

Seymour Board of Education



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

COMBINED MEETING OF THE SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

January 9, 2017
Seymour Middle School
6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Yashu Putorti, Chairman
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Jennifer Magri (6:16 pm)
Ed Strumello
Cassandra Quintiliano, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative
Peter Kubik
Allison Sobieski
Fred Stanek

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Syriac, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Taylor Robinson
Kaitlyn Esposito
Melyssa Gagliardi
Sukhman Singh
Cyrus Gagaza
Gosia Frye
Fred Ames
Daniel Bonzolin
Gina Kindt
David Willadsen
Jim Freund
Susan McLean

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed the Seymour High School Student Council and thanked them for coming to this meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

A. Informal Discussion between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour High School Student Council

Gosia Fryc, President of the Student Council thanked the Board for the invitation to participate this meeting saying it was an honor to be able to attend. Mr. Putorti said no invitation was needed and the students are welcome to attend a meeting whenever they want to.

The students who attended introduced themselves. Miss Fryc did a brief overview to what the Student Council has done so far this year. She said it has been a very good year. They hosted the Mr. Seymour contest this year with the proceeds going to Treasured Times. They did a spirit week which culminated with the Homecoming Dance. They look forward to doing a rose fundraiser for Valentine's Day and another spirit week for the winter/spring sports. They are going to volunteer at the Rise Up! Program at the middle school. They are looking into possibly doing a food truck festival to showcase the performing arts student work. Ms. Harmeling said the 8th grade orientation happened to occur during spirit week and she thought this was a wonderful way to inspire incoming freshmen. She hoped this would happen every year. She also suggested that maybe the incoming freshman would be the judge of the color wars. Miss Fryc said the student council was looking into having some type of festival to introduce the clubs available to students. Clubs get going very early in the year and they think it would be a good idea to have some way to introduce them to incoming freshmen. The Board was interested in hearing from the students how their college process was going. Many have completed the process and are waiting to hear back from the colleges they applied to. Among the colleges that have been applied to are University of Michigan, University of Illinois, Ohio State, Dartmouth College, Babson College, Amherst, Tulane, Emory, Brown University and University of Pittsburg. Ms. Harmeling asked if most colleges expect students to declare a major. They said there are some colleges that allow you to apply as undeclared but most of the essays ask for area of interest so you need to have some idea. The students agreed that Ms. Leoni was a huge help to them. There was a brief discussion on how students decided what colleges to apply to. When asked if there were any classes that helped with the process, the students said Junior Seminar was a big help. The Board asked if they see themselves as leaders and how they would continue to be leaders after entrance into college. The students said they felt the best way was to get involved in clubs that are offered at college. The students were asked how they felt about Seymour High School and they agreed that it is a very welcoming place and Mr. Freund is always open to listen to their ideas. The students and Board members touched on the budget process and the Board explained to the students that it is a challenge because there is not a lot of opportunity to add new things to the budget. It is about maintaining what we have already, noting that funding can be eaten up by unexpected expenses. The students talked about other activities they are involved in including cross country, swim team, Spanish Club, National Honor Society, track, mentoring, Chess Club, HOPE Club, FBLA, newspaper and volunteer council. The students also shared all the AP courses they have participated in. There was a brief discussion regarding the AP classes being weighted differently. Mrs. Syriac reminded the Board that this change did not affect the class rank. The Board thanked the students for attending this meeting.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Putorti, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk