

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2019  
Chatfield-LoPresti School  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED

DATE: 2/13/19

TIME: 12:44 PM

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Kubik  
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  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Bernadette Hamad, Principal, SMS  
Tara Yusko, Assistant Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS

Stephan Behuniak  
Judy Perncia  
Joe Perrucci  
RoseAnne Thornton  
Tanya Gayle  
Darlene Verab  
Rebecca Kirpas  
Kristen Fitzmorris  
Jeffrey Coppola  
Paul Sponheimer  
Melissa Gonzalez  
Lindsay Browning  
Stephanie Mordowanec  
Lisette Aers  
Aimee Cronin  
Lisa Cheney  
John McCasland  
Peter Sampier  
Mr. & Mrs. David Foster

Kimberly Farmer  
Jennifer Monaco  
Julie Nintzel  
Jill Gagne  
John Chacho  
Susan DeRosa  
Meghan Cleveland  
Maureen Fimbers  
Tonya Dzwonkowski  
Steven Grey  
Michael Kearns  
Glenn apointe  
Rebecca DeAngelis  
Meagan Krushinski  
Stephanie Shelinsky  
Christine Baxter  
Keven Baxter  
Colleen Sadick  
Dominick Violano

Alison Brett  
Allison Cunningham  
Lisa Labela  
Tina Coughlin  
Jeff Mockler  
Mario Roxo  
David Willadsen  
Scott Lang  
Martin Cheng  
Diane Valdes  
Mak Ferer  
Lori Forte  
Andrew Melnick  
Keith Wasik  
Jennifer Batterton  
Noah Watson  
Kathleen Papa-Zinko  
Lindsey Grailich  
Cathy Federowicz

Emily Corbett  
Karen Studley  
Sara Morgatto  
Emily Spear  
Lauren Verab  
Austin Verab  
Bethany Verab  
Ciane Cortello  
Heather Brown  
Kath Verlezza  
Ken Pereiras  
Jamie Yakushewich  
Lisa Rubio  
Paul Forte  
Michelle Proto  
Dibran Trepca  
Sandra Rennison  
Jenn Cabrea

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance  
Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 p.m.
- B. Moment of Silence
  - 1. Susan Coughlin, former Seymour educator of 37 years

**II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Correspondence
  - 1. Letter dated 12/31/18 from Scott A. Bassett of RSM, forwarding a copy of the Education Financial System report for the year ending 06/30/18
- B. Media Coverage
  - <https://www.nhregister.com/valley/article/Ansonia-BOE-approves-34M-budget-includes-13556074.php>
  - <https://www.nhregister.com/valley/article/Valley-mourns-beloved-teacher-Susan-Shortell-13550336.php>
  - <https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Parents-athletes-call-for-changes-in-Seymour-13561635.php>
  - <https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Sources-say-Seymour-High-athletic-director-has-13570407.php>
  - <https://www.wtnh.com/news/connecticut/new-haven/seymour-high-school-athletic-director-submits-letter-of-resignation/1737169135>
  - <https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Seymour-Superintendent-of-Schools-confirms-AD-13574161.php>
  - <https://www.rep-am.com/local/news-local/2019/01/17/seymour-high-assistant-principal-accepted-into-program-after-alleged-dui-incident-2/>
  - [https://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour assistant principal still on administrative leave/](https://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/seymour_assistant_principal_still_on_administrative_leave/)
  - <https://thezone.rep-am.com/featured/2019/01/29/palladino-williams-jurkowski-perform-dual-feats-of-strength-at-nvls/>
  - [https://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/valley youth making a difference seymours reagan kalish and ashley white/](https://valley.newhavenindependent.org/archives/entry/valley_youth_making_a_difference_seymours_reagan_kalish_and_ashley_white/)

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Magri explained that 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 our agenda a topic based upon what is heard. If questions are posed that I am able to answer I will do so under the Chairmen's Report portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. She asked that the public please keep their comments respectful and no longer than 2 minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity. You will need to state your name and address for the record prior to addressing the board.

