

Seymour Board of Education



Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2024

Seymour BOE Central Office

6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Bruno
Pete Kubik, Committee Chair
Jim Garofolo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Susan Compton called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:04 PM.

II. 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 can 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 public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

- Public comment called 3 times – no comment

III. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Appoint a Chair for the committee

MOTION: Nominate Pete Kubik for chair (Kristen Bruno)

AFFIRMATIVE: Kristen Bruno, Pete Kubik, Jim Garofolo

PASSES: 3-0-0

B. Vision of a Graduate/Strategic Planning – next steps

- a. Dr. Compton presented the draft of VOG. It was a 092 project from Dierdre Sponheimer. The committee started out as an Ad Hoc committee from across the district, including teachers, parents, students and other staff from the district. It was a ground roots efforts to start the process. A lot of districts have done "a portrait of a graduate" but it is very costly. Instead, we are doing Vision of a Graduate. This starts in preschool. Pete Kubik asked for an overview. Dr. Compton explained that a portrait of a graduate encompasses the attributes that we want our graduates to have when they walk across the stage; think what does a student need to be a successful graduate and beyond. The big journey is how we are going to embed this framework into curriculum at all levels. Jim Garofolo suggested this will all going to be integrated into curriculum and assessment. Dr. Compton agreed and said it is our strategic plan for the district. Dr. Compton stated how this Vision of a Graduate is required to be a part of the high school's accreditation process. It is an arrow map that we have to follow what they say. We hope to have this whole Vision of a Graduate completed by the end of the school year. Jim Garofolo asked about assessments and how effective teachers are bringing kids to any one of these levels on the rubric. Will it be a formal or recommended assessment of the teacher? Dr. Compton

said it will be recommended. She stated that Paul Lucke will talk about the standards and how they align with it. Kristen Bruno said this will help align the curriculum from preschool up. It will be used to develop curriculum, guide our budget process, etc. Pete Kubik asked why are we reinventing the wheel, we should be using other districts. Dr. Compton said that is exactly what we are doing, we are looking at other models especially Portrait of a Graduate but making it applicable to Seymour. Jim Garofolo asked where and how are we going to encompass teacher feedback for this plan? PD days? Digest it, input, suggestions, questions, etc. Dr. Compton said yes, this is only a draft and anyone that wants to participate on the ad hoc committee is welcome to. The PDEC committee is often used to work on this. Jim said he would be remiss if he didn't comment and assure himself that these are the things that we are going to have to support as a board going forward. Dr. Compton assured him, yes, this is nothing more than starting an outline and building from that. We have bright visionary thinkers; we have to open it up to everyone. Dr. Compton really likes the 5 competencies. The one that really sticks out is "self-director". Problem solver is in all, emotional intellect is also in most plans. There are different ways to look at it. We will continue to look at top notch plans and work to build ours. This is a good start. Curriculum, culture climate communication, budget, finance, resources. We need to be realistic and be able to implement it. Jim Garofolo asked who will be the people who associates each stage with the child's development? Kristen Bruno gave an example of a preschooler "a student making a choice of which center he/she wants to go to" is an example of self-directing at a preschool level. This committee's job is to make sure it is a part of the curriculum. Self-directing comes a lot with choices. Capstone projects can be done in the younger grades which are self-directed. How do we look at this with respect to special needs students? It will have to be tailored to them and their abilities. An example of that is adaptive technology for students who aren't verbal. How do we do this with students who are out of district and those who are out and come back? What are the expectations of them? Kristen Bruno suggested this as being a part of the PPT. Practice digital citizenship, what does that mean? Using social media, AI, our platforms appropriately and have the skills to evaluate the information you're accessing online. Jim Garofolo said there is a lot to digest here. Kristen Bruno asked if these competencies are going to be a graduation requirement? It will be a guiding document rather than an evaluative document. Jim asked if we are going to have a plan to meet regularly as a committee? Dr. Compton would like to meet once a month since we have a lot to work on. We need to have established times to meet. It's important to meet regularly like we used to.

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments

none

2. Board Member Comments

none

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Dr. Compton will share some great finished products of plans from other districts.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk