



Seymour Board of Education

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

July 28, 2025

Central Office

6:00 pm

Members Present: Chris Champagne
Ed Strumello
Dr. Susan Compton
Shannon Levey

Members Absent: Kristen Harmeling

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. CAFE Policy Update - [Policy 5131.911](#) (a - i): Connecticut School Climate Policy

- This policy designates school climate as a district responsibility, requiring a committee and designee at each school.
- The committee must include: a school climate specialist, a teacher, students, families, and members of the school community. The survey must be conducted biannually.
- Principals and Assistant Principals are included in implementation efforts.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) to forward Policy 5131.911 to the full Board for consideration.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 2-0-0

B. CAFE Policy Update - [Policy 5131.81](#) (b-e): Students' Electronic Device Policy

- Mr. Champagne suggested that if cell phones are anticipated to be used for educational purposes, teachers should make that determination upfront. This expectation could be outlined in the student handbook or course syllabus.
- Dr. Compton reviewed Mr. Lucke's proposed cell phone procedure.
- Mr. Strumello emphasized the need for a clearly defined "School Communication Plan" to inform parents how to contact their children during emergencies.
- The committee agreed this plan should be easily accessible (e.g., on the website and in the handbook).
- Cell phones must remain in students' personal backpacks during the school day.



MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) to forward Policy 5131.81 to the full board for consideration.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 2-0-0

C. CABE Policy Update - [Policy 6146](#): Graduation Requirements (Community Service)

- Financial Literacy:

Mr. Champagne raised concern about the one-half credit in personal financial management being counted toward STEM credits.

The committee agreed to strike the phrase: "science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or as an" from part (a).

- Capstone Project:

The committee supports retaining the capstone project.

Agreed to remove the red text but keep the strikethrough:

"The Board of Education may adopt in its graduation policy the requirement of a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment for students to graduate or be granted a diploma."

- Student Support and Remedial Services:

The committee agreed to remove this entire section.

- Community Service Requirement:

The committee discussed whether community service should be a graduation requirement or an elective.

There was no consensus on whether to include it as a credit or to increase the total graduation credit requirement.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) to table Agenda item III.C for further discussion at a future meeting.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 2-0-0

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments - none
2. Board Member Comments - none

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Really focus on this school climate and committees. It is another mandate that is unfunded.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM