

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2024

Seymour Middle School

7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Champagne, Chairperson
Kristen Bruno, Vice Chairperson
Stephan Behuniak, Secretary
Ed Strumello
Kristen Harmeling
Pete Kubik
Lori Nespoli
Jay Hatfield (late arrival)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvator Bucci, Business Manager
Mary-Sue Feige, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Jim Freund, Seymour High School Principal
Keith O'Rourke, Seymour Middle School Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

- Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 PM.

B. Moment of Silence – Joseph Musante

C. Introductions

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions

1. Bungay School

- a. Fabian Gutierrez – 5th grade
 - i. Unable to attend and will be recognized next meeting.
- b. Dustin Leo – 3rd grade

2. Chatfield Lo-Presti School

- a. Penelope Sciacca – 5th grade
- b. Amare Aboagye – 1st grade

3. Seymour Middle School

- a. Ellie Gerstenhaber – 6th grade
- b. Addie Dillon – 8th grade

4. Seymour High School

- a. Rapture Layton -- Senior

5. Recognitions

- a. Michael Kearney – Distinguished Alumnus Award 2021
- b. Mr. Shane Cather

- i Unable to attend the meeting but it was important to recognize him in his retirement.
 - c. Resolution – [SHS Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2024](#)
 - d. Cathy Federowicz – 500th Volleyball Win
 - i Unable to attend but honored in her absence.
 - e. [College Board National Recognition](#)
 - f. National Merit Scholars
 - i One student was unable to attend the meeting and will be honored next meeting.
 - g. Seymour High School [2024 AP School Honor Roll](#) Silver Award
6. **Student Reports**
- a. **MOTION:** to approve the recommendation of the Seymour High School Administration and the Student Council to appoint Jeremy Tomasheski as the BOE Junior Student Representative. (Mr. Strumello / sec. Mr. Behuniak)
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Kubik
PASSES: 8-0-0
 - b. **SHS Student Representative** Report – Kaitlyn Hamilton, Jeremy Tomasheski
 - Kaitlyn Hamilton reported on current events and happenings at Seymour High School including clubs and sports.
 - Jeremy Tomasheski reported on SHS Clubs, fundraising, Performing Arts and class trips. Next month Jeremy will tell introduce himself to the board so they can get to know him.

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.

- Mike Kearny, 72 Mountain Rd. – There has been a Book Buddy program at Chatfield Lo-Presti School in the past and he would like to get the program running again. Tom Gabinelli was a member of the CT Hurricanes and Veterans appreciation concerts, he passed away. Drum corps from the tristate area to benefit the veterans VFW and American legion. The historical society, the arts and culture paid \$1,200 for the students to transport them to the Seymour Historical Society. He feels it should be paid by the school district. SHS is doing a program for the veterans and oratorical contest. They haven't ever had a student participate; he urges students to participate to win scholarship. The VFW sponsored 5 boys and girls, he would like to have a meet and greet at Central Office with them. Event: October 20th on Sergeant Reckless, the horse, in the Korean war at the Seymour Historical Society. He is working with Heather Brown with Field of Flags and banners to be hung on the poles. Lastly, November 11th at 11:00 AM they will be having a service.
- First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis – The town has an outdoor projector that the high school can use for their outdoor movie night. The district only needs a driver to use the community service bus, as long as there is no scheduling conflict with the Community Center. She is working with Heather Brown to have the veterans' banners hung on the poles.
- Public Comment called three times. Public comment closed 7:43 PM

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Policy Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 9, 2024
2. Finance Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 9, 2024

3. Regular BOE [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 9, 2024
4. Policy Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 16, 2024
5. Curriculum Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 23, 2024
6. Athletics & Health Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 23, 2024
7. Facilities & Transportation Committee [Meeting Minutes](#) – September 23, 2024

B. Hiring – Certified

1. [Theresa Lamoureux](#)
 - a. Seymour High School
 - b. School Nurse
 - c. Replacement for Samantha Miles-Rigoli

C. Hiring – Non-Certified

1. [Tracy Dunn](#)
 - a. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
 - b. Part-time Monitor (Lunch/Recess)
 - c. Replacement for Karen Torres

D. Revision of Administrative Assistant Contract

E. Revision of Account Services Supervisor Contract

MOTION: move to approve the consent agenda as presented (Mr. Behuniak / sec. Ms. Harmeling)

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

PASSES:9-0-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS

A. [Enrollment Report](#)

B. [Special Education Report](#) – Dr. Boyle

C. [Financial Report](#) – Salvator Bucci

Mr. Champagne said they reviewed the Financial Report at the Finance Committee meeting earlier in the night. There is no major update.

D. [Bungay Building Committee Updates \(including flyer\)](#) – Fred Stanek, Ed Strumello

Mr. Strumello provided an update: the forums will be oct 8th and 16th at 6:30 PM at Bungay Elementary School in the gymnasium. Mr. Kubik stated he met with Bungay Building Committee today in preparation for the forum tomorrow. Everything is very preliminary plans right now but it will be a good meeting for people to attend and to understand the project. The referendum is planned to be in March. Dr. Compton participated in the same meeting with the architects today. It was an informative meeting. The architect firm created a great PowerPoint presentation, which will be shared the board. Dr. C is very impressed with the architect firm.

E. [Facilities Update](#) – Tim Connors

Mr. Connors was unable to attend and will provide an update in November.

F. [Facilities and Transportation Committee Report](#) – Jim Garofolo, Kristen Harmeling, Lori Nespoli

No update.

G. [Curriculum & Technology Committee Report](#) – Jim Garofolo, Pete Kubik, Kristen Bruno

Ms. Bruno stated they had a productive meeting. A main topic of discussion was the updated teacher evaluation plan.

H. [Policy Committee Report](#) – Chair: Ed Strumello, Chris Champagne, Kristen Harmeling

Mr. Strumello stated the committee discussed a lot of policies at the meeting. It will be a long process to update our board policies. Some policies will be recommended later tonight. Mr. Strumello was not satisfied

with the service from CABE, especially since it was a paid service. Dr. Compton thanked the committee for their hard work.

I. Athletic & Health Committee Report – Ed Strumello, Pete Kubik, Jay Hatfield

Mr. Strumello discussed the Seymour High School turf field and stated it needs to be updated. Mrs. is Federowicz working on the student-athlete code of conduct handbook, prices are going up, uniforms and equipment aren't cheap, and we must have equipment that meets standard. It is not just football, it's all the sports. The gym floor has a wet spot in the brand-new floor in the exact same spot as previous. Need to rectify it. Ms. Harmeling commented that the cost has gone up but the quality of uniforms has gone down.

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. BOE Surplus Funds

a. \$152,598.38 – dr. Compton thinks the surplus funds need to go back to the town.

MOTION: that turn the 152598.38 to the town (Strumello / sec. Garofolo)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Behuniak stated he hoped to have received information on needs within the buildings but respects Dr. Compton's opinion to return the surplus funds to the town. Ms. Harmeling expressed the same feelings, that she would have like to see a needs assessment from Mr. Connors. Ms. Harmeling reported that Mr. Connors stated that the surplus funds wouldn't be enough to cover the other facilities expenses. She requests a capital plan from Mr. Connors. Mr. Strumello also mentioned that we could use the surplus funds for the turf field. The Athletic Committee recommended to use the surplus funds for the turf field. Dr. Compton expressed that the field will only last 2-3 more years, so we need to have money to replace it. Mr. Champagne stated that children have been using motorized scooters on the track and field outside of school hours. We need to have better governance as to who can use the field and track. Mr. Kubik questioned if the signage is adequate. Dr. Compton said we need more signage and that the organizations need to enforce the track and field usage rules. Ms. Harmeling said we will give the surplus funds back, but we won't know what the town plans to do with that money.

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling

PASSES: 7-2-0

B. CABE Mandated Policies

a. **MOTION:** to adopt policy 4113.12 with the change to include "Minimum duty-free lunch periods for teachers and other certified staff". (Harmeling / sec. Strumello)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hatfield wanted to clarify that if adopted it is final, if they have two thirds

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

b. **MOTION:** to adopt the policy 4118.11 including Appendix A (Strumello / sec. Harmeling)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

c. **MOTION:** to adopt policy 5125.11 with Form 1 (Harmeling / sec. Strumello)

DISCUSSION: Cabe gave us options and the committee felt this was best with form 1

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

- d. **MOTION:** to adopt policy 5144.4 (Harmeling / sec. Strumello)
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Hatfield
PASSES: 9-0-0
- e. **MOTION:** to adopt policy 3171.1 (Strumello / sec. Harmeling)
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Hatfield
PASSES: 9-0-0

Mr. Strumello thanked the board members for voting for those policies.

C. Delta-T Paraeducators

- Using delta – T as subs to meet IEP services since many kids move in and out of the program. Mr. Hatfield clarified that if we can fill the position at SHS then we won't use Delta-T. Dr. Compton explained that have been doing the best they can to fill the positions and meet IEP needs. Ms. Harmeling asked when the para contract expires. Answer: next year so they will start discussing contracts in the summer.

NO ACTION NEEDED

- a. SMS requests 1 Delta-T para to meet student IEP services
- b. SHS requests 1 Delta-T para to meet student IEP services

D. [Valley Regional Adult Educators, Workforce Training Grant \(paraprofessionals\)](#)

- a. Dr. Compton explained the program – the purpose is to give people the experience as a paraeducator prior to them entering the workforce. Ms. Bruno said she thinks this is a great idea and program.

NO ACTION

E. Business Manager Contract

- a. Approving the presented contract will extend the Business Manager through the end of 2027. Dr. Compton is recommending this contract which includes this current year plus two more years. For stability it's better to approve this now. Mr. Bucci has done a great job with the budget. Only two items in the contract have changed, insurance and Ms. Harmeling asked for clarification in the life insurance. Mr. Bucci explained that the cost is "peanuts". Mr. Hatfield said he is thrown off because approving contracts is normally done in conversation among the board, often in executive session. He's also confused on the percentage wording – 2.25% stated like that. Mr. Bucci stated that this is the exact verbiage as his current contract. Mr. Hatfield isn't crazy about the language in the contract based on past happenings and he would like it more delineated. Mr. Bucci said the BOE could just say no if he were ever to ask for more than 2.25%.

MOTION: to approve the Business Manager contract as presented (Stephan / sec. Garofolo)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

MOTION: to add item VII F to the agenda the Seymour 2024 High School Sports Hall of Fame (Bruno / sec. Behuniak)
 9-0-0

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

MOTION: to approve the Seymour 2024 High School Sports Hall of Fame Resolution as presented (Bruno / sec. Harmeling)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Harmeling asked if there are any Seymour Board of Education, the high school staff or administration on the committee that decides the hall of fame. Ms. Harmeling doesn't like to approve something when no one from the BOE has any part of it. Mr. Garofolo said these inductees are from 60 years ago so he doesn't see why the administration would

even have beneficial information to make that decision. Ms. Harmeling said the same thing about the people on that hall of fame committee. Dr. Compton said a lot of these nominations are based off statistics from the athletic participation. Mr. Garofolo questioned who maintains those statistics. Mr. Strumello said the athletic director has in the past kept those statistics. Mr. Strumello referenced a time in the past that the BOE did not do a resolution for a particular year because they didn't agree with the nominations, to not single out that person.

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

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling

PASSES:8-1-0

Dr. Compton would like to remove Mr. Lucke to not accept his resignation. Dr. Compton would like to talk with him before accepting. If he still chooses it, then he will be on the November agenda for resignation. Mr. Strumello questioned softball coaches resigning and it is getting close to the season. Mr. Hatfield asked if they must take action on the information.

MOTION: to remove item VIII, C, d on the presented agenda (Harmeling / sec. Hatfield)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

VIII. INFORMATION

A. **Hiring - Certified**

a. [Deirdre Sponheimer](#)

- i. Indoor Track Head Coach
- ii. Seymour High School
- iii. Replacing James Burns

b. [Kaylee Sudimick](#)

- i. Long Term Sub – 2nd grade
- ii. Bungay Elementary School
- iii. Substituting for Kathleen Furino

B. **Hiring – Appendix D**

a. [Nicole Fearon](#)

- i. National Honor Society Advisor
- ii. Seymour High School
- iii. Replacing Stephanie Ciccone

b. [Erin Scozzafava](#)

- i. Newspaper Club Advisor
- ii. Seymour High School
- iii. Replacing Stephanie Ciccone

C. **Resignations**

a. Samantha Miles-Rigoli

- i. Nurse
- ii. Seymour High School
- iii. Effective September 27, 2024

b. Jodi Schraier

- i. Tutor
- ii. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
- iii. Effective October 11, 2024

c. Angela Berthold

- i. Nutrition Services
- ii. Effective October 11, 2024

- d.
- e. Megan Condo
 - i. Softball Coach
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. September 11,2024

D. School Events

- a. [Chatfield Lo-Presti School](#)
- b. [Bungay Elementary School](#)

E. High Dosage Tutoring

- a. Remaining Grant money for 4 tutors to work at SMS through mid-January

F. Kindness Day

Ms. Nespoli reported that this year it would be an assembly at each school. The whole day will be revolved around kindness at the schools. November 13th. AMD was part of the meeting. Dr. Compton suggested having a high school student panel to talk to the younger kids. Also include a student pledge for kindness.

G. Yale RULER

Dr. Compton explained RULER is a social emotional program to support our kids. She is hoping to get something for the middle school as well. We are starting with Bungay, hoping for CLS to do the same.

H. Secretary Substitute at SMS

I. [School Resource Officer MOU](#)

Mr. Strumello questioned if Dr. Compton was pleased with the MOU. He expressed how the process was done in the past. Dr. Compton said yes, it was a win-win. Mr. Lucke was the representative and the Police Chief was very cooperative in the process.

J. [Goodwin College MOU](#)

K. SHS Principal vacancy update

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

- 1. Chairman's Comments: none
- 2. Board Member Comments: none

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton reminded people to attend the Bungay community workshop meeting tomorrow at Bungay at 6:30 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn (Mr. Garofolo / sec. Harmeling)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM

YouTube Link (10/7/2024): https://youtube.com/live/uKPlnS_O49o?feature=share

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Seymour Middle School.**

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk