

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2018
Seymour High School
6:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Magri, Chairperson
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Edward Hendricks

Peter Kubik
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Paulina Karwowski, Student Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent - Finance & Operations
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Joseph Falzone, Director of Operations
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
Christopher Reiter
Maria Reiter
Mark Reiter
Bruce Adams
Rich Grudzias
Barbara Grudzias
John Downs
Noel and Fredda Peel
Ron and Lisa Saracino
Zachary Saracino
Nicole Francisco
Stephen Hiscock
John Rinkewith
Grace Brangwynne
Teddie Gifford
Tom Eighmie
Barbara Eighmie
Chris and Kim Leoni
David and Lisa Campbell
Kaitylyn Esposito
Beth Esposito
Peter Esposito
Dawn Adams
Sharon Douglass
Cindy Francisco
William Francisco
Jayne Bachyrycz
Donald Bachyrycz

Robert Magri
Kathryn Rich
Jennifer Florin
Molly Schiffer
James Schiffer
Kristen Bruno
Katie Bruno
Agnieszka Galas
Tomasz Galas
Martyna Galas
Jill Zwelinski
Liz Tift
Rose Marie Yitts
Peggy Carvalho
Deborah Griffin
Alfred Bruno
Mary Bruno
Debi Durette
Joan Rinkewith
Thomas Demers
Jaclyn Freddino
Lisa Mariano
Norma Schiffer
Stephanie Tabaka
Camryn Avery
Tarra Andrews
Kelly Garofalo
Stefanie Slie
Nichole & Cierra Green
Nicole Yustin
Jamie DeRosa
Elizabeth Nicoletti
Joshua Magri
Kayla Chuba
Ann Torri
Isabella Torri
Harvey Catlin
Emma Hamilton
Angelina Butyla
Armen Deljarin
Morrigan Maguire

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A.** Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:37 p.m.
B. She welcomed everyone for attending tonight's meeting saying this is the best meeting of the year.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Awards Recognitions

1. 2018 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School – Mr. Jim Freund
2. Retiring Staff Members – Mr. Michael Wilson
 - a. Ms. Jayne Bachrycz
 - b. Ms. Paula Burton
 - c. Ms. Barbara Eighmie
 - d. Ms. Deborah Griffin
 - e. Ms. Kim Leoni
 - f. Ms. Joan Rinkewith
3. Golden Apple Awards – Mr. Michael Wilson
 - a. Ms. Nicole Francisco - Bungay School
 - b. Ms. Joan Rinkewith - Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Ms. Isabel Bertram - Seymour Middle School
 - d. Ms. Michelle Esteves-Pinho - Seymour High School
4. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award – Mr. Fred Stanek
 - a. Ms. Elizabeth Tift
 - b. Ms. Rose Marie Yitts
5. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award – Mr. Jay Hatfield
 - a. Ms. Tarra Andrews
6. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award – Mr. Ed Strumello
 - a. Ms. Jackie Freddino
7. Thomas J. Petruncy Memorial Education and Environment Award – Ms. Jennifer Magri
 - a. Miss Emma Adams
8. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative – Ms. Jennifer Magri
 - a. Miss Paulina Karwowski
9. 2018-2019 Paraprofessional of the Year – Mr. Michael Wilson
 - a. Ms. Stephanie Mordowanec
10. 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year – Mr. Michael Wilson
 - a. Ms. Angelique McAuliffe
11. CABA Student Leadership Award – Ms. Bernadette Hamad, Mr. Jim Freund
 - a. Miss Katie Bruno – Seymour Middle School
 - b. Mr. Christopher Reiter – Seymour Middle School
 - c. Miss Paulina Karwowski – Seymour High School
 - d. Mr. Zachary Saracino – Seymour High School
12. Top 10 Students – Class of 2018 – Mr. Jim Freund, Mr. Michael Wilson
 10. Miss Stephanie Tabaka
 9. Miss Camryn Avery
 8. Miss Kaitlyn Esposito
 7. Miss Paulina Karwowski
 6. Miss Danielle Campbell
 5. Miss Grace Brangwynne
 4. Miss Martyna Galas
 3. Mr. Daniel Zygadio
 2. Miss Anna Peel
 1. Miss Molly Schiffer

- B. Reception Recess began at 7:22 pm reconvened at 7:47 pm**

C. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to the Seymour Middle School Glee Club. On Saturday, May 19, 2018 they traveled to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA. There, they competed in the Music in the Parks Festival. They placed second in their division with a rating of excellent. This festival showcased schools from MA, CT, PA and VA.
2. SMS Concert Band received a rating of Excellent at the Trills and Thrills Festival on May 11, 2018! Great job!
3. Congratulations to the 8th grade team of Emily Zhu, Victoria Saracino, Nicole Karwowski, and Izabela Wasilewska who tied for 1st place and the 7th grade team Ashley White, Emma Adams, Reagan Kalish and Jackie Okula who won 1st place at the Science Olympics for Girls held at Laurelton Hall
4. Congratulations to the Memorial Day Essay Contest Winners - Matthew Bennett (1st place), Katie Bruno (2nd place) and Mikayla Zedek (3rd place)
5. Congratulations to the Bungay School Authors of Distinction - Sienna Major (1st place), Alana Beltrone (2nd place), Maggie Sudimick (3rd place) and Alyssa Vergati (4th place)
6. Congratulations to Becca Johnson on being named the Gatorade High School Player of the Year for CT in Softball
7. Congratulations to the following 15th Annual Halo Award Winners:
Student Director Award - Abigail Andrade, Best Hair and/or Make-up Design - Mireli Ramos for the Wizard of Oz, Best Sound Design and/or Execution - Brooke Sheehan, Rachel Moon, Kayla Pollman and Eliana Arroyo for It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Best Classical Play - Brandt Schneider and the cast and crew of It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Dance Molinari Scholarship to study dance in NYC - Taylor Dauphinais
8. Mr. Stanek thanked all the staff and students who participated in the Memorial Day Parade. He said it was a wonderful parade this year as always.

D. Correspondence

1. Letter from Reina Marasco, Director of Valley Regional Adult Education to Dr. Christopher Clouet and all Valley Superintendents announcing her retirement on June 29, 2018.

E. Media Coverage

1. Budget
<https://www.ctpost.com/valley/article/Seymour-students-build-burn-building-as-12938645.php>
<https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Seymour-votes-on-town-budget-today-12904085.php>
http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/voters_approve_seymour_budgets/
http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_to_vote_on_budgets_thursday_may_10/
http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/valley_indy_radio_stephan_behuniak_talks_seymour_budget/
2. School Calendar
<https://www.ctpost.com/valley/article/Weather-forces-Seymour-schools-to-make-changes-to-12946546.php>
3. Cooking Contest
<https://www.ctpost.com/valley/article/Ansonia-6th-grader-is-the-top-chef-in-annual-12946700.php>
http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/food_competition/
4. Students Build Burn Building
<https://www.ctpost.com/valley/article/Seymour-students-build-burn-building-as-12938645.php>

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Aidan Loock, 7 Jay Lane – is concerned for the choir/drama program at Seymour High School since Mr. Schneider is leaving. He would like assurances that nothing is going to change and would like to hear from the Board on why the change had to happen. Ms. Ann Torri, 33 Jupiter Drive – When will be kids be informed? She is up in arms. This program literally saved my kid's life. Miss Isabella Torri – Tell the kids what is happening. She said this program literally saved her life and she is so upset. Miss Abigail Andrade, 97 Tomlinson Road – Said we had an incredible partnership with Bungay School this year and she really hopes this kind of thing will continue.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2018
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2018
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2018

B. Financial Management Summary – Ending May 30, 2018

C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – April, 2018

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 9-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

VI. INFORMATION

A. 8th Grade Trip to Philadelphia, PA Presentation – Mr. Harvey Catlin and students Angeline Butarla, Armen Deljanin, Ejona Gashi, Emma Hamilton and Morigan Maguire

Once again our 8th grade students presented to the Board of Education a very interesting and entertaining program on what they experienced on their 8th grade trip to Philadelphia, PA.

B. Activities and Recognitions

1. Seymour Middle School
2. Bungay Elementary School
3. Chatfield-LoPresti School

C. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle

D. Scholarships, Awards, and Recognitions Totaling \$96,622 - Class of 2018

E. Staff Resignations – Appendix E Positions

1. Roxanne Lindgren
 - Team Leader, Blue Team
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 20, 2018
2. Brian Cleveland
 - Advisor, Small Steps Club
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 20, 2018
3. Deborah Esposito
 - Advisor, Small Steps Club
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 20, 2018

F. Staff Resignations – Non Certified

1. Christopher LaQuay
 - Custodian, Part Time
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective April 6, 2018

VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION

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

AP Testing was May 7 to May 23, three days had to be changed due to the storm. The Next Generation Science Assessment was administered to juniors on May 21. The 16th Annual Awards night was held on May 24 and over \$96,000 was awarded to graduation seniors. One student walked away with our \$10,000 in scholarships! The Gesek Honor Roll Breakfast hosted by the Fathers Club was held on May 30; 30% of the student population were recognized for maintaining honors or above for the first three quarters of this school year. The Mr. Seymour Competition was held on May 31, Tom Herrick won the event with his many diverse talents. Judges were Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Stanek, Mr. DiStasi, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Anelli, and Mr. Yak. Ms. Pinho organized the event, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Aprea co-hosted the evening, and Mrs. Federowicz added up the scores. The Board was happy to hear that Sukhman placed 3rd. The Senior Picnic was held on June 1 at Holiday Hill. The baseball team earned a trip to the Class M semifinals which will be held at Palmer Field in Middletown on June 5. The softball team lost their quarterfinal game to Granby on June 3. The team had an amazing season and there are three graduating seniors who will go on to play D1 softball.

B. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2018

Mr. Strumello reported it was a very fruitful meeting, however there is nothing being put forward to the full Board. He encouraged all BOE members to sit in on one of the Curriculum and Technology Committee meetings as this would be a good one to observe. Mr. Hatfield voice a concern about losing the Smart Boards. Mr. Strumello said it is not the intention of this committee to take any tools away from our teachers. Ms. Magri said she trusts that the staff will bring forth any recommendations.

C. Safety Shades Video – Mr. Rich Kearns

Mr. Kearns shared an example of the safety shades he wants to purchase for the district. These shades are endorsed by law enforcement as a proven way to keep classrooms secure in the event of an intrusion into a school. Once the shades are pulled down, it is impossible to see into the room. These shades cost \$9.00 to \$30.00 and are the easiest, most economical way to secure a classroom from sight. The shades operated by pulling a tab, the shade falls down and the bottom is secured to the window by Velcro. Mr. Kearns has been working with the company to secure some discounts for our district. They are offering a 10% discount because we are one of the first districts on the East Coast to purchase their product and another 10% if we will respond to them with why we like the shades. If we do a "commercial grade" commercial explaining why we like the shades, we can secure a 30% discount. Mr. Kearns said the total cost to the district will be \$2197. Mr. Kearns asked the Board for their approval to do a video in order to secure the 30% discount. He said Mr. Catanese has the equipment needed to produce this commercial. Mr. Kearns said he would not identify Seymour Public School but rather indicate we are one of the school districts in the Naugatuck Valley. Mr. Garofolo voiced some concerns about who would get credit, producer, actors, and narrator? Mr. Kearns said it is not like that when he refers to a "commercial grade commercial" he is referring to the quality of the commercial not an actual commercial. He asked who would narrate the commercial and Mr. Kearns said he would. Mr. Garofolo asked if people would be able to recognize him as part of Seymour. Mr. Belden said we have already had this happened, Mr. Dyer has been quoted on certain products.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to instruct Mr. Wilson to approve the request of Mr. Kearns to make a video for Safety Shades in order to receive a 30% discount on the purchase of the shades

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 9-0

D. Curriculum Development Work, Summer 2018 – Mrs. Vonda Tencza

Mrs. Tencza wanted to reassure the Board that curriculum work would continue in the summer months and shared the plan. She said volunteers will begin work after the last day of school. She noted that our curriculum has not been posted on our website yet but would be coming in the future.

E. Spring MAP Assessment Data – Mrs. Vonda Tencza

Overall spring results showed positive trends in both math and reading, K-10. Dips in performance in specific grades will be examined. The district will continue to utilize the strategies of communicating clear learning targets and providing specific feedback next year, as well as working to conduct peer and group observations and study of the classrooms and grade levels which demonstrate tremendous success this year.

F. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 5125 Student Records

Policy 5125 Students Records (Tabled by the BOE on May 7, 2018)

Mr. Wilson explained that according to Attorney Dorsey Policy 5125 that was redlined is acceptable. Student information is not going to be released. Additionally, which we currently do, parents need to be given the option to opt out of the directory each and every year. Mr. Strumello said his concerns were based on all the fraud that happens these days and that if our attorney supports this policy he is fine with it.

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the revision of Policy 5125 Student Records

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 9-0

G. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments
Ms. Magri reiterated the support of the Board of Education to the high school drama and music program. She wanted to reassure the students and staff that the Board knows how important these programs are and the Board will continue to support them.
2. Board Member Comments
Mr. Stanek said he echoed Ms. Magri's comments and he is certain we will not go back to the days where no programs, plays or concerts existed.

H. Superintendent Report

1. PSAT Data – Tom Demers (093 Intern)
Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Tom Demers, his 093 Intern. Mr. Demers gave a presentation on a comparative analysis of the PSAT and the SAT for Seymour. Mr. Demers noted to the Board the following highlights from his research:

Are PSAT and SAT strongly correlated?

Yes, the PSAT and SAT scores are strongly correlated

Is the PSAT a good predictor of student performance on the SAT?

Yes, correlation coefficient suggest SAT scores can be predicted based on PSAT performance

Do Seymour's scores follow National trends for PSAT/SAT scoring?

Town scores fall within the national average for growth over the past two senior classes for their PSAT and SAT performance

What steps can be taken to improve SAT scores before high school?

College Board has partnered with Khan Academy, an online learning resource for students in multiple subject areas. Students can link their College Board accounts with Khan Academy allowing for students to follow an individualized program to help improve scores on all areas of SAT

Early data shows that students who used Khan Academy for 20 hours of personalized SAT practice have 115 point average score gains.

Shorter practice periods of 6 to 8 hours correlated to a 90 point average increase.

Tom's research definitely was an eye opener for our secondary level Administrators. They will now keep an eye on our students' scores in order to ensure that we are making the necessary progress.

Ms. Magri asked our student representatives what their experience with Khan Academy is and Sukhman Singh replied it shows you what you missed and if you do what the program suggests your score will go up. He said his score went up dramatically. Paulina Karwowski said she had a similar experience and it did not take a lot of time. Mr. Singh said it only focuses on the help you need so you don't waste time doing things you already know. Dr. Hendricks said he really admires what they have done. Mr. Demers said students can take the test 8 or 9 times at no cost. Mr. Lucke informed the Board that a parent can sign in as a teacher in Khan Academy and actually assign their child assignments and monitor their progress. Ms. Magri said the summer newsletter should include this information. Khan Academy is a free service. Mr. Strumello asked how they make money. Ms. Harmeling replied they don't make money they are largely funded by the Gates Foundation

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Board of Education Budget 2018-2019

Approved BOE Budget \$33,379,892 – submitted BOE Budget \$33,378,752

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the budget adjustment of \$1,140.00 to the 2018- 2019 Board of Education Budget for a total of \$33,379,892

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0

B. Policy Revisions Approved by BOE on May 7, 2018

1. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) adopt policy 6146 Graduation Requirements as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0
2. Policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal–
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) adopt policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0
3. Policy 5113.2 Truancy
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) adopt policy 5113.2 Truancy as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0
4. Policy 0521 Non Discrimination
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) adopt policy 0521 Non Discrimination as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0
5. Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students –
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) adopt policy 5118.1 Homeless Students as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0
6. Policy 5141.27 First Aid/Emergency Medical Care –
Ms. Harmeling asked if we have confirmed this policy with the agency that will be providing the district with trainers. Mr. Wilson confirmed this.
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) adopt Policy #5141.27 as approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2018
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Motion Passes: 9-0

C. Chromebooks Purchase

Mr. Belden discussed the ongoing implementation of Chromebooks in the district and in this cycle we need to purchase 660 Chromebooks. After reviewing the quotes from three providers, it has been decided that SHI is the best provider for this acquisition. The 660 Chromebooks will finish off the needs of the middle school, provide for world language and math at the high school and provide some replacements at CLS. Warranties will continue under these leases. Mr. Kubik asked Mr. Belden to confirm these costs are annual not monthly as was reported on the handout. Mr. Belden confirmed these are annual costs.

Dr. Hendricks asked about the big difference in the cost of etching. Mr. Dyer said he thought the difference was due to the fact that SHI does their etching in-house. Mr. Dyer assured the Board that he has done business with SHI in the past and he comfortable using them. Mr. Hatfield wondered about going to 1-1 in the district and that this might afford us the opportunity to save money not having to buy carts. Mr. Dyer explained it's not that simple and many decisions would have to be made. Ms. Harmeling agreed. She asked about the replacement cost of carts and Mr. Dyer said they are very heavy duty and do not need to be replaced as often as computers.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to approve the purchase of 660 Chromebooks and related accessories from SHI, Somerset, NJ in the amount of \$173,481.40 and to enter into a lease agreement not to exceed \$49,000 annually for four (4) years

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 9-0

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Motion Passes: 9-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk