Seymour Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2026
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

Board Members Present:	Kristen Bruno, Board Chairperson Kristen Harmeling, Board Secretary Jim Garofolo Pete Kubik Casey Grenier Lori Nespoli Ed Strumello Stephan Behuniak (7:20 PM)
Board Members Absent:	Chris Champagne
Others Present:	Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
B. Introductions – Introductions were made for all those in attendance

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour Champion Recognitions – Creative
    1. Bungay School
        a. Norah Lynch
        b. Tariq Sanchez
    2. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
        a. Mia Pereira
        b. Filip Kaminski
    3. Seymour Middle School
        a. Connor McMeans
        b. Jacob Pecor
    4. Seymour High School
        a. Jaycie Escaraman
    5. Recognitions
        a. Resolution – SHS Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026
        b. U.S. News & World Report recognizes Seymour High School among the 2026 Best High Schools in the state and country
            i Dr. Compton expressed her pride in Seymour High School's recognition by U.S. News & World Report as one of the 2026 Best High Schools in Connecticut and the nation. She noted that this is the third time the school has received this distinction and presented Mr. Lucke and Ms. Ciccone with a commemorative plaque and banner. Mr. Lucke emphasized that the

achievement reflects the efforts of every school in the district, with the high school serving as the culmination of students' educational experiences.

6. Student Reports
    a. **MOTION:** (Jim Garofolo / Kristen Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Seymour High School Administration and the Student Council to appoint Jacob Lang as the Board of Education's Junior Student Representative.
    AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
    PASSES: 7-0-0
    b. SHS Student Representative Report – Daphne Shea, Jacob Lang
        i Daphne Shea, senior student representative to the Board of Education, and Jacob Lang, junior student representative, provided an overview of the clubs and activities underway at Seymour High School to kick off the school year, along with upcoming events and opportunities for students.

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 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.

- **Michael Kearney**, Mountain Road resident and Post 10 Commander: announced a meet and greet with Boys State and Girls State participants scheduled for October 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Board of Education office. He inquired about woodworking classes at Seymour High School and noted that veteran interviews at Chatfield-LoPresti and Bungay Elementary Schools are upcoming. He shared that Veterans Appreciation Week begins November 9, with activities planned in the schools and at French Memorial Park, weather permitting. He requested the Board's input and expressed interest in returning to Seymour High School for Veterans Day activities.
- Public comment was called three times. No further comments were offered.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes
    1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2026
    2. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2026
    3. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2026

B. Seymour High School Attendance/Tardy Officer
    1. To approve the appointment of the SHS Attendance/Tardy Officer for the 2026-2027 school year as followed: Jeffery Gilbert; $2,000 per faculty member

C. Hiring – Non-Certified
    1. Blake Kravec
        a. Food Service Worker
        b. Seymour High School
        c. New Hire
    2. Catherine West
        a. Instructional Paraeducator
        b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
        c. Replacing Allyson Burroughs
    3. Mamsie Agyeman Prempeh
        a. Instructional Paraeducator
        b. Seymour High School
        c. Replacting Delta-T

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Jim Garofolo) move to approve the consent agenda as presented
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS

A. Bungay Building Committee Updates – Pete Kubik, Ed Strumello

Mr. Kubik reported that the project is progressing. Following a discussion of the architect's extensive report, the committee voted unanimously to demolish the existing Bungay School building. The anticipated opening of the new school remains September 2029, subject to change.
Ms. Harmeling asked whether the decision was final and whether the committee had the authority to make it. Mr. Kubik confirmed both.
Dr. Compton noted that she had distributed the official feasibility report earlier that day.
Ms. Harmeling inquired about options for reusing the existing solar panels at Bungay School. Mr. Kubik stated that discussions are ongoing and that several options are being explored, but no decision has been made.

B. Rocket Alumni Solutions – Paul Lucke

Mr. Lucke presented Rocket Alumni as a potential platform for preserving and sharing Seymour High School's history. He showed a brief informational video, followed by a discussion of the platform's features, including a website accessible worldwide and a digital kiosk. Alumni and others could submit materials through a digital dropbox for review and approval before publication, helping build the school's archives.

Mr. Lucke discussed the opportunity to incorporate the Athletic Hall of Fame's entire collection, referencing Mr. Roy, its president. The platform could also support sponsorships and donations, with the school retaining ownership of all data. Although professional setup services are available, Mr. Lucke expressed interest in having students develop the archives under staff supervision, with staff approval required before materials are published. He noted that archival equipment in the SHS Library Media Center could support this work and that space for storing historical materials is becoming limited.

Mr. Lucke suggested that the Athletic Committee, Alumni Association, and school could share the cost. Ms. Harmeling commented that the cost was lower than she had anticipated. Mr. Behuniak expressed his full support and encouraged exploring creative funding options, noting that both the organizations and schools would benefit.

Mr. Lucke also explained that the platform could replace the content currently displayed on school televisions and provide banners and sponsorship displays in the gymnasium or at the football field. In response to Mr. Garofolo's question, Mr. Lucke confirmed that the platform is web-based and cloud-hosted, with unlimited data storage. Mr. Garofolo also inquired about the potential for hacking.

C. SPS K-2 Technology Presentation – Lauren Reid, David Willadsen

Dr. Compton arranged for Mr. Dyer to listen to the presentation via cell phone. Ms. Reid and Mr. Willadsen provided an overview of technology use in K–2 classrooms, including data collected from Chatfield-LoPresti and Bungay Elementary Schools. Reported use was typically approximately 20 minutes for targeted instruction. They explained that technology is used for individual practice, targeted learning stations, assessments, and interventions through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), rather than whole-class instruction. The principals discussed how technology supports differentiation, appropriate pacing, targeted remediation, and more challenging learning opportunities. They also noted its potential to increase student motivation, confidence, and independence. They emphasized taking a holistic approach that balances individualized academic instruction with the developmental needs of young learners. Key themes included targeted rather than pervasive use, differentiation, and the "primary grade paradox." Mr. Willadsen stated that the district's practices align with findings from the most recent state study.

Ms. Harmeling asked whether assigning a device to each student simplifies the login process. The presenters confirmed that it does under the current IT configuration, while noting that alternative approaches are available.

Mr. Dyer invited Board members to contact him with any questions.

Dr. Compton commended Mrs. Reid and Mr. Willadsen for their work.

Ms. Bruno asked how much assessment is conducted digitally. The presenters discussed the possibility of replacing MAP with another diagnostic program and noted that both the literacy and mathematics curricula include online components, which are used primarily in the older grades.

Ms. Harmeling requested a link to the state report referenced during the presentation.

D. Enrollment Report

E. Special Education Report – Dr. Boyle

i. Dr. Boyle reported that special education enrollment at the start of the school year is higher than last year. However, the number of students in out-of-district placements is at its lowest level in approximately 10–12 years.

F. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci

i. Ms. Harmeling provided an overview and emphasized the need to clarify which maintenance expenses fall within the Board of Education's budget and which fall within the Town's budget, particularly snow removal and grounds maintenance.

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. SHS Environmental Club/Environmental Science/APES Students Out of State Sponsored Trip

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Pete Kubik) to accept the application for an out of state trip for the SHS Environmental Club/Environmental Science/APES Students School Sponsored Trip

DISCUSSION: No snow date

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

B. CABE Policy 5131.6 Revision - Chemical Health Policy for Seymour High School

MOTION: (Jim Garofolo / Kristen Harmeling) to accept and adopt CABE Policy 5131.6 / 6164.11, as presented.

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

C. Part-Time / Assistant School Food Service Manager – by Salvatore Giannotti

i. Mr. Giannotti and Dr. Compton provided an explanation of this position and how it fits within his budget.

MOTION:(Stephan Behuniak / Jim Garofolo) to approve the Assistant Part-Time Food Service Manager position

DISCUSSION: Ms. Harmeling expressed confusion regarding the proposal and requested clarification. Dr. Compton explained that the proposal reflects the program's needs as identified by Mr. Giannotti and is intended to support those needs. She stated that the cost can be absorbed by the Nutrition Department and would not impact the Board of Education's budget. Ms. Harmeling asked whether student meal participation was being compared with the same period last year. Mr. Giannotti responded that the managers are familiar with the participation averages and have made those comparisons. Ms. Harmeling emphasized that she did not want to base a decision on a single point-in-time figure.

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

PASSES: 8-0-0

D. Discussion of posting of the Business Manager's position and to recommend that the full board serves as the Personnel Committee (due to the retirement of Salvatore Bucci, June 30, 2027).

i. No action has been taken.

VIII. INFORMATION

A. Athletics Volunteer List

B. Hiring – Certified

1. Harvey Catlin
    a. Long Term Substitute (Business Teacher)
    b. Seymour High School
    c. Substituting for Mr. Catanese

C. Hiring – Non-Certified

1. Brian Dillon
    a. Substitute Teaching Pool
    b. District Wide
2. Anne Moore
    a. Substitute Teaching Pool
    b. District Wide
3. Catherine DiDonato
    a. Substitute Teaching Pool
    b. District Wide

D. Hiring – Appendix D

1. Amy Lebetkin
    a. Master Schedule Builder / PowerSchool Coordinator
    b. Seymour High School
    c. Replacing Michele Esteves-Pinho
2. Erin Maloney

a. Yearbook Co-Advisor
b. Seymour Middle School
c. Replacing Deb Bennett

3. Nick Frosolone
a. Yearbook Co-Advisor
b. Seymour Middle School
c. Replacing Deb Bennett

E. Resignations
1. Jeannine Weaver
a. Girls' Basketball Coach
b. Seymour Middle School
c. Effective 9/21/2026

F. School Events
1. Chatfield Lo-Presti School
2. Bungay Elementary School
3. Seymour Middle School
4. Seymour High School

In response to the athletic volunteer list: Ms. Harmeling stated there are a lot of volunteers for cheer; that's all I'm going to say.

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments - The Chairman shared that she enjoyed handing out water at the Seymour Pink event.

2. Board Member Comments - Mr. Strumello encouraged Board members to attend the CABE Convention in Mystic. Mr. Garofolo expressed his personal concern regarding the transition to a new Business Manager and emphasized the importance of maintaining the progress made.

B. Superintendent Report - Dr. Compton thanked Mrs. Deming and noted that Seymour Pink would also be celebrated in the schools. She announced that district NEASC training would take place on Wednesday. John DeFore of All-Star Transportation requested to meet with the Board in December to discuss the transportation contract. Dr. Compton reported that she conducted facility walkthroughs at Seymour High School and Seymour Middle School with Mr. Connors and expressed interest in arranging a walkthrough for Board members. She shared that the First Selectwoman would like to hold a bonfire on the Tuesday evening before the Thanksgiving football game, which is scheduled for Wednesday. She noted that Kindness Day is November 13 and encouraged Board members to attend the CABE Convention. She reported that welcome materials for new Board members were included in the meeting packet and that training would be held in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, in December.

X. SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOLLOW UP/CONTRACT

A. Discussion and possible action on the Superintendent's Contract (may be discussed in Executive Session)

MOTION: (KH / SB) to accept the superintendent's contract as presented
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM

YouTube Link (10/5/2026): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbPqHYBvX_E

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026** at **7:00 pm** in **Seymour Middle School.**

Prepared by: Shannon Levey, Board Clerk