



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (revised)

May 7, 2018

Seymour Middle School

7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 5/9/18  
TIME: 11:30 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne  
Kristen Harmeling  
Peter Kubik  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello  
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative  
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jay Hatfield  
Edward Hendricks  
Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Michelle Proto  
Robin Masotta  
David Masotta  
Sarah Masotta  
Melissa Gonzalez  
Liliana Gonzalez  
Erin Loock  
Aidan Loock

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions at 7:33 p.m.

## II. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

### A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Seymour Middle School Scholar Leaders Kaya Banka and Mikayla Zedek! The CAS Scholar Leader Award is presented to students who distinguish themselves in scholarship and leadership in school and community. They will be recognized with a banquet at the Aqua Turf in June. The criteria: distinguished himself/herself in scholarship and leadership in school and community, cumulative middle school average of at least a "B", active participation in school, participation in community organizations, citizenship, positive influence on school climate, dependability, responsibility, and character and integrity
2. Congratulations to Adelina Barreira and Colin Stewart, who participated in a Women's History Month Essay Contest, hosted by State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria and State Senators Eric Berthel and Kevin Kelly. Adelina wrote a powerful essay about "The First Lady of the Library" Caroline Maria Hewins, and Colin submitted an articulate summary of the life of Ella T. Grasso. Adelina's essay received first place recognition, and both students were honored by State Representative Klarides-Ditria and Senator Berthel on Monday, April 9. Both students received a commendation from the Connecticut General Assembly and a commemorative lapel pin. Adelina was also presented with an honorary American Flag, which was flown above the state capitol building in her honor on April 4.
3. Congratulations to Michael Azzarone, Sarah Bireley, Joey Carrafiello, Robby Carrafiello, Lilliana Criscio, Raymond Dong, Jake George, Charlotte Kempf, Sienna Lucas, Anthony Marchetti, Owen Marganski, and Izabel Ter who will be participating in Marine Science Day at the Connecticut River Museum in Essex, Connecticut. The workshop, which will be held on May 9, is a program sponsored by Project Oceanology to educate students about Long Island Sound and marine science.
4. Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Seymour Teacher of the Year Angelique McAuliffe, who is a second grade teacher at Bungay Elementary School. Ms. McAuliffe will represent Seymour at the State Teacher of the Year ceremony on December 5, 2018.
5. Congratulations to the students who competed in the VITAHLS Healthy Cooking Contest on Thursday, April 12. Grade 6 - Victoria Koether Third Place (Teriyaki Chicken Cups), Sam Marquez, Madison McDougall. Grade 7 - Lilleyen Young Second Place (Asian Lettuce Wraps), Grade 8 - Michaela Roach First Place (Asian Meatball Salad)
6. Congratulations to the 2018 Seymour Middle School Debate Team on another successful State Tournament performance. The team competed last week in Greenwich in the final state tournament of the school year. Because of the vacation week, SMS brought a much smaller squad than usual but still did exceptionally well. The SMS debaters competed in six debates and outpointed their opponents in five of them! Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grade debaters Mikayla Zedek, Ejona Gashi and Jason Oulette who will bring their skills to SHS next year and to Mercedes Ter and Chris Reiter who will debate for SMS again in 2018-2019. Seymour High School and Seymour Middle School are quickly establishing themselves as forces to be reckoned with in Connecticut!
7. Ms. Magri offered sincere thanks to Eric and Valerie Iott for stepping up and organizing a successful post prom event in a matter of four days last week. What they were able to do was amazing. They along with many other parents and members of the community came together to either donate their time, funds or snack and supplies for the event allowing 62 students to have a place to relax and have fun after the prom. They are looking forward to running the event with more time to prepare next year!

### B. Correspondence

1. Letter dated April 11, 2018 to Mr. Jason Hiruo, ACES-ECA from Mr. Rick Belden approving the attendance of six students at the Education Center for the Arts for the 2018-19 school year.
2. Letter dated April 12, 2018 to Mr. Jim Freund, Principal Seymour High School from Barbara Jenko, Education Coordinator at the Seymour Historical Society thanking him for providing transportation and release time for Ms. Heather Brown and HOPE Club students to attending training as docents for their History of Seymour program for third grade.

### C. Media Coverage

1. Seymour Middle School Honor Roll –  
[http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour\\_middle\\_school\\_honor\\_roll/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_middle_school_honor_roll/)
2. Essay Contest Winners –  
[http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/state\\_lawmakers\\_honor\\_essay\\_contest\\_winners/](http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/state_lawmakers_honor_essay_contest_winners/)

3. Budgets - <https://www.nhregister.com/valley/article/Seymour-residents-to-vote-on-budgets-April-26-12838586.php>

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Aiden Look, 7 Jay Lane – He has heard that Mr. Schneider will be transferring to the middle school and would like to know what is happening. Robin Masotta, 19 Fox Drive – Mr. Schneider has dedicated time to the students of Seymour High School and she is confused as to why this change would have to be made. David Masotta, 19 Fox Drive – Regarding Mr. Schneider, if you have seen any of his plays it shows his dedication to the students. He is phenomenal and Mr. Masotta is concerned by this move. Ms. Magri took a minute to explain to the audience that public comment is a place for the audience to make comments. The Board does not respond during this portion of the meeting.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes  
1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2018
- ~~B. Financial Management Summary – Ending April 30, 2018 removed from consent agenda~~
- C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – March, 2018
- D. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program  
1. Hannah Syrett  
Mr. Michael Syrett has informed the Board of Education of his intent to home school his child, Hannah Syrett, for the 2017-2018 school year
- E. Staff Hiring – Certified  
1. Spagnuolo, Kimberly  
• Math Teacher  
• Seymour High School  
• Replacing Joshua Fintz

**MOTION:** move to approve the consent agenda with item IV B removed

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

V. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to remove the Finance Management Summary ending April 30, 2018 and move it to the June 4, 2018 BOE Meeting

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

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. Staff Hiring – Appendix E  
1. Leahy, Courtney  
• Head Coach, Dance Team  
• Seymour High School  
• Replacing Katelyn McQuillan
- D. Staff Resignation – Certified  
1. DeSimone, Justine  
• Special Education Teacher  
• Seymour Middle School  
• Effective June 30, 2018
- E. Staff Resignation – Non Certified  
1. Rinkewith, Joan  
• School Nurse  
• Chatfield-LoPresti School  
• Effective June 29, 2018

- F. Staff Resignation – Appendix E
1. Cleveland, Brian
    - Head Coach, Girls Soccer
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective April 11, 2018

**VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION**

- A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Paulina Karwowski and Mr. Sukhman Singh  
Miss Karwowski reported that the music department went to New York City and had a whirlwind trip visiting among other things, NYU, the 911 Memorial, the One World Observatory, a Broadway play, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Carnegie Hall. On April 24, the school SAT tests were administered. Mr. Singh reported that April 26 was Diversity Day. At the pep rally, there was a pushup contest, Munchkin eating contest (won by Mr. Brennan who was able to stuff nine munchkins into his mouth). On April 26 Mr. Kearns shared changes in the Security protocols at Seymour High School. The prom was on Saturday, May 5 at the Aqua Turf, 262 students attended. The post prom was a pretty good time. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Esposito and Josh Tallcouch as the CIAC Scholars.
- B. Committee Reports
1. Finance Committee Minutes – April 11, 2018
  2. Shared Services Committee Minutes – April 3, 2018
- C. Update on the Effectiveness of the Kinesthetic Equipment at Bungay School – Mrs. Mary Sue Feige  
Ms. Feige, Ms. Reid, and Ms. Proto gave the Board an update on how the Kinesthetic Equipment at Bungay School by letting members of the Board try it. There were under desk pedals, wobble stool, and a big ball for sitting on to name a few. The equipment was purchased under two grants from the Matthies Foundation and the VITHALS program. They were able to purchase 81 pieces of equipment for use by 85 students. Many of the pieces of equipment are moveable although some of the larger pieces are installed. They have found that K-2 students enjoy the wobble stools while the older kids seems to enjoy the pedals. This equipment helps the kids to get the "wiggles" out. Mrs. Feige included comments from the students in her presentation. Parents and teachers are tracking data on behavior and attendance. Mr. Strumello asked if the standing desk was expensive and Ms. Reid confirmed that it was. Ms. Feige said she sees the students being more engaged. The Board thanked Ms. Feige, Ms. Reid and Ms. Proto for the update.
- D. Update on Professional Learning in Seymour – Mrs. Vonda Tencza  
Mrs. Tencza wanted to do a brief overview of the information she had sent to the Board regarding Professional Learning in Seymour. She said the information shared with the Board will also be used by the Professional Development Committee. She said she looks at the information through two lenses, one as an educator and one as a parent. She said Seymour has district directed days and teacher determined days. There is also out of district PD where we send teachers to workshops on topics we are not able to provide in house. We have imbedded professional learning, which is when the district brings in someone to work with teachers on an ongoing basis. She spoke of one \$10,000 grant that the district was able to secure and was used to bring in a consultant to work with the middle school teachers on Science curriculum. Mr. Strumello asked about professional development for related services. Ms. Hamad confirmed that they received appropriate professional development through a year-long set of offerings on a variety of related services topics from Lorrie McFarland of BH Care. Ms. Harmeling thanked Mrs. Tencza for this presentation saying she felt it was important for the Board as well as the public to know that our teachers are continuously learning. Ms. Magri agreed.
- E. Board of Education Report
1. Chairman's Comments  
Ms. Magri had the pleasure of participating in two events recently. She was honored to serve as a judge for the VITHALS Healthy Cooking contest. She said she was very impressed with culinary skills of our students and wished that she could cook that well! She also participated in the Small Keys to Big Doors lesson with Jen Monaco's Public Speaking class. Ms. Monaco brought in outside professionals to work on real-world interviewing skills with her students. It was a great morning and very well received by the students. She did a great job expanding her lesson beyond the traditional classroom. Ms. Magri reminded everyone that the first (and hopefully the only) budget referendum will be held on May 10 from 6:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Community Center. The budget that the Board of Education presented was accepted by the Board of Finance and moved forward to a referendum. She said it is a very responsible budget and it is her hope that the taxpayers will support it. Ms. Magri informed the Board that Teacher Contract negotiations will begin this summer. She asked them to please take some time to review the current contract and provide her with items for consideration that they would like to see possibly addressed. There is a state mandated timeline that must be followed for these negotiations. They must commence by July 6 and mediation will follow by August 25 if there is no agreement and the arbitration date of September 19 if we do not agree during mediation. We have not progressed past the mediation step in the prior two agreements that she has participated in so she is hopeful that things will follow that path again.

2. Board Member Comments  
None

F. Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson reported on April 12, Mr. DiStasi, Mrs. Tencza, Mrs. Magri, and he had the pleasure of judging the VITHALS cooking contest. The students did an excellent job and their food was delicious. He said it was difficult to choose. On April 25, Mr. Wilson attended the Read Across the Valley event with Mrs. Feige, Mrs. Reid, Mr. Olechna, Mrs. Freimuth, Mr. Gentile, First Selectman Miller, and Mr. Strumello. He thanked Mr. Gentile and Mr. Strumello who came to read to our elementary students. It was a great event. On May 3, Mr. Wilson attended the "Small Keys to Big Doors" event at SHS. He thanked Mrs. Monaco for putting on this event. The students were incredible and were given the time to network and to have a mock interview with several business leaders. He thanked Mr. Post, Mr. Geloso, Mr. Warnes, Mr. Sciamanna, Mr. Baculous, Mr. Blanco, Mr. Satkowski, Mrs. Freimuth, and Mrs. Magri for attending this event and for providing such a valuable experience for our students. He shared an email that he received from Mr. Blanco: *Michael, thank you for the invitation today. I truly believe that Seymour High School has some great future leaders in the community.* Mr. Wilson reported that as of this afternoon, we have just shy of 1000 followers on our new Facebook page. Mrs. Tencza and Mr. Wilson held the Accountability Index Follow-up meetings with building Administrators and have been informed of all of the progress that they have made. Mr. Wilson said he, Mrs. Tencza, and Mr. Belden continue to be visible in all of the buildings and will continue to visit the buildings in order to witness the hard work being done by all of our teachers and Administrators.

- G. **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to add to the agenda the Board's commitment to the Fine Arts Program in Seymour

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

Ms. Harmeling wanted to acknowledge the concerns of people regarding changes that may or may not happen in the high school and wanted the public to know that this Board is extremely committed to the Fine Arts Program and will continue to support this program. Mr. Wilson said he was very supportive of this program and echoed Ms. Harmeling's thoughts. Ms. Magri agreed and Mr. Stanek said this Board has been very supportive of the Fine Arts program for the last decade and it shows in the number of plays and musicals that have happened at Seymour High School. They have been able to put on some great productions.

