

Seymour Board of Education



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (REVISED)

November 5, 2018
Seymour Middle School
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 11/19/18
TIME: 3:20pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Belden, Asst. Sup - Finance & Operations
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
Tara Petrino
Paul Sponheimer
Paul Roy

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 pm.

B. Moment of Silence – Former Teacher – Rosemary Necio

The Board introduced themselves.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Mhad Khan and Sukhman Singh who have been identified as National Merit Scholarship Commended Students. Certificate presentation – Mr. Mike Wilson, Mr. Jim Freund
2. Congratulations to Daniel Bouzolin who has been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and who has recently been recognized for his outstanding performance on the ACT test, earning the highest possible ACT composite score. His achievement places him in the top one-tenth of the top 1%. He is in a group of 2,760 students out of two million. Certificate presentation – Mr. Mike Wilson, Mr. Jim Freund
3. Congratulations to Seymour Middle School. They received a "Remembering our Heroes" Teaching about Veterans" from the State Board of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs on October 25, 2018 – Mr. Harvey Catlin
4. Congratulations to Mr. Josh Magri and the Seymour High School HOPE Club who sponsored "Dressing Down to Dress Up in PINK". They raised \$1000 which was donated to the Seymour PINK Organization. Great job!

B. Media Coverage

1. <https://www.wtnh.com/on-air/whats-right-with-schools/what-s-right-with-schools-seymour-hs-electric-car-club/1510328624>
2. <https://www.nhregister.com/valley/article/Seymour-kids-can-stock-up-at-annual-Halloween-13312149.php>
3. <https://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour-recognizes-two-commended-students/>
4. <https://www.wtnh.com/sports/seymour-keeps-the-spoon-wins-against-rival-oxford/1537962771>

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tara Petrino, 18 Woodcrest Drive – Ms. Petrino said she was disappointed in the communication to parents regarding the situation with the soccer team. She said no explanation was given to the parents even though their children were negatively impacted. She said parents should have been given an explanation; they deserved one. Mr. Paul Sponheimer, 25 Falcon Drive - Mr. Sponheimer said in the last 85 years of athletics at Seymour High School they never had to forfeit a game and he would like to know who is being held accountable for this situation with soccer. Mr. Paul Roy, SHSSHOF - Mr. Roy introduced himself as the president of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame (SHSSHOF) and said they had a very nice banquet at Colonial Tavern with approximately 200 people in attendance. He said he was disappointed not to see any Board of Education members in attendance. The event is very well run and gives the opportunity to people to see friends they may not have seen for years. Friends and family attend. He said they honor coaches as well as athletes. He also mentioned his disappointment for Mr. LoPresti who called Central Office to get some information; two calls were handled respectively but he felt he was disrespected and hurt on his third call. Mr. Roy said he does not want friction between the Board of Education and the SHSSHOF. Mr. Harvey Catlin, 72 Raymond Street, Waterbury – Mr. Harvey Catlin is pleased to announce that Seymour Middle School will be hosting a State Debate Competition for the first time ever on December 1, 2018. Approximately 450 students will be in attendance and he wants everyone to know they are welcome to attend.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
 1. [Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2018](#)
 2. [Special BOE Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2018](#)
 3. [Special BOE Meeting Minutes 1 – October 24, 2018](#)
 4. [Special BOE Meeting Minutes 2 – October 24, 2018](#)
- B. [Financial Management Summary – Ending October 31, 2018](#)
- C. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program
 1. [Lucian Chavez, Alexander Chavez, Montgomery Chavez](#)
Ms. Jennifer Chavez has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her children, Lucian Chavez, Alexander Chavez, Montgomery Chavez, for the 2018-2019 school year
 2. [Ahliana Gonzalez](#)
Ms. Rachel Gonzalez has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Ahliana Gonzalez, for the 2018-2019 school year
- D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
 1. [Carroll, Angela](#)
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Laura Stec (transfer)
 2. [Johnson, Tonya](#)
 - Monitor Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - New Position

3. Popielasz, Jennifer
 - Food Service Worker
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Nicole Cantor (resignation)
 4. Reilly, Kelly
 - Secretary
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Isabel Bertram (resignation)
 - Former Clerical Paraprofessional
 5. Reynolds, Lisa
 - School Nurse
 - Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
 - Replacing Alissa Brown (resignation)
- E. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
1. Burns, James
 - Head Coach, Indoor Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing John Johnson (resignation)
 2. Jeanette, Chris
 - Assistant Coach, Indoor Track
 - Seymour High School
 - Replacing Mike Thompson (resignation)

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

Hiring of Facilities Manager

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to add to the agenda the hiring of Timothy Connors for the position of Facilities Manager for the Seymour Board of Education and the Town of Seymour

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Hendricks) to approve the hiring of Timothy Connors for the position of Facilities Manager for the Seymour Board of Education and the Town of Seymour

AMENDED MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Hendricks) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to hire Mr. Timothy Connors for the position of Facilities Manager for the Seymour Board of Education and the Town of Seymour

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

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 Retirement - Certified

1. Anthony-Bogue, Jennifer
 - Teacher, English
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 11, 2019

Mr. Hatfield asked about how quickly this job can be posted and filled. Mr. Wilson said he will be discussing this position to decide if a replacement is needed. This meeting with the high school administration will take place before the 12/10 BOE meeting and he will update the Board at that time.

2. Hamad, Bernadette
 - Principal
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2019

Mr. Hatfield said he would like at to hear the procedure for replacing the middle school principal.

D. Staff Resignations - Appendix E

1. Fearon, Nicole
 - Head Coach, Girls Soccer
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective October 29, 2018
2. Sorge, Daniel
 - Head Coach, Boys Basketball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective October 11, 2018

E. Staff Hiring – Appendix E

1. Papa-Zinko, Kathleen
 - Adviser, Anime Club
 - Seymour High School
 - New (incubator club)
2. Papa-Zinko, Kathleen
 - Adviser, Gay Straight Alliance
 - Seymour High School
 - New (incubator club)
3. Prasauckas, Craig
 - Head Coach, Girls Basketball
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Replacing Paul O'Connor (resignation)

VII. **REPORTS and DISCUSSION**

A. Out of State Field Trips

1. Mr. Harvey Catlin will discuss the itinerary of the proposed Philadelphia, PA trip. Mr. Catlin spoke to the Board about the annual Philadelphia trip for the 8th grade class. He said much of the itinerary was the same. He said they have always had a hard time finding kid friendly activities in the evening. This year however, there is a home game for the Phillies and they have secured tickets at \$25 each for the students. Ms. Magri said she was looking forward to hearing about the trip at the June meeting.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Kubik) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the field trip request of Mr. Harvey Catlin to take grade 8 students on an out of state field trip to Philadelphia, PA on May 29, 2019 through May 31, 2019

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

2. Mr. Nate Dobas is requesting permission for the middle school Glee Club to attend Broadway classroom in New York City, NY on January 5, 2019
Mr. Dobas and a few of his glee club members spoke to the Board about the trip to Broadway Classroom in NYC, NY. Mr. Dobas said we have done this in the past and the kids will have the opportunity to work with an actor from the Broadway Show Wicked and then be able to see the show. Ms. Magri said she looked forward to hearing about the trip and hearing the kids sing at the February BOE meeting.
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the field trip request of Mr. Nate Dobas to take grade 8 students on an out of state field trip to New York City, NY on January 5, 2019

SO VOTED

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

B. HS Student Representative Report – Mr. Sukhman Singh, Miss Ashley Sirowich

Mr. Singh reported:

10/3 Financial Aid Night

10/10 PSAT Grades 8, 9, 10, and 11

10/19 Pep Rally

10/20 Homecoming Dance – approximately 360 students attended

Miss Sirowich reported:

On Friday, November 2 we won our 4th NVL Title for girls swimming in school history (1995, 2006, 2007, and 2018)

- Our girls won all three relay events and six of the eight individual swimming events
- Our 200 medley relay team of Kelti Johnson, Mckenna Haynes, Sierra Cripps, and Ania Morzik set a new pool and meet record in the event with a time of 1:53.11
- In the 40 yard freestyle, Sierra Cripps set a new pool, meet, league, and school record with a time of 23.93
- In the 100 yard butterfly, Sierra Cripps set a new pool, meet, league, and school record with a time of 56.36
- Sierra Cripps, Mckenna Haynes, Kelti Johson, Kaitlyn McCluskey, Ania Mrozik, Grace Parkosewich, and Olivia Velleco earned all NVL Honors with their performances at the meet
- Sierra Cripps was named the outstanding Performer of the Meet

Ms. Magri pointed out that they won the meeting with scoring zero points in diving because our school does not participate in diving which makes this win even more amazing.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2018

D. Schedule Updates

1. Seymour Middle School – Ms. Bernadette Hamad

Mrs. Hamad reported that we are done with the first marking period and everyone is still getting used to the schedule. The teachers are getting used to the drop classes. Unified Arts are missing two many days in between classes and Mrs. Hamad said this will be adjusted for next year. She said they are keeping records on the missed time blocks. Students really like having the drop classes and the split class during lunch has presented no problems.

2. Seymour High School – Mr. Jim Freund, Mr. Paul Lucke

Mr. Lucke said some of the pros is the teachers see the kids more often, the kids are more on task, they get to see the kids at different times of the day, and there are fewer requests for passes. Some cons are modification of the start times, some labs are difficult to get finished in the shorter time period, and study halls are larger (in the cafeteria sometimes up to 50 kids). ISS and Hall duty are experiencing a shortage of staff. Kids indicated they would like to see homework posted in advance and Mr. Lucke said he and Mr. Freund will be going back to the student council to get more details on what teachers are not following this directive. Ms. Harmeling asked why they would get this information from the students instead of using a systematic way to check on this.

Mr. Lucke said not all teachers use Google classroom and it would be difficult to get the information from all. She asked if there can be a directive for all teachers to use Google Classroom and Mr. Wilson said this would be difficult because teachers are using so many different platforms but he did say he would like to make sure all teachers are posting homework somewhere.

E. Fall Data Review – Mr. Mike Wilson

Mr. Wilson started his talk by saying that Mrs. Tencza is usually the one to present this data and if they have questions that he is not able to answer, he will get back to them at a later time. The presentation is attached.

F. Budget Timeline and Action Items – Mr. Mike Wilson

Mr. Wilson shared the following timeline for the budget.

- We will be working on the Superintendent's budget with our building Administrators during the month of November 2018.
- We will be ready with the Superintendent recommended budget prior to the Christmas Holiday break.
- The BOE then needs to meet in early January in order to discuss the Superintendent's recommended budget.
- The BOE then makes any necessary changes to the Superintendent's recommended budget and approves their budget which will then be submitted to the Town (Board of Finance) by February 1, 2019.

G. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

Ms. Magri said she and Mr. Wilson met with Shelton regarding the Vocabulary Word of the Week as we are looking to partnering with them. There is some work to be done before we can begin. We are looking to implement this program in the fall and eventually expand it to another school in the Valley until all Valley schools are participating. Ms. Magri reminded the Board members that the CAFE conference is coming up and let them know that they should be prepared to report to the Board regarding the workshops they attend.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield talked about attending the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame banquet and he said it was a wonderful time. He said he was disappointed that the Board did not issue a hall of fame resolution this year and said that he did not remember a discussion with the Board regarding not doing this. He said that he would not have been in agreement to discontinue the resolution if a discussion had occurred and he wanted to make sure this was part of the record. He acknowledged the 2018 Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame inductees: Bob Kelo, Joe Frager, Jody Suchower, Paul Wislocki, Joe Deptula, John Tokarz, and Danielle Liska.

H. Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson was very happy to report that as of this afternoon, we have just over 1230 followers on our new Facebook page. He said Ms. Tencza, Mr. Belden, and he have continued to be visible in our schools in order to witness all of the hard work and dedication of both our teachers and our students. Tomorrow, the district will have our November professional development which we are looking forward to. Several teachers and Administrators including Central Office will be giving workshops at the PD tomorrow

VIII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. One Man Team

Mr. Thomas Brockette, Athletic Director of Ansonia High School is requesting permission for senior Victor Falkowski to participate with the Seymour High School Boys Swim team as a one-man team

Ms. Harmeling asked if we ever have an outgoing one man team from Seymour. Mr. Strumello said we could have one if there were athletes interested in a sport that is not offered at Seymour High School but offered at one of the other valley schools.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the request of Mr. Thomas Brockette, Athletic Director of Ansonia High School for Victor Falkowski to participate with the Seymour High School Boys Swim team as a one-man team

SO VOTED

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

MOTIONS PASSES: 8-0

B. 2019-2020 BOE Meeting Schedule

The Board suggested the following changes: move the November 4 meeting to November 6 and move add a Special BOE Meeting to October 21 for School Improvement plans.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Hendricks) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2019-2020 BOE Meeting Schedule as present

AMENDED MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2019-2020 BOE Meeting Schedule with recommended changes

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

C. 2019-2020 School Calendar

There was a discussion on the early start for school and the following changes were recommended by the Board: have professional development for the teachers on August 26 and August 27. Have the first day for students be August 28 and have the last day of school be June 9, 2020.

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar with recommended changes

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

D. Early Retirement Incentive Program

As part of the contracts, an early retirement incentive must be offered once in the three year contract cycle and it is time to do this again. Mr. Wilson said anyone who are already submitted their notice of retirement will be covered under this ERIP cycle. Mr. Hatfield questioned the wording of the letter saying he believed it did not line up with the contract. Mr. Belden acknowledged he had made a mistake on the letter and would correct it.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to authorize an Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) per the collective bargaining agreement for eligible Teachers and Administrators as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 7-1-0

E. Donation

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda the donation from Seymour Middle School Parent Council

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

There was a brief discussion on the wording of this motion with regard to approving the donation or approving the donation to go to the Superintendent of Schools who will direct the use of the donation which almost always means going as directed in the donation. It was decided the policy would be looked into.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from Seymour Middle School Parent Council of \$1500.00 to be used for the purchase of a monitor/TV and accessories to be installed in the Seymour Middle school cafeteria

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

- * F. **MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter Executive Session for discussion on a personnel issue. The Board invites Mr. Michael Wilson, Mrs. Vonda Tencza, and Mr. Rick Belden into the Executive Session

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Hendricks, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
Entered Executive Session: 9:45 pm
Exited Executive Session: 10:31 pm

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Strumello to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk