

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2018  
Seymour Middle School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 1/16/19  
TIME: 1:46 PM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Edward Hendricks  
Peter Kubik  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sukhman Singh, Student Representative  
Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative  
Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Rick Belden, Asst. Sup - Finance & Operations  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Tim Connors, Director of Operations  
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS

Christina Kowalczyk  
Lisa Collins  
McKenzie Collins  
William Collins  
Paul Sponheimer  
Aimee Cronin  
Christine Baxter  
Kevin Baxter  
Jacqueline Sullivan  
Erika Sobin  
Robert Sobin  
Erin Cronin  
Jenna Baxter  
Alexis Valdes  
Joshua Magri

Amber Recine  
Patricia Jurkowski  
Diane Cortello  
Peter Sampiere  
Donna Breket  
Dominick Violano  
Jennifer Calacra  
Ann Marie Volano  
Ashley Bell  
Robert Rousseau  
Kristen Bruno  
Al Bruno  
Michele Pinho  
Guicherme Pinho

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

B. Moment of Silence

1. Jeanne Loda, Former BOE member
2. Louise D. Kubik, Mother of Board Member Peter Kubik  
Mr. Stanek spoke fondly of Ms. Loda who was very dedicated to the kids of Seymour for a very long time. She will be remembered. He also spoke of Mrs. Kubik, Peter Kubik's mother who recently passed away.

II. **BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Recognitions

1. Reagan Kalish, an 8th grade student at Seymour Middle School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Seymour CT Lions Club. Kalish's poster was among more than 450,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Other Seymour Middle School participants were Louis Zhu - 8th grade, Michael Azzarone - grade 6, and Natasia Rittweger - grade 6. Congratulations to all the students who participated.
2. Congratulations to the Cade Klarides-Ditria who was selected for the First Team Walter Camp All-Connecticut – 2018. A breakfast to honor the students will be held on January 12, 2019.  
<https://waltercamp.org/walter-camp-all-connecticut-teams-announced-12th-annual-breakfast-of-champions-is-january-12/>

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board Chair Magri reminded the public about the process for public comment. Public comment provides the opportunity for the public to make a comment. It is not a dialogue between the Board and the public. The Board may choose to add to their agenda a topic based upon what is heard. Please keep your comments brief so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity. You will need to state your name and address prior to addressing the board.

Alison Brett, 11 Stanley Drive – Spoke about the ongoing need for a full time resource officer at Seymour High School and how the school bathrooms continue to be locked. She said there are bathroom monitors but a full time resource officer may help to alleviate the problems with the bathrooms.

Joshua Magri, 16 Union Street – This was his third visit to the Board to speak about the bathroom situation and he said there have been some resolutions to the problem, another bathroom is open and some of the suggested solutions have been put in place. Announcements are being made. At this point, he feels the dialogue can be closed.

Paul Sponheimer, 25 Falcon Drive – Has been to three Board meetings and has not yet had his questions regarding the forfeiture for our Soccer team. He also questions the financial burden the forfeiture cost the district. In addition, he said three Seymour Sports Hall of Fame display cases are missing along with some memorabilia from the 1950's.

Christina Kowalczyk, 260 Pearl Street – Second Board meeting she has attended to speak about the tardy policy at Chatfield-LoPresti School. At the last meeting she thought there would be a meeting to discuss this policy and would like to know why this did not happen. She restated that she feels strongly that kids of this age should not be punished for being tardy as it is the parent's fault not the child's.

Mckenzie Collins, 47 Colony Avenue – spoke about the problems with the Indoor Track team specifically poorly scheduled bus times, kids missing events due to arriving late to the meet, lack of time to warm up which puts the athletes at risk, athletes have a smaller window of opportunity to quality, and athletes having to wait in the library until the coach arrives.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria, spoke about track members who were forced to miss events because Coach Burns cannot leave his job to be at the school on time for meets. She wondered why other coaches were not asked to ride the bus so the track team could arrive on time. She is concerned that she is consistently getting calls from parents. What is the solution? Kids have missed two meets, could affect college. She would like to know what happened. The Athletic Director has gotten numerous emails.

Amber Recine, 42 Kathy Drive – she was concerned that the Athletic Program progress at Seymour High School is going down since her freshman year. Girls soccer had the same coach as boys soccer. Softball which has always been big in Seymour had barely enough girls this year to form a team. There is no communication from the AD. Coaches are scared to lose their job. The Athletic Program is going down and kids will go elsewhere.

Lisa Collins, 47 Colony Road – Echoes what has been said in this meeting. She talked about the soccer forfeiture and the indoor track team being late to meets. The bus is late and the mentality is as long as most of the team is allowed to participate its ok, she said she does not understand. She wondered why athletes can't drive to meets or ride with their parents. She spoke of nine open coaching positions and how the Board is hiring non-qualified coaches. She said the Board needs to take a look and address the problems. She is formally requesting that this be put on the next Board agenda.

Bob Rousseau, 20 Falcon Drive – talked about the indoor track team missing parts of meets, understand the coach stepped up to save the season. Last week's situation happened because the team has to travel with the coach. There is never a good reason for an athlete to be late to an event. Cannot blame the coaches, parents should be allowed to drive to meets and if the coach is not available then the AD should ride the bus.

Kevin Baxter, 4 Briarwood Drive – Mr. Baxter said he echoed the same concerns as other parents regarding the Indoor Track them missing the start of the meet. He believes Coach Burns was approached to coach even though he had regular job conflicts and the AD was aware of the limitations. He is concerned that this team will miss NVL's and State's. He wondered why parents cannot drive their children. When the time for the meet was changed, why weren't arrangements made for someone else to ride with the team on the bus? He talked about the job postings for open coaching positions. He expressed concerns about the Athletic Director not supporting the coaches.

Kristen Bruno, 10 MacConnie Court – She said her daughter is participating on a great freshman team. But she expressed concerns about things going wrong such as the soccer team forfeiture and the indoor track team not able to get to their meets on time. She asked that the leadership evaluate the athletic program. Is the current AD position working? Need to think about the safety and health of the student athletes. Are we meeting expectations?

Susan DeRosa, 1 Evening Star Drive – Spoke about her concerns regarding the principal and assistant principal at Chatfield-LoPresti School punishing children because of the parents. She feels it is ridiculous to hold a small child accountable. We should not punish a small child, tell them they are in trouble, or ridicule them. She feels certain children are pinpointed. In her opinion she feels DCF should not be called for tardiness. Ms. DeRosa feels Mr. Wilson needs to look at the person who wrote this policy and asks that this be put on the next Board meeting agenda.

Al Bruno, 10 MacConnie Court – Read a statement written by his daughter about her being unable to compete after all the hard work that she put in.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
  1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2018
  2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2018
  3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2018
  4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2018
- B. Financial Management Summary – Ending December 28, 2018
- C. Nutritional Services Financial Report – November, 2018
- D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
  1. Altamirano, Lydia
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Seymour High School
    - New Position (approved by BOE 10/1/18)
  2. Frísbie, Trevor
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Seymour High School
    - Replacing Dawn Rivellini

Mr. Hatfield questioned why it took so long to hire an instructional paraprofessional that was approved by the Board in October. Mr. Wilson explained the hiring process takes time but he would keep an eye on this.

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Harmeling) 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. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A. Policies to Adopt (Approved Regular BOE Meeting, December 10, 2018)

1. Policy #5144.1 (a-f) Use of Physical Force

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to adopt policy #5144.1 which was approved by the Board of Education on December 10, 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**

B. Strategic Plan

Ms. Harmeling explained that she and another member of the Strategic Planning Committee were unable to attend the meeting to review the plan and at this time it is not ready to be reviewed by the Board.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to table the Strategic Plan to the February 4, 2019 BOE meeting

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSED: 9-0**

C. Donation from Seymour High School Class of 1968

1. Mr. Joe Labacz on behalf of the Seymour High School Class of 1968 would like to donate \$200.00 to the construction program and the electric car program at Seymour High School.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of \$200.00 from Mr. Joe Labacz on behalf of the SHS Class of 1968 and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

**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. Addition to Agenda

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda a discussion on adding an instructional paraprofessional position.

**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**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to approve the request of Dr. Kris Boyle to add an additional instructional paraprofessional position at Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School

**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**

**VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION**

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

Mid term exams are until Friday. Band, Chorus, Guitar at the high school, so cool, so much talent. HOPE Club held a Toys for Tots event. Jasmine \_\_\_\_\_ was selected for the Southern Regional Band. The Student Council likes to visit the Board meetings and will be sending about 10 representatives every three meetings. A suggestion box has been installed and the suggestions will be reviewed at every student council meeting. The upstairs bathroom has been opened and the auditorium restroom will be open when they are fixed and locks are installed. There will be a teacher appreciation lunch coming up.

B. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Minutes – December 10, 2018

2. Curriculum & Technology Committee Minutes – December 17, 2018

a. Seymour High School Program of Studies 2019-20

Ms. Harmeling said it was a productive meeting and she liked that she heard directly from teachers. Several music classes bring variety to the music department and hope that this increases participation. She reviewed the Seymour High School Program of Studies for the 2019-20 school year.

Mr. Strumello asked if we have enough students participating to make the music position full time, the response was not at this time. There was a discussion on where we are with a 1-1 program at the middle school. Currently kids check a Chromebook in the morning and keep it all day and return in the afternoon. Ms. Harmeling said we are taking baby steps toward a 1-1 program. She feels it's a great step toward a 1-1 program. The curriculum & technology committee will be meeting again and so will the Policy Committee, both will be addressing this. Mr. Garofolo suggested that if you have questions address the chairperson of that committee. It is an opportunity to address concerns and questions. Put in writing and submit to the chairperson and it will be included on the agenda.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the Seymour High School Program of Studies 2019-2020 New Course Offerings as revised and contingent on budget constraints as recommended by the Curriculum & Technology Committee.

**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. Policy #3543.31 Electronic Communications Use and Retention

Mr. Wilson confirmed that he spoke with First Selectman Kurt Miller about the 24 month policy and the Town is fine with the policy as it is written. Currently, the Town does not have a policy.

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy #3543.31 Electronic Communications Use and Retention

**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. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman's Comments

a. Policy 0100 - Mission Statement

b. Policy 0200 - Goals and Objectives

Ms. Magri asked the board to review the attached policies regarding the Goals and Objectives 0200 and Mission Statement 0100 as they have not been revised since 1996. With the Strategic Plan pending we need to make sure that all is aligned. She asked the Board members to please provide feedback to me if there are suggestions for revisions so we can take it up at an upcoming policy committee meeting and get the policies updated. Ms. Magri thanked Mr. Belden for his years of service and wished him luck in his new position. She said Shelton's gain is Seymour's loss. A recess was called so everyone could enjoy cake with him.

Recess Started: 8:55 pm

Recess Ended: 9:06 pm

2. Board Member Comments

Dr. Hendricks reminded everyone that the next Nutrition, Health, & Safety Committee meeting is on Monday, January 14, 2019. Some topics to be discussed include the bathrooms at the high school and vaping. The Board of Education are welcome to attend. Ms. Harmeling wondered if policy 0100 and 0200 are still relevant since these topics are covered in the Strategic Plan. Mr. Garofolo asked that the tardiness policy be addressed since so many parents have concerns. Mr. Stanek said he was pleased that the parental concerns will be addressed. He also wanted to congratulate our long term teachers who are retiring noting that Ms. Silva has been with the Seymour Public Schools for over 40

years. Mr. Strumello recognized and send his congratulations on his retirement to Mr. Walter Schuttler, who is a custodian at Bungay School. Mr. Hatfield wanted to applaud all of the retirees on the quality of their resignation letters.

- E. Superintendent Report
1. In December, Rick, Vonda and I attended the second annual Budget Retreat hosted by First Selectman Miller. At this meeting, all town budgets were presented and addressed. All stakeholders got the opportunity to hear the needs of the various departments. We then got to hear from some of our vendors (insurance and liability carriers) in order for them to let us know where we were and what we needed to budget for the upcoming year.
  2. Vonda, Rick, and I 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.
  3. Per Selectman Miller, he is OK with the policy change to 3543.31
  4. Rick, Vonda, and I have worked hard on creating the budget to recommend to the BOE. A copy of this budget along with a new Management review summary sheet will be sent out tomorrow to all BOE members in order for them to review prior to Thursday's meeting. Questions ahead of time are encouraged.

## VIII. 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 Transfers – Non Certified
1. Alpert, Scott
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Bungay Elementary School
    - New Position (BOE Approved 12/10/18)
- D. Staff Retirement – Certified
1. Silva, Fatima
    - Spanish Teacher
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective June 30, 2019
  2. Stevens, Basilla
    - Mathematics Teacher
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective June 30, 2019
  3. Tropeano, Janet
    - World Language Teacher
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective June 30, 2019
- E. Staff Retirement – Non Certified
1. Schuttler, Walter
    - Custodian
    - Bungay Elementary School
    - Effective August 9, 2019
- F. Staff Resignation – Non Certified
1. Carroll, Angela
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Bungay Elementary School
    - Effective December 21, 2018

- G. Staff Resignation – Appendix E
1. Pagliaro, Christopher
    - Assistant Coach
    - Outdoor Track
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective December 17, 2018
  2. Sirowich, Michael
    - Assistant Coach
    - Outdoor Track
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective December 17, 2018
  3. Willadsen, David
    - Assistant Coach
    - Outdoor Track
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective December 17, 2018

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) move to add to the agenda an Executive Session

**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

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter into executive session to discuss a matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in C.G.S. Section 1-210(b)(10) and/or (17) and to invite the Superintendent and Board Counsel to attend.

**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

Into Executive Session: 9:22 pm

Out of Executive Session: 11:05 pm

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Ms. Harmeling) 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 11:05 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk