

Seymour Board of Education



Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting

December 8, 2025

Seymour Middle School

6:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Kubik
James Garofolo
Kristen Bruno

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent
Mr. David Olechna, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Paul Lucke, Principal
Ms. Heather Brown
Ms. Emily Jepson
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Kubik called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:05 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 Chairman can answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairman'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 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. SHS New Courses

a. **Educational Pathway – "If You Love It, Teach It!"**

Ms. Brown presented a proposed Educational Pathway aligned with the State of Connecticut's initiative to develop "homegrown" educator pipelines. She noted that Seymour has already begun this work through the KinderCats Program and is now expanding opportunities to include college-level coursework.

Ms. Brown reported that research was conducted with Bethel and Amity school districts, as well as a private organization, EdRising. Amity currently offers a UConn-affiliated "If You Love It, Teach It" course, while Bethel offers a full-year course with a second-semester internship. The proposed SHS course would introduce students to careers in education, including teaching, school psychology, speech pathology, counseling, and related fields.

Seniors would be eligible to take the course next year, with prerequisite coursework developed in the future. Students would be able to earn UConn credit during the first half of the course. The internship

component would allow students to be paired with a cooperating teacher to gain firsthand classroom experience. The long-term goal is to encourage students to pursue careers in education and return to Seymour as educators.

Ms. Brown emphasized the value of early exposure to the field prior to college student teaching placements. Dr. Compton stated that the program would help address the teacher shortage and create a “win-win” opportunity for students and the district.

Ms. Bruno requested that the program description include PreK–12 language, noting that many education-related careers are not widely known to students prior to college. Administrators have reviewed the proposal and expressed full support.

b. Graphic Design

Mr. Lucke presented a proposal to expand the existing half-year Graphic Design course by adding a second semester focused on sign production. While the first semester emphasizes digital design, the second semester would allow students to physically produce signage. The long-term goal is to establish a school-based business that could serve the district, town, and community, potentially generating revenue and reducing district signage costs.

Mr. Garofolo inquired about the use of rubrics and student productivity. Mr. Lucke confirmed that rubrics are integrated and tailored to each project. He also noted that two of the three required machines are already available; the remaining cutter machine would cost approximately \$4,500. Dr. Compton stated that the long-term return would exceed the initial investment.

c. Matters in Science

Mr. Lucke explained that this course is designed to support students who lack exposure to physics concepts and therefore struggle with NGSS-aligned assessments. The course would ensure comprehensive science exposure and serve as part of a structured progression.

Mr. Kubik stated that the course may also help students identify future areas of interest. Ms. Bruno asked whether the course would include both general education students and students with IEPs; it was confirmed that this is a general education course.

d. AP Business with Personal Finance

Mr. Garofolo suggested incorporating guest speakers from the business and finance fields to enhance student engagement. Ms. Jepsen stated that she has professional contacts she could invite as speakers, in addition to the guest speakers they already have.

Ms. Bruno asked whether the course could help 10th-grade students build confidence to pursue additional AP courses; Ms. Jepsen confirmed this aligns with the College Board’s intent. She noted this is a brand-new College Board offering.

Ms. Bruno commended staff for taking advantage of free training opportunities. Discussion followed regarding potential guest speaker partnerships, including local and regional professionals, alumni, Sikorsky Credit Union, and virtual panels.

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno / Mr. Garofolo) to recommend to the full Board of Education approval of the following courses:

Educational Pathway (“If You Love It, Teach It”)

Graphic Design II (Sign Production)

Matters in Science
AP Business with Personal Finance
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Garofolo
PASSES: 3-0-0

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments - Expressed appreciation for innovative course offerings that support students in making informed future career decisions.
2. Board Member Comments - none

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Compton thanked staff for their work and vision, noting the positive impact on students and the fact that the initiatives do not require additional funding.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk