



## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 11, 2014

Seymour Middle School – Library Media Center

7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Kristen Harmeling, Committee Chairman  
Jennifer Magri  
Yashu Putorti  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

Others Present: Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools  
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations  
Jim Freund  
Paul Lucke  
Bernadette Hamad  
Ernie DiStasi  
Harvey Catlin  
Pam Gagliardi  
Diane Ashbrook  
Gina Volpacchio  
Christine Baxter  
Tricia Vertuccio

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ms. Gagliardi called the Middle School Parent Council meeting to order and Ms. Harmeling called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 p.m.

### II. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

#### A. Information

##### 1. **2014-2015 Board of Education Budget Presentation**

Ms. Harmeling did an overview of the attached presentation and encouraged questions from the audience. Mr. Putorti talked about the history of Seymour's referendums and how it often takes multiple times to get the budget passed. He said the typical vote includes about 900 no votes. He said if we can get just 901 yes votes, we can get the budget passed. He encourages all who were in attendance to spread the word to get out and vote. You do not need to be a registered voter to vote on the budget, you only need to own \$1000 worth of property in Seymour. All you need to do is identify yourself as a property owner in the town of Seymour and show your ID and you can cast a vote in the budget referendum.

### III. OPEN DISCUSSION

#### A. **Open Discussion on Issues Pertaining to School Budget**

Mr. Catlin asked if the Board of Finance agreed with the Board of Education budget and he was told that the Board of Finance is still deliberating. For the past two years, the Board of Finance has moved our budget forward with no changes. There are new members on the Board of Finance and we do not know what to expect this year. Ms. Harmeling explained that there is a new law that prohibits us from reminding people to get out and vote with the Connect Ed system. We can ask the town clerk for a list of names who vote in the budget referendum (not how they voted, just that they voted).

Ms. Magri said when she did an analysis of voters a few years ago, she found in many households only one parent voted and said that if both parents voted, it may be enough to pass a budget. It was asked what the percentage increase means in terms of the mil rate. Ms. Harmeling said in the past the town showed the calculation of the mil rate on their website and she will follow up with the Board of Finance to interpret the increase into the mil rate. There was a brief discussion on why some students go to private high schools and a discussion on the work that is being done by the Middle School and the High School to make the transition to high school successful. An explanation was given of how the content coordinator will also help with the transition. The Finance Committee thanked the audience for coming and allowing them to speak on the budget.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Mr. Putorti/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk