



Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA REVISED
May 12, 2025
Central Office
6:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Champagne, Board Chairperson
Stephan Behuniak, Board Secretary
Lori Nespoli
Jay Hatfield
Kristen Harmeling
Pete Kubik

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Strumello
Kristen Bruno
Jim Garofolo

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Compton, Superintendent
Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 6:43 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.

- Public Comment called three times, no comment

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. FY 2025-2026 Board of Education Budget Approval

MOTION: (~~Stephan Behuniak – amended~~) to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education budget of \$41,340,139.

MOTION: (Stephan Behuniak / Pete Kubik) to accept the voter-approved 2025-2026 Board of Education budget of \$41,340,139.

DISCUSSION: Board members requested a line item budget with allocations from Mr. Bucci. Dr. Compton stated that Mr. Bucci did not prepare the line item budget as he is waiting for final staffing



and remaining budget items. Dr. Compton confirmed that she provided the staff changes to Mr. Bucci today. Mr. Bucci indicated he could be ready by August.

Mr. Hatfield expressed interest in exploring cost-saving measures, including potential changes to school start times and bussing. Ms. Harmeling noted that the board has not formally discussed these potential changes. Dr. Compton explained that some staffing adjustments are being made due to budget cuts, including:

- The reassignment of a music teacher to another school.
- The elimination of French.
- The reassignment of a STEM teacher from CLS to maintain the STEM program.
- A music teacher resignation will not be filled, leading to one music teacher handling both band and choral.
- Potential impact on Unified Arts, with no choral program at the high school.
- A possibility of retaining the glee club and the performing arts show.

Dr. Compton emphasized that staffing changes are being communicated and made now in order to meet contractual deadlines.

TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION: Board members inquired about the impact of transportation changes on the budget. Dr. Compton noted that while the transportation contract is favorable, changes to routes or start times would require thorough review and sufficient notice to parents. Mr. Bucci and Mr. Lombardi, the crossing guard, are being kept informed of developments. The board discussed challenges related to AllStar's recent unionization and driver shortages.

Ms. Harmeling inquired about the number of students being bused within the state-mandated radius, and Mr. Behuniak called a point of order to refocus the discussion.

INSURANCE DISCUSSION: Mr. Kubik asked about the acceptance of the new insurance plan. Dr. Compton stated that preliminary responses indicate support for the state partnership plan, particularly from the teachers' union. Ms. Harmeling raised concerns about potential contract revisions to align with the state plan.

SHARED SERVICES DISCUSSION: Ms. Harmeling and First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis emphasized the need for a separate agenda item to address shared services and budget allocations. First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis noted that the town would absorb the salary and benefits of shared service staff members. The town will also conduct a disruption analysis, and any costs associated with that.

FIELD IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis asked whether installing a baseball field at the high school would generate cost savings. Dr. Compton confirmed that it would and agreed to provide a cost analysis.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli
PASSES: 6-0-0



B. Awards Advisory Committee – 2025 Award Recipients

1. 2025 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award to _____
MOTION: (Jay Hatfield, Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommended nominee for the 2025 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli
PASSES: 6-0-0
2. 2025 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to _____
MOTION: (Jay Hatfield, Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommended nominee for the 2025 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli
PASSES: 6-0-0
3. 2025 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to _____
MOTION: (Jay Hatfield, Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommended nominee for the 2025 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli
PASSES: 6-0-0
4. 2025 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award to _____
MOTION: (Jay Hatfield, Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommended nominee for the 2025 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli
PASSES: 6-0-0
5. 2025 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award Recommendation from the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award to _____
MOTION: (Jay Hatfield, Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommended nominee for the 2025 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award Recommendation from



the Awards Advisory Committee to bestow the 2025 Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat Always a Wildcat” Award

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

PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Stephan Behuniak) to approve the recommendations of the Awards Committee for the 2025 recipients of the David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award, the John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award, the Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award, the Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award and the Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat” Award

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

PASSES: 6-0-0

C. June Board of Education Meeting Dates / Times

1. Monday, June 2, 2025 - **6:00 PM**
2. Monday, June **16, 2025** - 7:00 PM

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Stephan Behuniak) to approve the June Board of Education meeting date of Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM and Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

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

PASSES: 6-0-0

D. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of schools (may be discussed in executive session)

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Stephan Behuniak) Move that the Seymour Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. I further move that the following individual(s) be invited to attend the Executive Session: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Compton

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

PASSES: 6-0-0

7:18 PM

Entered into Executive Session at 7:18 PM

MOTION: to exit Executive Session at 8:45 PM

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

PASSES: 6-0-0

IV. Information

A. Hiring - Non-Certified

1. Dwayne McBride
 - a. District-wide
 - b. School Security Officer Substitute

V. REPORTS



- A. Board of Education
 - 1. Chairman Comments
 - 2. Board Member Comments
- B. Superintendent's Report

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

Prepared by Board Clerk,
Shannon Levey