

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

March 2, 2026
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

Board Members Present:

Kristen Bruno, Board Chairperson
Chris Champagne, Board Vice-Chairperson
Kristen Harmeling, Board Secretary
Stephan Behuniak
James Garofolo
Jay Hatfield (7:34 pm)
Pete Kubik
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

Others Present: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Kristen Bruno called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM
- B. Introductions

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Pete Kubik) to move public comment up to item II

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 8-0-0

MOTION: (Ed Strumello / Chris Champagne) to move item 8C to Discussion and Possible Action

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 8-0-0

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.

- Ms. Annmarie Drugonis, 111 Middle Benham Rd. and Mr. Fred Stanek, 22 North Benham Rd. - A request was made to the Board of Education to consider naming the gymnasium at Seymour High School in honor of Raymond Necio. During the comment, Ms. Drugonis and Mr. Stanek reflected on Mr. Necio's many roles throughout his tenure in Seymour Public Schools and his deep dedication to working with students. It was noted that naming the gymnasium in his memory would serve as both a tribute to his lasting impact and a symbol of the type of individual whose legacy represents the values the Seymour school community strives to honor.

- Public comment called three times, no further comment

III.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Bungay Building Committee Update – Mr. Kubik provided an update regarding efforts to secure the additional 10% funding for early childhood education; we are eligible but not approved yet. He reported that the district is in the process of developing an RFP for an architect and developer. Full funding is anticipated around May, at which time the hiring for those positions could begin.
- B. Seymour Champion Recognitions – “Integrity”
 1. Bungay School
 - a. Jackson Blake
 - b. Ronald Horowitz
 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - a. Leonardo Cruz-Frias
 - b. Leirany Figueroa
 3. Seymour Middle School
 - a. Penny Frost
 - b. Charlie Anderson
 4. Seymour High School
 - a. Payton Motyl
 - b. Spencer Sudamick
- C. Recognitions
 1. Board Member Appreciation – Dr. Compton thanked the members of the Board of Education for their service, noting that their roles are voluntary. She expressed appreciation for their time and dedication and shared that they will be receiving certificates in recognition of their service.
- D. Student Reports
 1. SHS Student Representative Report – Jeremy Tomasheski and Daphne Shea
 - a. Jeremy Tomasheski and Daphne Shea provided an update on activities at Seymour High School. They reported on the work and involvement of several student organizations, including the National Honor Society, HOPE Club, KinderKATs, Yearbook Club, Art Club, Chess Club, Spanish Club, Debate Team, Electrathon Car Club, Robotics Team, FBLA, and Bible Club. They also noted that spring sports registration is currently open. Additionally, they shared that the Performing Arts Show is scheduled for March 27 and that the school’s Spirit Shop is open.

IV.

REPORTS

- A. Enrollment Report
- B. Special Education Report – Dr. Boyle
- C. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci
- D. School Improvement Plan – Chatfield-LoPresti School, David Olechna and Jake Velleco

Mr. Olechna and Mr. Velleco thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Chatfield-LoPresti School Improvement Plan, noting they followed a similar format previously used by Bungay School. The presentation began with a short clip from the school’s podcast. Mr. Olechna expressed appreciation for the continued positive trends at CLS and thanked the students and staff for their efforts. He also recognized the work of Ms. Ciccone during the previous year. He noted that being named a School of Distinction for three consecutive years has helped create a healthy sense of competition among fourth and fifth grade students and teachers when setting goals.

The presenters highlighted the three pillars of CLS’s success: Care, Learn, Succeed. Initiatives supporting these pillars include the Yale RULER approach for social-emotional learning, as well as

continued growth in reading, literacy, and mathematics. Goals include developing student self-awareness and self-management, reducing chronic absenteeism, and increasing students' sense of belonging.

Strategies currently in place to support these goals include the Yale RULER framework, use of the Mood Meter and Meta-Moment for self-regulation, the development of classroom charters outlining emotional expectations, teacher attendance mentors, Golden Cheetah classroom awards, and the use of Responsive Classroom and restorative practices. Survey data shows strong family connection to the school, with 98% of parents reporting they feel they belong and 99% indicating that staff support their children.

In the area of literacy, the school aims to increase K–5 student MAP reading growth targets from 59.7% to 64%. To address assessment fatigue, the district plans to administer the Smarter Balanced assessment prior to the MAP assessment this year. Key interventions supporting ELA growth include core instructional programs such as Read 180 and Into Reading, along with additional support for 89 students through multilingual teacher and tutor push-in and pull-out services.

For mathematics, the goal is to increase K–5 MAP growth from 64.2% to 70%. The school also continues to focus on closing achievement gaps for high-need students, noting that 85.2% of targeted growth was achieved this year and that the school has exceeded 80% for the past three years.

Additional targets include reducing chronic absenteeism to 10% and continuing progress toward improved academic growth and student engagement.

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) to move item A4, the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, from the February 2, 2026 Finance Meeting to item 6A

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) to remove item B1 the hiring of Brooke Plitnick from the Consent Agenda

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2026 Revised
2. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026
3. Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026

B. Hiring – Non-Certified

1. ~~Brooke Plitnick~~
 - a. ~~Instructional Paraeducator~~
 - b. ~~Bungay School~~
 - c. ~~Replacing Singh Ganesh~~
2. Rachel Perry
 - a. Substitute Nurse
 - b. District-wide
3. Bernadette Paternostro
 - a. Substitute Nurse

- b. District-wide

MOTION: (KH/CC) move to approve the consent agenda with the removal of A4 and B1
Passes 9-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

A. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026

Ms. Harmeling asked for an adjustment in the last paragraph of the minutes regarding clean up and remediation at Chatfield-LoPresti School. The district spent 50 dollars addressing the clean up. The rest of the sentence can be removed.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Pete Kubik) add item D8 under Discussion and Possible Action to request to name the gymnasium at seymour high school in memory of Ray Necio

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Donation of 2 Microwaves for Chatfield-LoPresti School

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Kristen Harmeling) To approve the donation of two microwaves for Chatfield-LoPresti School and direct the Superintendent to determine their use as she sees fit.

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

B. Healthy Food Certification 2026-2027

1. **MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Seymour Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

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

PASSES: 9-0-0

2. **MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) The Seymour Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sale.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 9-0-0

C. Spring Coaches

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Kristen Harmeling) to approve the Spring Coaches for 2026 as presented
DISCUSSION: Mr. Strumello states that there are some errors on the list of coaches

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) amendment to the motion to reflect Dan Dunaj: Head Outdoor Track, Matthew Maisto: Baseball, Brian Moir: Head Baseball, Ian Sadick: Asst Outdoor Track, Deirdre Sponheimer: Head Outdoor Track, Dan Carboni: Asst. Outdoor Track, Jaime Yakushewich: Asst. Softball

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 9-0-0

MOTION: to approve the Spring Coaches with the revisions stated

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 9-0-0

Dr. Compton noted that coaching positions are year-to-year contracts. Mr. Strumello added that the Athletic Director evaluates the head coaches, while assistant coaches are evaluated by the head coach.

D. Naming of the Seymour High School Gymnasium in Memory of Ray Necio

Dr. Compton clarified that there is a Board policy regarding the naming of school facilities and that the Board of Education makes the final decision regarding the naming of a school area. She stated that she is supportive of the proposal and referenced the general statement within the policy.

MOTION: (Jay Hatfield / Ed Strumello) to refer the naming of the Seymour High School gymnasium in memory of Raymond Necio to the Facilities Committee for review.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Strumello stated that if there is a need to expedite the naming process, a Facilities Committee meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible, followed by a Board meeting to approve the naming.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 9-0-0

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Hiring – Certified

1. Tom Lennon
 - a. Library Media Specialist
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. New Position for Accreditation

B. Resignations

1. Terri Kirkland
 - a. Library Media Specialist
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Effective last day: end of 2026 school year
2. Matthew D'Onofrio
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Effective last day March 9, 2026

- C. NEASC Accreditation Application
- D. Appendix D Stipends Clarification
- E. Raymond Necio Scholarship
- F. School Events
 - 1. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 2. Bungay Elementary School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments
 - 1. Chairman's Comments – none
 - 2. Board Member Comments – Ms. Harmeling noted that the board will be speaking and presenting to the Board of Finance on Monday. She invited any Board members who would like to attend and show support. She added that this will be the first public presentation of the budget, aside from prior meetings.
- B. Superintendent Report – Memorial Celebration for Ray Necio: Mr. Lucke, Mr. Stanek, and the Alumni Association are planning a memorial celebration for Ray Necio. Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Strumello may attend to speak. Dr. Compton suggested including the Board of Education on the announcement, noting that Mr. Necio served in multiple capacities beyond just the high school.
 Middle School Pasta Dinner: The middle school is holding a pasta dinner on March 12 and is inviting Board of Education members to attend.
 Legal Fees: A minor adjustment was noted, reflecting a slight increase in legal fees.
 District Calendar: The last day of school is tentatively scheduled for June 17.
 Delayed Opening Considerations: Discussion was held regarding the possibility of implementing a three-hour delay in certain situations. Dr. Compton would like to have the authority to adjust the calendar in emergencies when a delayed opening coincides with a scheduled professional development day. Ms. Bruno expressed that while she is agreeable to the three-hour delay, changes to the Professional Development schedule or calendar could impact families and require additional lead time.
 - 1. Memorial Celebration of the Life and Legacy of of Ray Necio - March 21, 2026, 1:00PM
 - 2. Discussion of the selection process for Principal of Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Discussion of the selection process for Director of Nutritional Services
 Mr. Hatfield stated that the topic should be added as an agenda item to allow for an in-depth discussion regarding which model the district should move forward with—whether to continue the current model or implement changes.
 Ms. Harmeling noted that the program is self-funded, which is why she ran it independently.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

- A. Discussion of Schools Safety Plan with Director of Security and Chief of Police
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Kristen Harmeling) I move that the Board enter executive session to discuss matters concerning security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and devices affecting public security in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(C), and to invite Dr. Susan Compton, Director of Security Edward Henry, Chief of Police John Bucherati and Deputy Police Chief Michael Fappiano to attend the session.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield
PASSES: 8-1-0

Entered Executive Session at 8:54 PM

Exited Executive Session at 9:49 PM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

YouTube Link (3/2/2026): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWu53mzFwWM>

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Monday, April 6, 2026**, at 7:00 pm in **Seymour Middle School**.

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk