

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING **MINUTES** - AWARDS CEREMONY
Seymour Middle School, Auditorium
June 2, 2025
6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Chris Champagne
Stephan Behuniak
Kristen Bruno
Ed Strumello
Jay Hatfield
Lori Nespoli
Jim Garofolo

Board Members Absent: Kristen Harmeling
Pete Kubik

Others in Attendance: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent
First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Welcome – Mr. Chris Champagne provided opening remarks
- C. Discussion and take possible action regarding the conferring of a Seymour High School Honorary Diploma with Distinction.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Jay Hatfield) I move that the Seymour Board of Education confer a Seymour High School Honorary Diploma with Distinction upon James Freund in appreciation and honor of his 20 years as principal and assistant principal of Seymour High School. I further move that the honorary diploma be presented to James Freund during the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2025.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Garofollo, Ms. Nespoli, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak

PASSES: 7-0-0

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Awards Recognitions
 - 1. 2025 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 2. Retiring Staff Members –Mr. Jim Garofolo, Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Greg Spath
 - 2. Paul O'Connor
 - 3. Lisa Cheney
 - 4. Jim Freund
 - b. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
 - 1. Carol Wood
 - 3. Golden Apple Awards – Ms. Kristen Bruno, Ms. Mary Sue Feige
 - a. Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid
 - 1. Chloe Germian
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School – Mr. David Olechna
 - 1. Larry Dublin
 - c. Special Education – Dr. Kris Boyle

1. Diane Fuchs
 - d. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O’Rourke
 1. Ann Marie Caiza
 - e. Seymour High School – Mr. Jim Freund
 1. Paul O’Connor
 - f. District – Dr. Susan Compton
 1. Shannon Levey

4. PAW (Progressing in All Work) Award – Mr. Stephan Behuniak, Dr. Kristopher Boyle
 - a. Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid
 1. Jay’vani Flores
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School – Mr. David Olechna
 1. Gracie Daley
 - c. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O’Rourke
 1. Ana Lotto
 - d. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 1. Wyatt Smarz

5. CABA Student Leadership Award – Ms. Kristen Bruno

The CABA Student Leadership Awards Program is designed to honor Connecticut High School and Middle School students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. Two students from each school, in a CABA member district, are eligible to receive the CABA Student Leadership Award.

 - a. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O’Rourke
 1. Kamil Zygadlo
 2. Thomas Halligan
 - b. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 1. Kaitlyn Hamilton
 2. Robert Carrafiello

6. CAPSS Award of Excellence – Mr. Jay Hatfield and Mr. Ed Strumello

The CAPSS Award of Excellence is based on community service and service to others; academic prowess (relative to ability); and leadership service to the school community.

 - a. Seymour High School - Mr. Paul Lucke
 1. Elizabeth Savary
 2. Zachary McKirryher
 - b. Seymour Middle School - Mr. Keith O’Rourke
 1. Mackenzie Browning
 2. Logan Andrews

7. Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Leader Award – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Keith O’Rourke
 - a. Seymour Middle School
 1. Mackenzie Blood
 2. Isabella Melendez

8. SCASA Award – Ms. Lori Nespoli and Dr. Susan Compton

The SCASA awards program allows area superintendents to recognize students’ accomplishments based on academic, extra-curricular, and community service criteria.

 - a. Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid

1. Autumn Wells
 2. Hannah Tokarz
 - b. Chatfield LoPresti School - Mr. David Olechna
 1. Cora Willox
 - c. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Kevin O’Rourke
 1. Gianna Nespoli
 2. Lilyann Gampel
 - d. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 1. Elizabeth Savary
 2. Ryan Sadick

9. First Selectwoman & Superintendent Community Award – First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis and Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. Seymour High School
 1. Wyatt Smarz

10. Coaching Recognitions – Mr. Stephan Behuniak, Ms. Cathy Federowicz and Mr. David Willadsen
 - a. NVL Boys Soccer Coach of the Year
 1. Aaron Pawluk
 - b. NVL Girls Soccer Coach of the Year
 1. Thomas Cunningham
 - c. 500th Volleyball Win
 1. Cathy Federowicz
 - d. 200th Girls Basketball Win
 1. Brian Cleveland

11. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award – Ms. Mary Sue Feige and Mr. Chris Champagne
 - a. Heather Brown
12. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award – Mr. Joe Carrafiello and Mr. Ed Strumello
 - a. David Willadsen
13. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award – Mr. Fred Stanek and Mr. Stephan Behuniak
 - a. Sandra Gesek
14. Karen R. Stanek “Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat” Memorial Award – First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis, Mr. Jay Hatfield
 - a. Jamie Yakushewich
15. Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award – Ms. Kristen Bruno
 - a. Olivia Saunders
16. 2025-2026 Paraeducator of the Year – Ms. Kristen Bruno and Dr. Kris Boyle
 - a. Cynthia Brown
17. 2025-2026 Educator of the Year – Dr. Susan Compton, Mr. David Olechna and Ms. Stephanie Ciccone
 - a. Jessica DeNigris
18. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative – Mr. Jay Hatfield and Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. Kaitlyn Hamilton
19. Recognition of Awards Committee Student Representatives – Mr. Chris Champagne and Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. Kaitlyn Hamilton
 - b. Robert Carrafiello
 - c. Shayan Khan

20. Graduates of Griffin Allied Health Program – Mr. Fred Stanek and Mr. Paul Lucke
 - a. Mikaela Brenchak
 - b. Tatiana Deida
 - c. Panka Magari
 - d. Sienna Major
 - e. Elma Otajagic
21. Valedictorian, Shayan Khan – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Paul Lucke
22. Salutatorian, Robert Carrafiello – Dr. Susan Compton Mr. Paul Lucke
23. Top 10 Students – Class of 2025 – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Paul Lucke
 10. Ryan Sadick
 9. Lilliana Crisco
 8. Jake George
 7. Owen Marganski
 6. Zachary McKirryher
 5. Jastina Khand
 4. Julia Marsala
 3. Matthew Pastick
 2. Robert Carrafiello
 1. Shayan Khan

III. RECEPTION

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

YouTube Link (June 2, 2025) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYHkHizl4M>

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk