foundation does provide grants for various activities and organizations, and Mr. Kearney might want to look into that. Mr. Kearney stated that he has already looked into it.

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Committee Reports

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the Agenda the End of the Year Financial Summary

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

Financial Summary Report For End of Fiscal Year Needs to be Added to the Agenda

Financial Summary Report

1. Finance Committee, June 17, 2024

Mr. Bucci gave an overview of the Financial Management Summary.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the Financial Management Summary as presented

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0

- B. Summer Hiring Report – Dr. Susan Compton
1. Staff Hiring – Certified
 - a. Dunaj, Daniel
 - Health/Physical Education Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Matthew Pellicone
 - b. Guo, Ling
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Districtwide
 - Replacing Charles Kochan
 - c. Gagne, Jessica
 - Permanent Building Substitute Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - New Position
 - d. Hazzan, Anuoluwapo
 - Permanent Building Substitute Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - New Position
 - e. Lisko, Glenda
 - World Language Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Shane Cather
 - f. Maisto, Matthew
 - Business Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Paul Gilman
 - g. Magnotta, Michael
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Districtwide
 - New Position
 - h. Searles, Shannon
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Julia Roshkind
 2. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
 - a. Abrahams, Shaakier
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Barbara Haste
 - b. Baker, Allison
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Jodie Hamel
 - c. Bastos, Renee
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - ~~Bungay School~~ **Seymour Middle School**
 - Replacing Sarah Heslin

- d. Barbieri, Kaleen
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing ~~Sarah Heslin~~ **Stephanie McLean**
- e. Castillo, Matthew
 - ~~Literacy Numeracy Tutor~~ **Instructional Paraeducator**
 - ~~Bungay School~~ **Seymour Middle School**
 - ~~Replacing Stephanie McLean~~ **Chrissy Klisus**
- f. Ceddia, Ellen
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Loybeth Torres
- g. Hong, Sungok
 - ~~Instructional Paraeducator~~ **Literacy Numeracy Tutor**
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Edmund Lubowiecki
- h. Icaza, Melania
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Trevor Frisbie
- i. Massaro, Trisha
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Melanie Danka
- j. Metcalf, Megan
 - Secretary
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing Mariah Spence
- k. Paskiewicz, Sarah
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Replacing William Marrinan
- l. Romo, Matthew
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Linda Souza

- m. Russo, Dominic
 - Districtwide Computer Technician
 - Districtwide
 - Replacing Charles Daniels
- 3. Staff Transfers – ~~Non-Certified~~
 - a. Christiansen, Lori
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Chatfield LoPresti School
 - Replacing Andrea DeFrank
 - b. DiStasi, Ernie
 - Assistant Principal
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Kathleen Reynolds
 - c. LaLLave, Dawn
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - ~~Bungay School~~ **Seymour High School**
 - New Position
 - d. McLean, Stephanie
 - Permanent Building Substitute
 - Bungay School
 - New Position
 - e. Roshkind, Julia
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - Replacing Trevor Frisbie

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the Summer Hiring Report presented by Dr. Susan Compton

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

RECUSE: Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the Consent Agenda Items A., B., and E.

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Nutrition Services Financial Report – Year End
- B. Intra District Transfer Requests 2024-2025 School Year
Approve the intra district transfer requests of Ali Baker (Mohamed Baker), Ashley Nazzaro (Rylee Everetts), Carla Goncalves (Cameron Morissette), Derrick Otchere (Joshua Otchere, Rachel Otchere), Givalda Qosja (Ilhana Qosja), Danielle Lampo (Colt Salvio, Logan Salvio), Emily Chubet (Gunner Stanis), Dayanara Navarro-Ortiz (Sophiya Navarro, Aliyah Stpierre), ~~Nicolette Plante (GinaMarie Medina)~~(Nicolette Plante (GinaMarie Medina)).

- E. Donation
 - 1. Mr. Pete Kubik
The Superintendent recommends the approval of the donation of a piano that is being donated by Mr. Pete Kubik and asks that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to determine placement of this donation.
 - VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (C &D)
 - C. **MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to** allow the Superintendent in collaboration with the Seymour Chief of Police to authorize Mr. Ed Henry, Director of Security, Mr. Ronald Barnard, School Security Officer, Mr. Kevin Pimpinelli, School Security Officer, and the substitute school security officer to carry a firearm on school grounds through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This arrangement will be reviewed and may be reauthorized prior to the beginning of each school year.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0
 - D. District Physician Contract
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to appoint Dr. Frederick Brown, Dr. Gary Richo – as the District Physicians, for the 2024-2025 School Year with the presentation of a contract in the September meeting.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Strumello
OPPOSED: Lori Nespoli, Jay Hatfield
MOTION PASSES: 5-2
 - VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION
 - A. Districtwide Float Nurse
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to reinstate district wide float nurse for the 24-25 school year
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0
 - B. Assistant Principal Hiring – Chatfield-LoPresti School
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire the new Assistant Principal at Chatfield-LoPresti School
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0
 - C. New Position
MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to authorize the Superintendent to create and fill the unarmed security officer for Seymour High School
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling
OPPOSED: Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Strumello
MOTION FAILS: 3-4
- MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to** approve an armed security officer for Seymour High School

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

OPPOSED: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne

MOTION PASSES: 4-2-0

- D. **MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Harmeling)** to Add to the Agenda Item 7D to direct the Superintendent to approve the donation from Superior Products Distributors Inc. to assist with the building of a firepit at Seymour Middle School.

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the donation from Superior Products and direct the Superintendent to advise its placement.

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Harmeling

MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Athletic Trainer
 - 1. Griffin Hospital
 - a. 2024-2025 School Year
- B. Senior Citizens Passes
 - 1. 2024-2025 School Year - Delivered to Senior Center July 16, 2024
- C. Theatre Contract – SMS
- D. DESPP School Security Grant Award/Camera Project
 - 1. Grant Explanation
 - 2. Grant Award
 - 3. Camera Project
- E. Staff Resignations – Certified
 - 1. Certified Staff
 - a. Gilman, Paul
 - Business Teacher
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective June 21, 2024
 - b. Reynolds, Kathleen
 - Assistant Principal
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 28, 2024
- F. Staff Resignations
 - 1. Non-Certified Staff
 - a. Deeley-Shay, Olivia
 - Monitor Paraeducator
 - Bungay School
 - Effective June 27, 2024
 - b. Dzwonkowski, Madison
 - Instructional Paraeducator
 - Bungay School

Dr. Compton agreed they've had many years of dedication and even our softball coach, after 35 years.

Mr. Hatfield would like to see a follow up on the American Legion person (Mr. Kearney) that spoke about the transportation cost for field trips and getting a plaque.

Ms. Nespoli has an event this Saturday, for the Love Mom XOXO Build-a-Backpack event and school supplies.

Mr. Strumello wanted to thank Lee-Ann for her service and also Mr. Pereiras for his years of service.

Mr. Garofolo had no comment.

Ms. Harmeling thanked Lee-Ann for her years of dedication and her ability to adjust to all 6 Superintendents she has been under. She stated she would like draft agendas for all board members to better prepare for meetings and have a chance for questions.

Dr. Compton said that Board Members can see agendas on Wednesday and Thursday and stated please just call her with any questions. Dr. Compton stated we are posting for Lee-Ann's position this week. In regards to the Superintendent's evaluation, she would like to set a date with all 9 Board members, a date that does not follow after a Board meeting.

Mr. Strumello wanted to clarify that there will be a posting of Executive Administrative Assistant, in addition to the Board Clerk and Facebook Facilitator. He also stated someone might want to be an Executive Administrative Assistant, who does not want to be the Board Clerk.

Dr. Compton said that she will be posting both separately.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton said thank you to Lee-Ann Dauerty for 22 years of service as Executive Administrative Assistant, and Board Clerk for 12 years. She publicly wanted to say thank you to Lee-Ann for her years of dedication and love. She has served under 6 Superintendents, including Dr. Compton. It was difficult to say goodbye to her on her last day Friday. A special thank you. We have had a lot of outstanding people retire this year.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn the meeting

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

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

YouTube Link (August 5, 2024)

<https://youtube.com/live/9YUFpUD0bZg?feature=share>

Submitted by:
Alana Zhingri
Interim Board Clerk