VIII. **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. Out of State Field Trip

1. The Breakers Tour, Bowen's Wharf and Bannister Wharf, and Marble House – Newport, RI  
Ms. Anthony-Bogue, Ms. Stephanie Shelinsky, Ms. Lisa Cheney, and Mr. Gilbert would like to take Grade 11 and Grade 12 Junior English, UCONN ECE, and AP Literature students on a field trip to The Breakers Tour, Bowen's Wharf and Bannister Wharf, and Marble House in Newport, RI on June 7, 2018  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Ms. Anthony Bogue, Ms. Stephanie Shelinsky, Ms. Lisa Cheney, and Mr. Gilbert to take Grade 11 and Grade 12 Junior English, UCONN ECE, and AP Literature students on a field trip to The Breakers Tour, Bowen's Wharf and Bannister Wharf, and Marble House in Newport, RI on June 7, 2018

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

B. Policy Revisions Recommended by Policy Committee

1. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements –  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 6146 Graduation Requirements as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

2. Policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal –  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

3. Policy 5113.2 Truancy –  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 5113.2 Truancy as presented  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0
4. Policy 5125 Students Records  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 5125 Students Records as presented  
Mr. Strumello said he had concerns about the directory and sharing information specifically date of birth and place of birth considering the upswing of cybercrimes. Ms. Harmeling asked what exactly was being shared. Ms. Magri said this policy was recommended by the State. Mr. Wilson said we are not disclosing this information. It was suggested this policy be tabled.  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to table Policy 5125 Students Records to the June 4, 2018 Board of Education meeting  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0
5. Policy 0521 Non Discrimination –  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 0521 Non Discrimination as presented  
Ms. Harmeling was curious about the last sentence and wondered why we would single out one group since this is a policy about equal access. Ms. Magri explained that this was a policy that was copied directly from the CABA recommendation.  
**AMENDED MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 0521 Non Discrimination with the removal of the last sentence  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0
6. Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students –  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 5118.1 Homeless Students as presented  
Ms. Harmeling suggested the blank spaces be filled in regarding the Homeless Liaison. It was decided to complete the blank space with "Associate Superintendent".  
**AMENDED MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy 5118.1 Homeless Students as amended  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0
7. Policy 5141.27 First Aid/Emergency Medical Care –  
Ms. Harmeling had concerns with the wording of the policy which she said was very literal saying "trainer will have to carry" could get us in trouble. She had concerns about the contract for the trainers and if this wording will be included in the contract. There was a discussion regarding the concerns and why it was worded this way. Mr. Stanek said we must be sure the trainers are informed by the Athletic Director of this policy.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Stanek) approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #5141.27 as presented.  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**OPPOSED:** Ms. Harmeling  
Motion passed 5-1

C. Awards Advisory Committee Recommendations

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2018 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award to Mrs. Rose Marie Yitts and Ms. Elizabeth Tift, the 2018 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to Ms. Tarra Andrews, the 2018 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to Ms. Jaclyn Freddino, and the 2018 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award to Miss Emma Adams

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

D. Shared Services with the Town of Seymour

1. Systemwide Technology Coordinator

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to continue with the agreement regarding the Board of Education, Technology Director shared position with the Town of Seymour

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

2. Facilities Manager

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to continue with the agreement regarding the Board of Education, Facilities Manager shared position with the Town of Seymour

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

E. Hiring of Monitor Paraprofessional, CLS

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda the hiring of Diana Diaz Ballaro as a monitor paraprofessional in Chatfield-LoPresti School.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

Mr. Champagne asked if this was a replacement for someone and Mr. Wilson confirmed that it was. He asked how many monitor paraprofessionals we currently have at CLS and Mr. Olechna confirmed that currently there was two. Mr. Champagne asked if this was a position that could have been filled by a former clerical paraprofessional and Mr. Wilson confirmed that Ms. Diaz Ballaro was a former clerical paraprofessional.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) approve the hiring of Diana Diaz Ballaro as a monitor paraprofessional in Chatfield-LoPresti School.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
Motion passed 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 8: 57 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk