

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2018  
Seymour Middle School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 3/16/18  
TIME: 11:00 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Edward Hendricks  
Jennifer Magri  
Ed Strumello  
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative  
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative  
Peter Kubik  
Fred Stanek

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Rick Belden, Asst. Sup - Finance & Op  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Cynthia Dion  
Andrea Melnick  
Keith Wasik  
Meagan Krushinski  
Robin Masotta

Colleen McGuire  
Katelyn McQuillan  
Deirdre Sponheimer  
Jennifer Peterson  
Jennifer Batterton  
Shaun Batterton  
Jen Fasciano  
Theresa Hannon  
Lisa Rubio  
Sarah LeBlanc  
Stephanie Shelinsky  
Tom Demed  
Linda Bellavance  
Holly Zuraw  
Suzanne Garman  
Natalie Moir  
Nadine Bruder

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 p.m.

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Moment of Silence

1. Shirley Marie Bowen – Senior Mentor, Bungay Elementary School

- B. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Baseball Team for being recognized by the Baseball Officials Board with their 2017 Sportsmanship Award. Mrs. Yusko said this team is definitely deserving of this award; they were a pleasure to watch and to hear them cheering each other on during games. She said she received many compliments from other Athletic Directors on how great they were to play. The team will be receiving the award at the Baseball Officials Board banquet in April
2. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Dance Team who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pom at the State Championship on February 24, 2018. We wish them good luck when they participate at the regional level on March 10, 2018!
3. Congratulations to the Seymour High School Cheerleading team on their 1<sup>st</sup> place win in the coed division at NVLs on February 17, 2018 and congratulations on the Cheerleading back to back States championship win on 3/4/18.

4. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School Small Steps Club on their very successful diaper drive. They collected 1580 diapers and 3744 wipes
  5. Congratulations to CLS student Samuel Rodrigue (CLS grade 5) who won the New Haven County Fire Prevention Poster contest. This is our first county winner.
  6. Congratulations to Bryce Quill for Art and Paul Urkanwich for Music who were honored with the CAS Elementary School Arts Recognition.
- C. Correspondence
1. Letter dated March 2, 2018 to the Seymour Community Members from Michael Wilson, Superintendent of School, introducing the Seymour Public Schools Strategic Planning effort.
- D. Media Coverage
1. [http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour\\_teens\\_wish\\_comes\\_true/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_teens_wish_comes_true/)
  2. [http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour\\_middle\\_school\\_honor\\_roll.mp2/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_middle_school_honor_roll.mp2/)
  3. [http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour\\_schools\\_acknowledge\\_rumors/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_schools_acknowledge_rumors/)
  4. [http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour\\_student\\_faces\\_two\\_criminal\\_charges/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_student_faces_two_criminal_charges/)
  5. <https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Seymour-police-clarify-high-school-student-s-12618214.php>
  6. <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/BOE-cuts-in-Seymour-have-parents-worried-12550782.php>
  7. <http://wtnh.com/2018/02/15/police-school-officials-investigating-student-issue-in-seymour/>
  8. <http://www.wfsb.com/story/37519422/seymour-officials-investigate-incident-at-high-school>
  9. <http://www.wfsb.com/story/37522235/extra-security-to-be-at-seymour-high-school-following-incident>
  10. <http://www.wfsb.com/clip/14131880/video-seymour-police-investigate-incident-involving-high-school-student>
  11. <http://www.wfsb.com/story/37522829/extra-security-to-be-at-seymour-high-school-following-incident>
  12. <http://www.wfsb.com/clip/14131812/video-extra-security-to-be-at-seymour-high-school-following-incident>
  13. <http://fox61.com/2018/02/16/pd-student-situation-under-investigation-in-seymour/>
  14. <http://fox61.com/2018/02/21/seymour-high-school-duo-display-serious-work-of-art/>

### III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive – With regard to the 8 drop 2 schedule, Ms. Dion pointed her comments directly toward Mr. Wilson asking him to reconsider and give it a little more time. She said there is a lot of data that has not yet been collected such as surveys, advisory class. She asked that they test the waters. She asked him to think about it.

Holly Zuraw, Secretary Chatfield-LoPresti School and representative of Secretaries Union – Ms. Zuraw said she has distributed a sheet to all secretaries asking them to complete regarding the work that they do, how much time it takes to do it, and whether it is a secretarial or clerical job. She said the majority of the sheets indicate the work is clerical para work. She said there are tasks that are essential and she is worried about mistakes being made.

### IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  1. Regular Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2018
  2. Special Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2018
- B. Financial Management Summary – Ending February 27, 2018
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – January, 2018

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) move to approve the consent agenda as with Item A1 removed

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

### V. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Strumello removed Item A1 Regular Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2018 asking that the name Jaylen Crawford be corrected and to add that the game was against Ansonia.

### VI. **INFORMATION**

- A. Activities and Recognitions
  1. Seymour Middle School
  2. Bungay Elementary School
  3. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle

C. Community Forum on School Safety

Ms. Magri reminded everyone about the Community Forum on School Safety will be held on March 6, 2018 at 6:00 in the auditorium of Seymour Middle School.

VII. **REPORTS**

A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Paulina Karwowski and Mr. Sukhman Singh

Miss. Karwowski and Mr. Sukhman reported that the Seymour High School Boys Swim Team had a great NVL final. Although they had a 7<sup>th</sup> finish overall, they had many individual achievements to celebrate.

- Senior Zach Fell finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200 and 500 Freestyle events
- Junior Alex Cupic won the 100 Butterfly and the 100 Breaststroke events
- Sophomore Jack Crocamo won the 50 and 100 Freestyle events in school record time. Jack was awarded the honor of Most Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet. He has also been chosen as the Republican American Athlete of the Week.
- The Relay Team of Zach Fell, Jack Crocamo, Syrus Gagaza and Alex Cupic won the 200 and 400 Freestyle events. Both events were new school, pool, and meet records. The meet 400 Freestyle Relay record was broke for the first time since the previous mark was set by Naugatuck in 1994.

The Girls Basketball team made it to the second round of the state tournament.

The Boys Basketball tournaments starts tomorrow (March 6) at Seymour Middle School. Game time is 7:00 pm.

Evan Webb, Jasimin Loffredo and James Rafferty were selected into the UCONN First Chair Band festival. Evan Webb has been selected for the 2018 All-State Orchestra.

The Wizard of Oz will be performed on March 16 at 7:00 pm, March 17 at 7:00 pm, and March 18 at 2:00 pm. There are 84 kids in the cast, 15 on the stage/tech crew and a few dozen working on art. Many of the cast are Bungay school kindergarteners performing as munchkins. Over 680 tickets have been sold to date and the school expects a sellout (1200 tickets).

On March 21, 2018 all grade 11 students will participate in the School Day SAT.

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2018
2. Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2018

Mr. Garofolo said Mr. Belden gave the committee good, up to date information on the schools including the condition of Bungay School which is aging. Mr. Belden reported the committee reviewed the Fire Marshall report and the Tri Annual Asbestos report.

C. Carton 2 Garden Grant – Sam Bradshaw, National Honor Society

Mr. Sam Bradshaw who is a senior talked to the Board about making some changes to the current garden and also would like to make a garden at CLS with Special Education students and a garden at the Senior Center. He is asking the Board to approve the acceptance of donations for these projects. Ms. Magri asked about the status of the grant application and Ms. Shelinsky said they are about half way through the application.

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to allow the high school to proceed with the Carton2Garden project and the fundraising needed to support the project

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

D. CABA Conference – Mr. Ed Strumello

Mr. Strumello spoke about his experience at the CABA CAPSS Conference in October. He let the Board know of several policies that are being impacted by New Legislation. Ms. Magri confirmed that there is an upcoming policy committee and these policies will be discussed. Mr. Strumello also attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Nutmeg Board. The next workshop he attended was the Purposeful Board: Bringing Board Governance to a Higher Level which addressed issues such as how can Boards get better, establishing a clear and focused mission, do Board meetings repeatedly and powerfully communicate the organization's mission, do meetings facilitate robust and collect decision making, are meetings preoccupied with the urgent or agree they focuses on the essential and important?, do Board members have sufficient and appropriate information for decision making and if the Board is not learning, why not? Mr. Strumello talked about having a Board retreat again. The next workshop that he attended was entitled The Inclusive School: Constitutional and Statutory Rights of school Employees. Mr. Strumello said he would be happy to take questions at a different time.

E. Next Generation Accountability Update – Mr. Mike Wilson

Mr. Wilson presented the Next Generation Accountability Update 2016-17 for Mrs. Tencza. The accountability index is 77.0. Mr. Wilson said he is proud of the work we are doing and he applauds the work of our Administrators who worked together with Mrs. Tencza. When compared with other school districts in the Valley, Seymour is number 1. Chatfield-LoPresti continues to be a school of distinction.

The high school is close to being a school of distinction but must hit all of the data points. Ms. Magri asked about the areas of focus and what does changing the schedule impact? Mr. Wilson responded that the students will get more instructional time. He said the Administrators have done a lot of research. How is this going to benefit the students when you look at growth more instructional time can make an impact. He commended the Administrators for the work that they did and keeping the benefit of the students in mind. The students are the focus.

F. Middle School Schedule – Bernadette Hamad

Ms. Hamad wanted to give more information on the middle school schedules and started her discussion by saying things have changed. They have listened to the teachers and are no longer trying to match the high school schedule. The middle school is now looking at a 7 drop 1 schedule. This schedule provides for students to not miss the same class every day and it prepares students for the 8 drop 2 schedule in high school. This schedule provides for a complete rotation and teachers will meet with student throughout the day. She reminded everyone that it is still a work in progress. The goal is to increase student learning. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see a student schedule at the next Board meeting. She said she has an issue with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students come in losing recess and not gaining physical education. The question was asked, why focus on language arts when math is an issue? Mr. Wilson responded that we still have areas to improve in language arts. Ms. Harmeling said she was sure this has been researched well but she didn't see where this will improve things. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see a summary of instructional time broken out by subject. Ms. Hamad said she is still working on the minutes since a minute here or there makes a difference. Ms. Magri said she had concerns regarding team time and duty time especially 8<sup>th</sup> grade with no duty times. Ms. Hamad said we are obligated to prep time and the priority is then team time and duty time. Mr. Hatfield asked if we looked at other models. Ms. Hamad said she looked at other models out of state. Mr. Hatfield said if we are no longer sharing resources with the high school, then maybe we should take a closer look.

G. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

Ms. Magri reminded the Board that the upcoming FOIA session with Tom Hennick will be held on March 29, 2018 at 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Seymour Middle School Auditorium. There is a scheduled Athletic Committee meeting on March 19, a Policy Committee meeting on March 13 which will include topics such as graduation requirements and a discussion on Narcan. She asked Board members to submit any other topics to Mike Wilson by Thursday morning. Ms. Magri told the Board that she has had two meetings with The Superintendent, First Selectman, Police Department, and other emergency personnel regarding a debrief on the high school incident and planning for the Community Forum on School Safety. She thanked Rick Belden for the commentary on the BOE Budget presentation to the Board of Finance. She said it seemed well received and all of their questions were addressed.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield said there was some confusion about the Town taking over grounds maintenance this spring which is not the case. He would like to speed this along. Ms. Magri said she will follow up with the Town. Mr. Hatfield asked if we can watch the Clerical Paraprofessional situation by monitoring the workloads, have more conversations, and possibly take another look.

H. Superintendent Report

1. Since March is Board of Education appreciation month, Mr. Wilson took a moment to say thank you on behalf of all of the teachers, administrators, and students. He said your dedication and hard work for the students and staff of Seymour Public Schools is much appreciated.
2. On behalf of the Administrative Team as well as the BOE, he congratulated the High School Cheerleading team on their back to back state championships! Their hard work is to be commended.
3. He reported that we have over 900 followers on our new Facebook page.
4. Mid-year check in meetings have been conducted with all of the Administrators at which progress on their school goals were shared.
5. All of the Administrators were invited to Central Office last Thursday in order to meet with Dr. Peter Madonia whom has been contracted to chair the Strategic Planning Committee.
6. Mr. Wilson said that he, Vonda, and Rick, have continued to be visible in all of the buildings this past month and will continue to visit the buildings in order to witness the hard work being done by all of our teachers and Administrators.

## VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### A. Shared Services Committee Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2018

Ms. Magri wanted to inform the Board what happened at this meeting. She said it was a wonderful discussion of things we already do and things we might be able to share. She said it was a very good brainstorming session. It still remains to be seen if we will take action. The next step will be to meet with Ansonia since they are the ones that originally requested a meeting and to also meet with the Town to determine if there are more things to partner with them. Dr. Hendricks complimented Ms. Magri on this effort and the strides that can be made to work together to educate the students in the best way possible while saving money. He feels Seymour will be a pioneer in this effort.

## IX. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

### A. Donations

#### 1. Lions Club -

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the \$100.00 donation from the Seymour Lions Club and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

#### 2. Seymour Cinemas

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept a donation of Seymour Pink Game Day tee shirts from Seymour Cinemas and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

### B. Out of State Field Trip

#### 1. **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to approve the field trip request of Ms. Stephanie Shelinsky to take grade 11, & 12 Early British Literature and grade 9 Social Studies on an out of state field trip to Medieval Times, 149 Polito Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ on Tuesday, March 20, 2018

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

#### 2. **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to approve the field trip request of Coach Jessica Young to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team on an out of state field trip to the Regional Cheerleading Competition at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 North River Road, Hooksett, NH on March 17, 2018

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

### C. Non Renewals

#### 1. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers (Long Term Substitute Teachers)

Ms. Magri noted that these are long term substitute teachers.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non-renew two non-tenured teachers, Sabina DiConstanza, Michael Erlinghauser and Melissa Warner at the end of the 2017-18 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Sabina DiConstanza, Michael Erlinghauser and Melissa Warner and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

D. Honors Level Courses

1. Accounting II - Approve the elevation to the honors level

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the elevation to the honors level for Accounting II.

**AMENDED MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the elevation to the honors level for Accounting II for the 2018-19 school year

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

2. Entrepreneurship – Approve the elevation to the honors level

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the elevation to the honors level for Entrepreneurship for the 2018-19 school year

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

Mr. Hatfield asked about making the credit retroactive. Mr. Lucke said he does not support this and it would potentially change the class ranking.

E. Paraprofessionals Contract

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the agenda the ratification of the Paraprofessionals Contract

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to ratify the Paraprofessionals Contract

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 7-0

Mr. Hatfield asked about the retroactive increase and Mr. Belden said the total increase was budgeted and it would be under \$6000. He also asked about the categories and Mr. Belden confirmed that no job categories were removed from this contract. Mr. Garofolo asked about the terminology of "just cause" in this contract and Mr. Wilson explained that it is a broad term and was something that was not taken out of the contract. Mr. Garofolo said he felt the term "due process" might be better and offered this as food for thought.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to move item X Public Comment out of order on the agenda.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Meagan Krushinski, Teacher-Seymour Middle School/SEA Union President – Ms. Krushinski voiced her concerns on the middle school schedule saying she felt that it was a square peg in a round hole. She said she knows trying to make the time equal is impossible. She also spoke about the changes in the minutes and the longer class periods for the middle school. Ms. Harmeling said she had a problem with the information that was being shared and Ms. Magri reminded Ms. Krushinski that in the beginning of public comment she asked that the comments be kept brief and that she should now wrap things up.

Cindy Dion, 18 Carriage Drive – Ms. Dion again said she has questions on the high school schedule and asked if there were going to be any more meetings or surveys. She said she knows this is not a Board decision.

IX. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)**

\* E. Personnel Matter

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Dr. Hendricks) move that the board enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board invites Michael Wilson and Mr. Rich Kearns into the Executive Session

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

Entered Executive Session: 9:50 pm

Exit Executive Session: 10:44 pm

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Champagne) that the Board of education allow the Superintendent in collaboration with the Seymour Chief of Police to authorize Rick Kearns, Director of Security to carry a firearm on school grounds through the end of the 2017-2018 school year. This arrangement will be reviewed and may be reauthorized prior to the beginning of each school year.

**SO VOTED**

- \* F. **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello  
\*Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Review

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table the Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Review to the regular BOE meeting of April 2, 2018

**SO VOTED**

- \* **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello  
*It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded.*

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk