

# Seymour Board of Education



## Special Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2025

Board of Ed. Central Office

6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen Bruno, Vice Chairperson  
Stephan Behuniak, Secretary  
Ed Strumello  
Jim Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Hatfield  
Pete Kubik

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Willadsen  
Lauren Reid, Bungay Principal

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Kristen Bruno called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02 PM.
- B. Introductions

### 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 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.

1. Lauren Reid: Expressed being very impressed throughout the interview process. Highlighted the multiple layers of the process and commended Mr. Willadsen's professionalism, knowledge, and commitment to Seymour.

Public comment called 3 times, no further comment.

### III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

#### A. Assistant Principal Hiring – Bungay School (may be discussed in Executive Session)

1. Dr. Compton stated that the hiring process was very thorough. There were a total of 168 applicants, which was narrowed down to 12 candidates. Despite the difficulty of interviewing such a large pool, it became clear which candidates stood out and possessed the desired attributes. Notably, Dave consistently emerged as a standout, described as the "shining star" throughout the process.

**MOTION:** to enter executive session invite dr. compton, candidate and mrs reid (Mr. Strumello / sec. Mr. Garofolo)

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling

**PASSES:** 5-0-0

Entered into executive session at 6:06 PM.  
Exited executive session at 6:23 PM.

**MOTION:** to hire Dave Willadsen as the Assistant Principal at Bungay Elementary School (Mr. Strumello / sec. Mr. Behuniak)

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling

**PASSES:**5-0-0

Mr. Willadsen provided an overview of the succession plan for his role as a teacher at Seymour High School. He shared that, aside from the students, he will miss Ms. Federowicz the most but reassured that he would remain connected to Seymour High School. Mr. Willadsen emphasized the importance of teamwork in the transition and reflected on the smooth process thus far. He mentioned that the meetings with staff and students at Bungay felt right, marking a positive start to the change

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

- A. Board of Education Comments - none
  - 1. Chairman's Comments - none
  - 2. Board Member Comments
- B. Superintendent Report - none

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** to adjourn the meeting (Mr. Garofolo / Ms. Harmeling)

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling

**PASSES:**5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Prepared by: Shannon Levey,  
Board Clerk