

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - Revised

December 9, 2024
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Champagne, Chairperson
Kristen Bruno, Vice Chairperson
Stephan Behuniak, Secretary
Jim Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Pete Kubik
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Salvatore Bucci, Business Manager
Jim Freund, Principal, Seymour High School
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, Seymour High School
Keith O'Rourke, Principal, Seymour Middle School
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 7:04 p.m.

B. Introductions

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Bungay Building Committee Update**

Mr. Strumello mentioned there is an upcoming referendum and a virtual committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th.

B. **Seymour Champion Recognitions - "Aware"**

1. Bungay School
 - a. Mackenzie Bullard - 1st grade
 - b. Kiley Sawicki - 3rd grade
2. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
 - a. Madison Miller - 1st grade
 - b. Evan Welsh - 5th grade
3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Charlie Anderson - 7th grade
 - b. Lucy Milia - 7th grade
4. Seymour High School
 - a. Jeremy Tomasheski - 11th grade

C. **Recognitions**

1. Paul Lucke -- Assistant Principal of the Year

2. Aaron Pawluk – Boys NVL Soccer Coach of the Year
3. Thomas Cunningham – Girls NVL Soccer Coach of the Year
4. Boys State and Girls State

D. Student Reports

1. SHS Student Representative Report – Kaitlyn Hamilton, Jeremy Tomasheski
The Student Representatives reported on current events and happenings at Seymour High School including Clubs, Performing Arts, and Sports, and that Ms. Fed is very proud of all sports teams and members for their dedication.

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.

Shannon Bullard, 5 Sagamore Dr. - Thanked Dr. Compton for supporting the Food2Kids program, and reported that there were 43 youth volunteer hours, majority coming from the elementary schools. Ms. Bullard acknowledged all children, beginning at age 3 who come to help count and bag up snacks, and that they are hoping to get into the Middle and High School this upcoming year.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2024
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2024
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024
4. Curriculum and Technology Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2024
5. Athletic and Health Committee Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2024

B. Hiring – Certified

1. Christine Bieger
 - a. Special Education Teacher
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Replacing Julia Roshkind

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

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

MOTION: to move item VII a. to VI a. (Ms. Bruno/sec. Mr. Behuniak)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

VI. REPORTS

A. Teacher's Contract Ratification

Dr. Compton thanked everyone who worked on the contract. Attorney Dugas stated it was a cordial and collaborative negotiation. It's a great feeling for all that it was settled before mediation, and he encourages its approval. He also stated he is happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Strumello asked that when and if we approve it, do we need the Board of Select people to approve it as well. Attorney Dugas stated that yes, if they don't reject within 30 days, it becomes binding.

Ms. Bruno stated that as a member of the committee, we have excellent, professional teachers, many who live in town.

Mr. Behuniak agreed it was a great negotiation, teachers were terrific to work with and residents can be confident it is the best deal we could have made. We are lucky to have the teachers that we have and they were more than gracious and very professional.

Dr. Compton said they were very patient, cooperative, understand, and they love our kids and they love what they do. A big thank you to our teachers and what they do for our kids everyday.

Mr. Strumello gave credit to the team to eliminate mediation and arbitration. That eliminates expenses. Congrats to both sides.

Ms. Bruno gave a thank you to all involved, including Dr. Compton, Attorney Dugas, Mr. Pelosi, and Mr. Bucci.

MOTION: move to approve the Teacher's Contract (Mr. Hatfield/sec. Mr. Behuniak)

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 9-0-2

B. Enrollment Report

C. Special Education Report – Dr. Boyle

D. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci

E. Curriculum & Technology Committee Report – Jim Garofolo, Pete Kubik, Kristen Bruno

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

G. School Improvement Plan – SHS, Jim Freund, Paul Lucke

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. ~~Teacher's Contract Ratification~~

B. SPS District 2025-2026 Calendar

No action was taken

C. Seymour Board of Education 2025-2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

MOTION: move to approve the Seymour BOE 25-26 Regular Meeting Schedule (Ms. Bruno/sec. Mr. Kubik)

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

D. Seymour Board of Education 2025-2026 Finance Committee Schedule

MOTION: move to approve the Seymour BOE 25-26 Finance Committee Meeting Schedule (Mr. Champagne/sec. Ms. Nespoli)

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

E. SPS Long Range Educational Plan

F. Naming of a SPS facility

MOTION: to name the court Fed's Court, after Cathy Federowicz (Mr. Hatfield/sec. Mr. Strumello)

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

Mr. Strumello stated that after discussion with Cathy and her family, she prefers that the court does not have her whole name, but rather, a shortened version.

G. CAGE Policy 1314

Discussion was held regarding CAGE Policy 1314

VIII. INFORMATION

MOTION: to add to the Agenda item 8Cc, resignation of Stacey Long, Bungay School, Assistant Principal(Mr. Hatfield/sec. Ms. Harmeling)

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

Dr. Compton thanked Mrs. Long for her outstanding service, support, and leadership. We will miss you.

A. Hiring – Appendix D

- a. Emily Jepson
 - i. Head Girls Tennis Coach
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacing Michael Avena
- b. Aaron Pawluk
 - i. Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacing Megan Condo
- c. Brian Moir
 - i. Head Baseball Coach
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacing Jeff Gilbert

B. Hiring – Non-Certified

- a. Nicole Brown
 - i. Food Service Worker
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacing Angela Berthold
- b. Alleyah Trotman
 - i. Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - ii. Bungay School
- c. Lily DeLoma
 - i. Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - ii. Bungay School
 - iii. Long term substitute for Lucille McGinn

C. Resignations

- a. Julia Roshkind
 - i. Special Education Teacher
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Effective December 12, 2024
- b. Kancchi Moktan
 - i. Food Services
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Effective December 20, 2024
- c. Stacey Long
 - i. Assistant Principal
 - ii. Bungay Elementary School
 - iii. Effective January 3, 2025

D. School Activities and Events

- a. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
- b. Bungay Elementary School

- c. Seymour Middle School
- d. Seymour High School

IX. **BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

A. **Board of Education Comments**

1. Chairman's Comments
High School Principal interviews starting tomorrow. Happy Holidays!
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Strumello: Just saw that Naugatuck High School approved their field to be renovated. Their number of 1.1 is lower than ours.
Mr. Garofolo: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays!
Ms. Harmeling: When we look at the budget for next year, I requested that there be a real 5 year long range plan. Just want to make sure it's on people's radar. Look at how other school districts around us handle large ticket items. Happy Holidays!
Mr. Kubik: Happy Holidays!
Ms. Nespoli: Happy Holidays!
Mr. Hatfield: There will be an opening on the State Board of Education. They are looking for nominees, if you think someone is a good candidate, we can forward their info on to CABA. I would love to see someone from Seymour on there.
Ms. Bruno: I was able to attend the downtown parade, and Santa coming off the train. Many school organizations and school groups that participated. I'm proud to see the school and community working together.

B. **Superintendent Report**

Tomorrow evening there will be Principal interviews, 5 candidates will be interviewed. Dr. Compton would like a Special Meeting next Monday, the 16th, to name that person, before the January 9th meeting. Thank you to Shannon for doing a lovely job with the Board packet, and Alana for doing the minutes.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: to adjourn (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno)

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:14 p.m.

YouTube Link (12/9/2024): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsOrt3nQ-L8>

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm in Seymour Middle School.**