

Seymour Board of Education



Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

Seymour Middle School

6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Ed Strumello
Chris Champagne
Kristen Harmeling (non-committee member)

Board Members Absent: Pete Kubik

Others Present: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent
Mr. Keith O'Rourke, Principal of SMS
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

II. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: (Ed Strumello) to nominate Chris Champagne for Chairperson of the Facilities & Transportation Committee

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 2-0-0

III. 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.

- Called three times, no public comment

IV. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Naming the Seymour Middle School Basketball Courts in Memory of Grayson Luyando

- Mr. O'Rourke shared that Grayson's parents have expressed a strong desire to have the outside Seymour Middle School basketball court named in his memory. He spoke about how special Grayson was and noted that he was one of the first students he met upon arriving at SMS. With the one-year anniversary of Grayson's passing approaching, many have wanted to do something meaningful to honor him. Mr. O'Rourke explained that Grayson spent a great deal of time on the basketball court and was an avid fan of the game. During Grayson's illness, he continued to enjoy time spent shooting hoops with family and friends. Mr. O'Rourke shared that Grayson's father spoke about the value of those moments together, noting that the court represents more than just a recreational space; it holds deep personal meaning for the family. The vision is for the area to become a welcoming, communal

space where families and students can gather and connect. He added that the current court area is in need of maintenance and improvements. The family hopes to establish a source of ongoing funding, potentially through a trust or donations, to support enhancements and possibly create opportunities such as scholarships for summer camp assistance for middle school students. Mr. O'Rourke emphasized that the project would not require Board or town funding, as it would be supported through private donations and fundraising efforts. He requested permission to move forward with the planning process to create a vibrant space that honors Grayson and benefits the school community.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) to recommend to the full board the naming of the Seymour Middle School Basketball Court in Memory of Grayson Luyando.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Harmeling asked whether the family would be open to including additional memorials to honor other students who have passed.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that while his focus is on honoring Grayson, he is not opposed to exploring ways to recognize others, noting there is space to do so. However, the family's primary goal is to create a dedicated space honoring Grayson.

Mr. Strumello agreed that recognizing others could also be considered.

Dr. Compton noted Grayson's strong connection to basketball and stated that naming the court in his honor is a meaningful tribute, while acknowledging the loss of other students and suggesting additional memorial opportunities could be explored.

Mr. O'Rourke shared that the family plans to create a trust to help maintain the area. Without the family present, he could not speak to broader memorial plans but indicated that future individual recognitions could be considered as needed.

Ms. Harmeling suggested the possibility of naming the overall area for Grayson while allowing features such as benches or gardens to be dedicated in memory of others.

Mr. O'Rourke agreed that this could be a thoughtful approach. He noted that he, the family, and a Board representative would form a committee to develop plans. The Board would ultimately approve the official name, and all actions would follow established Board policies and town ordinances.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 2-0-0

V. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

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

B. Superintendent's Report - none

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk