



Seymour Board of Education  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
April 22, 2025  
Central Office Conference Room  
7:15 pm

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Champagne  
Ed Strumello

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Kristen Harmeling

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Susan Compton  
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk  
Theresa Conroy, Selectperson

## I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:38 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 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.

- A. **Jodi Gerstenhaber, 8 Emma St.** – Thanked the Board for sharing the revised policy. She expressed ongoing concerns about the consistency in assigning makeup work. She recommended removing written assignments, noting that students generally dislike them and perceive them as punitive. She emphasized that the primary goal should be to replace the missed physical activity, not write about it. She is hopeful the district will continue to improve the policy.
- B. Public Comment was called three times and then closed.

## III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**MOTION:** (Chris Champagne / sec. Ed Strumello) to move items III A & B to the next policy committee meeting.

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

**PASSES:** 2-0-0

- ~~A. CABE Policy Update – First Issue 2024-2025~~
- ~~B. CABE Policy Update – Second Issue 2024-2025~~
- C. CABE Policy 6163.5 Revision – Dr. Compton said this policy is a big step, a big improvement. She plans to work with the principals at SMS and SHS. The high school has study halls and other flexibility to make up P.E. classes. But, in middle school there isn't as much flexibility with



the schedule. There are complaints about the written assignment for P.E. make up classes. Dr. Compton requests the committee to adopt this policy revision but then continue to work on this policy to refine it more. Dr. Compton wants happy kids and wants the students to want to go to P.E.

- D. Mr. Champagne clarified: if a student is absent or suspended, they have the option of a physical or written makeup and if a student is at a school event, they are exempt.
- E. Dr. Compton noted that if you have an IEP or 504 you can also get additional accommodations.
- F. Dr. Compton doesn't want the students to be required to complete written assignments every time.
- G. **MOTION:** (Chris Champagne / sec. Ed Strumello) to send the revised policy #6163.5 as presented to the full board for approval and adoption.  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello  
**PASSES:** 2-0-0

#### IV. REPORTS

- A. Board of Education
  - 1. Chairman Comments
    - a. Mr. Strumello: restorative practice policy and climate policy need to be updated, they have deadlines coming up
  - 2. Board Member Comments
    - a. Mr. Champagne: always nice when parents come out and make comments and suggestions.
- B. Superintendent's Report

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM

Prepared by: Shannon Levey,  
Board Clerk