Tanya Gayle, 23 Oakwood Drive – called for an executive session of the Board requesting the Mr. Paul Lucke be reinstated tomorrow morning. She said she has done her research and there is no legal issue in the State of Connecticut. She said there is a lot of support for Mr. Lucke in this room and the Board has the power to return him to Seymour High School.

Darlene Verab, 115 North Street – spoke of the importance of Mr. Lucke's position at Seymour High School. He is trusted and admired by parents, students, administrative colleagues. Our students need him. She said he is a good man, a good administrator, a good teacher, a good father, and he is my son, please allow him to return for the sake of the students.

Chris Bowan, 26 Birchwood Street – voiced his support for Mr. Paul Lucke, he said there are many, many people in the room who are hear for him.

Noah Watson, 21 Shelton Street – Mr. Lucke was a life mentor for him. He is blessed with a job he loves and wants to go further. He said Mr. Lucke said follow your dreams, do what your love. He loves what he does and it's probably killing him to stay at home. No one can say you haven't gone to a bar and driven home. He made a mistake but he should be allowed to follow his dreams just like what he told me.

Mark Forte, 6 Apple Lane – graduated in 2015. Mr. Lucke started clubs for kids like me that were not athletic. He started the performing arts club which I joined.

Paul Forte, 6 Apple Lane – he started the art club and was a mentor to me in high school. He asked that Mr. Lucke be reinstated.

Kevin Baxter, 4 Briarwood Drive – Seymour High School has won Halo Awards, enjoyed many championships, and had many successes. We have fine teachers in Seymour. We are losing a lot of good people. We cannot afford to lose Mr. Lucke, cannot afford to lose all of our best.

Paul Sponheimer, 25 Falcon Drive – said he was against the antiquated rule that prohibits coaches from being both a coach and an AD. He said the Board should look closely at the hiring on the agenda tonight.

Dibran Trepca, Student Council President – The majority of students on the student council stand beside Mr. Lucke. He wants an explanation of where Mr. Lucke went. Also Mr. Brennan.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Regular Meeting Minutes - January 7, 2019
  - 2. Special Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2019
  - 3. Special Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2019
- B. Financial Management Summary
- C. Nutritional Services Financial Report – December, 2018
- D. Nutritional Services
  - 1. Authorized Signatures Change Form - CT State Department of Education
- E. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
  - 1. DeMarco, Matthew
    - Head Coach, Outdoor Track
    - High School
    - Replacing Tom Lennon
  - 2. Kearns, Michael
    - Head Coach, Football
    - High School
    - Replacing Tom Lennon

3. Vartelas, James
  - Assistant Coach, Baseball
  - High School
  - Replacing Joe Deptula
4. Yakushewich, Jamie
  - Assistant Coach, Softball
  - High School
  - Replacing Jamie Yakushewich
- F. Staff Appointment – Sports Volunteer
  1. Mordowanec, Stephanie
    - Assistant Coach, Dance Team
    - High School
- G. Homeschool Notice of Intent
  1. Acknowledge the receipt of homeschooling notification and render no opinion as to the appropriateness of the planned program
    - a. Dominique Pierre
 

Ms. Josette Nozine has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Dominique Pierre, for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year
    - b. Lily Olivia Taverner
 

Ms. Heather Taverner has informed the Board of Education of her intent to home school her child, Lily Olivia Taverner, for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to remove item IV E 1, 2, 3, and 4 from the consent agenda  
**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) move to approve the consent agenda as amended

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

**V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Financial Management Summary – this item was tabled by the Finance Committee to the March 4, 2019 BOE meeting.
- E. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
  1. DeMarco, Matthew
    - Head Coach, Outdoor Track
    - High School
    - Replacing Tom Lennon

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Mr. Matthew DeMarco as the Head Coach for the Outdoor Track team at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield,

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-1

2. Kearns, Michael
  - Head Coach, Football
  - High School
  - Replacing Tom Lennon

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Mr. Michael Kearns as the Head Coach for the Football team at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield,

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-1

3. Vartelas, James
  - Assistant Coach, Baseball
  - High School
  - Replacing Joe Deptula

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Mr. James Vartelas as the Assistant Coach for the Baseball team at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

4. Yakushewich, Jamie
  - Assistant Coach, Softball
  - High School
  - Replacing Jamie Yakushewich

Ms. Magri asked about Jamie Yakushewich replacing himself. Mr. Wilson explained that he had the job previously but because he missed some deadlines with paperwork, he had to apply for the position again.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Mr. Jamie Yakushewich as the Assistant Coach for the Softball team at Seymour High School

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

## **VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

### **A. Out of State Field Trips**

1. Coach Jessica Young and Assistant Coach Chrissy Manion requests an out of state field trip to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to Worcester State University, in Worcester MA to compete in the New England Regional Spirit Championship on March 15-16, 2019.

Ms. Magri explained this is a request we get every year in the event the team qualifies for the regionals.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the field trip request of Coach Jessica Young and Assistant Coach Chrissy Manion to take the Seymour High School Cheerleading team to Worcester State University, in Worcester MA to compete in the New England Regional Spirit Championship on March 15-16, 2019.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES – 7-0**

2. Coach Courtney Leahy requests an out of state field trip to take the Seymour High School Dance team to Braintree High School in Braintree, MA to compete in the New England Interscholastic Dance Team Championship on March 9, 2019. This is also a routine request we get annually in the vent the team qualifies for the regional championship.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the field trip request of Coach Courtney Leahy to take the Seymour High School Dance team to Braintree High School in Braintree, MA to compete in the New England Interscholastic Dance Team Championship on March 9, 2019.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES – 7-0**

B. Donations

1. Lions Club

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the donation of \$200.00 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, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

2. Thule Division

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the donation of \$500.00 from the Thule Division and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

3. Bungay School PTA

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the donation of \$5000.00 from the Bungay School PTA and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

4. Jennifer Magri

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the donation of \$395.00 from Ms. Jennifer Magri and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

**SO VOTED**

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

**ABSTAIN:** Ms. Magri

**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-1**

C. Policy Additions and Revisions Recommended by the Policy Committee

Ms. Magri reminded the Board that Policies are put on the agenda the first time to be approved and a second time to be adopted.

1. Policy #1112 Community Relations - News Media Relations  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy #1112 Community Relations - News Media Relations  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0
2. Policy #1312 Community Relations - Public Complaints  
Mr. Hatfield noted that the redline revisions were not reflected in the attached document. Mr. Wilson confirmed that he was correct and it had been submitted in the previous edited document. In light of this, Mr. Garofolo withdrew his motion and Ms. Harmeling withdrew her second of the motion.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Stanek) to table the revision of Policy #1312 Community Relations – Public Complaints to the March 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0
3. Policy #5114.12 Students - Student Handbooks  
Ms. Magri explained that this revision is to address the situation where a parent/guardian does not sign the handbook. There was a discussion on electronic signature which are not accepted at this time. Mr. Hatfield wanted to table this item but Ms. Harmeling said she was comfortable voting on this as is.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy #5114.12 Students - Student Handbooks  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0
4. Policy #5141 Student Health Services - School District Medical Advisor/School Nurse  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise policy #5141 Student Health Services - School District Medical Advisor/School Nurse  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0
5. Policy #6163.5 Physical Education (6-12)  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #6163.5 Physical Education (6-12)  
Ms. Harmeling had some questions on what exactly a daily assessment is. Mr. Wilson said he would provide more detail but felt that this meant that any teacher can assess the activities of the day.  
Mr. Garofolo withdrew his motion and Mr. Strumello withdrew his second.  
**MOTION:** Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to table Policy 6163.5 Physical Education (6-12) to the March 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

D. Additional Instructional Paraprofessional positions

1. Request additional Instructional Paraprofessional positions (2) Chatfield-LoPresti School - Dr. Kris Boyle

Mr. Strumello asked why this was needed and Dr. Boyle explained that we have had two new students move into the district who have IEP's that require support. Ms. Magri noted that we have added seven new positions this year so far. Mr. Hatfield would like to know how many positions were added last year. Mr. Strumello said the only way around this would be to challenge the IEP and that would be costly.

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

E. Strategic Plan - Ms. Kristen Harmeling/Mr. Michael Wilson

Ms. Harmeling spoke about the work that has been done on the Strategic Plan by members of the committee including parents, teachers, and community. The document was presented to a smaller group and recently, was revised to the format that the Town uses for their plan. The document has been shared and there is an invitation for comments in the next two weeks. They will be looking for approval at the March 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Harmeling thanked all the members of the committee for their participation.

F. Ad Hoc Committee – Communications

Ms. Magri explained that as chair, she is able to appoint a committee. She has listened to people at the last several meetings and feels communication can be improved. The Communication Committee will consist of teachers, students, and community along with Board of Education members. Ms. Magri appointed Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, and Mr. Champagne to serve on this committee. She said we have work to do and we want to get this job done. This agenda has several sample plans that can be reviewed below.

Examine all methods and modes of district communication including tools, frequency, timeliness, content, ownership and effectiveness. In conjunction with all stakeholders develop a district wide communications plan to be submitted to the Board for approval, including the recommendation of policies, processes and professional development to ensure effective communication. Surveying of staff (all bargaining units), students, athletes, parents and the public's perceptions regarding communications and areas for improvement should be included. Progress reports will be due to the board monthly with the goal of a 2019-2020 communications plan launch. Findings where improvements can be made immediately will be shared and subsequently implemented as they are identified.

Sample Plans:

[https://www.brookfield.k12.ct.us/sites/brookfielddps/files/uploads/081617\\_final\\_brookfield\\_public\\_schools\\_communications\\_plan.pdf](https://www.brookfield.k12.ct.us/sites/brookfielddps/files/uploads/081617_final_brookfield_public_schools_communications_plan.pdf)

[http://www.cantonschools.org/filestorage/184/795/797/3262/Canton\\_Public\\_Schools\\_Communication\\_Plan\\_2016-2019.pdf](http://www.cantonschools.org/filestorage/184/795/797/3262/Canton_Public_Schools_Communication_Plan_2016-2019.pdf)

[http://www.ledyard.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_111100/Image/Rev.%20Communication%20PlanMarch%202016%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.ledyard.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_111100/Image/Rev.%20Communication%20PlanMarch%202016%20(2).pdf)

[https://www.somers.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_61294/File/District%20Info/CommunicationsPlan/Communications%20Plan.pdf](https://www.somers.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_61294/File/District%20Info/CommunicationsPlan/Communications%20Plan.pdf)

VII. **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 Resignation – Certified
1. Aprea, Nicholas
    - Physical Education/Health Teacher
    - High School
    - Effective: June 30, 2019
  2. Yusko, Tara
    - Assistant Principal
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Athletic Director
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective: March 4, 2019
- D. Staff Resignation – Non Certified
1. Matear, Fiona
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Effective: January 25, 2019
  2. Wanzie, Diane
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Effective: January 10, 2019

## VIII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION

- A. HS Student Representative Report – Mr. Sukhman Singh, Miss Ashley Sirowich  
 Miss Sirowich reported that all students survived midterms and have started second semester classes. The art club is working on painting in the bathrooms with the hope to make them nicer and less appealing to students who vandalize them. There will soon be a teacher appreciation lunch. Freshman are getting started on their Capstone projects. Link Crew is helping them in the process by going to freshmen advisories and helping them all of the lessons in order to get their project to the stage of completion. Mr. Singh reported that there was a field trip to Market 32 to teach them skills on spending. The Dance team took home second place in the pom division at Quinnipiac University Cheer and Dance Challenge. The high school Cheerleading team took home first place and Grand Champs. National Honor Society is hosting the "Snowball" winter dance this Saturday, the Student Council is bringing back blue and gold Fridays (the first Friday of each month). Students will wear blue/gold and Seymour apparel to show school spirit. The HOPE club is starting off February by focusing on kindness by decorating bulletin boards and trying to inspire people to be kind. Prom planning meetings have begun. It was confirmed that the Student Council will be attending a Special BOE meeting next month on March 4, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Library Media Center at Seymour Middle School.
- B. Committee Reports
1. Finance Committee – January 7, 2019  
 Mr. Hatfield reported that this was the last meeting with Mr. Belden in attendance. There was discussion on the budget.
  2. Policy Committee - January 14, 2019  
 Ms. Magri said five policies were moved forward to the full Board for approval. The next Policy Committee meeting will be on February 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Central Office.
  3. Nutrition, Health, and Safety Committee - January 14, 2019  
 Mr. Champagne said the committee discussed vaping issues at the middle school and high school and unpaid lunch balances.

- C. Policy 5113/5113.01 Attendance - Mr. James Garofolo  
At the policy committee meeting on January 14, 2019 members of the committee discussed at length BOE policy 5113, particularly the section on tardiness, consequences and remediation as identified by Bungay Elementary and Chatfield-LoPresti administrative guidelines communicated to parents for the 2018-2019 school year. As most Board members know, certain parents addressed this Board expressing their concerns with what they felt was inappropriate action taken by building administration – detentions, or extra make-up sessions after school or during the lunch periods. In light of these concerns, committee members agreed to review the policy adopted in 2003, revised in May, 2018 and subsequently adopted in June, 2018. There was discussion at length as to whether the administrative actions taken were punitive in nature or in the best interest of the child. The Committee did not reach a conclusion for or against the local building policies and their implementation. Comments offered expressed an understanding that tardiness may occur but punitive action is inappropriate for a child who relies on the parent to assure his/her arriving to school on time. Other comments suggested allowing the parent to opt out of the opportunity for make-up sessions. We also discussed whether excessive tardies and/or absences so affected a child's progress that potential for retention could exist. A reading of appropriate statutes suggests that local Boards are not restricted exclusively to the statutes as written, but will allow greater latitude in defining and amplifying local needs or Board positions. The task at hand is to decide if our Board policies 5113/5113.01 are in need of further revision, and if the existing guidelines in place at Bungay, CLS, and the high school satisfy the needs of the district. Most assuredly, in examining administrative guidelines, it might behoove the Board to insist that there be a unanimity of approach consistent with Board policy. Our next policy committee meeting is Tuesday, February 12 at 6:00 pm at Central Office
- D. Winter Data Presentation - Mrs. Vonda Tencza  
Mrs. Vonda Tencza presented a snapshot on how the district is doing. We have a lot of diversity and strong opinions in the district but in the end we all want what is best for our students. She talked about how School-Based Data Teams take our District Data team's work and further analyze the data to determine how each student is doing. District patterns of performance and growth in both MAP and PSAT were shared, with an overall trend of higher performance in reading on both assessments. High leverage strategies of establishing clear learning intentions/success criteria and providing focused feedback continue to be implemented district-wide.  
Climate Survey  
Mrs. Tencza said that every two years, to update our Safe School Climate Plans, we are required to survey our students, teachers, and parents with six specific questions that are provided by the State of CT, in addition to building-level questions focused on areas of specific interest. We are looking for the largest participation rate possible, so multiple avenues of involvement will be utilized. These specific questions will be attached to our communication surveys from each school toward the end of the school year. Results will be posted and shared with the Board of Education and feedback will be incorporated into the revisions to the Safe School Climate Plans for the 2019-2021 school years.
- E. Board of Education Report
1. Chairman's Comments  
Ms. Magri said she has spent some time since the last board meeting reflecting on what she herself can do in order to help improve communication and the public comment dynamic. She reminded the Board that she too was once an upset parent who came before the BOE for remedy. She recalled her frustration at the process and has decided that moving forward she will do her best to address questions that are presented under my report. She asked for patience in that there may be instances where she does not have an answer since it may be the first time she is hearing of the issue and may need to conduct additional research before a response can be shared. She said as she has stated previously she will not directly comment on personnel matters. In response to some questions she said we currently have two full-time officers plus a Director of Security who has received training. Our budget includes \$50K for another SRO in the fall. Currently the police department is resource constrained with multiple recruits still at the academy.

She reported that the missing cabinets have not been located despite exhaustive searches but shop class students will be building replacement cabinets. She suggested the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame work with the high school administration regarding obtaining more information regarding the missing trophies. With regard to the soccer forfeiture, athletes are not permitted to participate on two separate teams (i.e. Boys and Girls Soccer) within a given season. Some female athletes participated on both the JV boys team and the girls varsity team. Rosters are required to be submitted prior to the first contest and did not reflect a combined team.

Girls should have participated on only one of the teams. The Athletic Committee will be discussing procedures further to ensure that there is understanding of rules to ensure we do not encounter similar issues in the future. She reported that there was a soccer penalty in the amount of \$100 for self-reporting the participation violation. The Policy committee Meeting was held and there was a discussion on Tardies. Mr. Garofolo and Ms. Magri decided at that time to discuss this in more depth with the full Board and Mr. Garofolo just had that discussion with the Board. The Policy Committee will be meeting again on February 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Central Office. Regarding Indoor Track, mid-season there were two additional meets that were added to the schedule to make up for some of the events missed due to late arrivals. NVL's were not and States will not be impacted by this due to later start times. Congratulations to the Girls Indoor Track team who placed 3rd at NVL's. The Head football coach and the outdoor track coach as well as an assistant baseball and softball coach were hired tonight. Current openings include four outdoor track assistant coaches (posting closes 2/13). Currently one applicant and new head coach is reaching out to his network to gauge interest as well. The next Athletic Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019 in the Seymour High School cafeteria starting at 5:30 pm. Ms. Magri, Ms. Harmeling, and Mr. Wilson attended Legislative Breakfast at Derby High School Jan 16. Among items discussed were teacher safety and vaping problems. Ms. Magri reminded the Board that the Budget will be presented on February 21 at 7:00 pm to the Board of Finance in the Norma Drummer Room at Town Hall. Ms. Magri said there have been too many postponements for sub-committee meetings. The Board attempted to address through pre-scheduled meetings but even those are getting pushed back. We understand that we are all volunteers and things come up but we have got to get the work done. Mr. Garofolo has suggested that each committee have a vice chair so that in the absence of the chair we can continue to meet. She asked the Board for their thoughts. The More You Know Monday articles are now posted to the district website on a separate page under the Board of Education link. Thank you to Mrs. Harmeling for the suggestion and to Mr. Dyer for getting that done expediently.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Garofolo thanked everyone who came out tonight to participate in our meeting and at the subcommittee meetings. He said he loves the passion. He said he would like to see more passion. Mr. Stanek said that each subcommittee could elect a Chairman Pro Tempore so the meeting could go forward. Mr. Hatfield asked about hiring coaches and the level of supervision. He also wanted to hear what the solution was for the Athletic Director position. He expressed his concern that Mr. Poole only worked Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday and would like to know what is going to be done for this position to be filled.

F. Superintendent Report

1. Recap of the Meet and Greet, plan to have another in the spring.
2. Recap of the Geography Bee, thank you to Mr. Milia.
3. Hiring Arthur Poole as the Interim Business Manager, the Business Manager should start as of July 1.
4. Invitation to come to the Anti-Bullying Assembly organized by our Director of Security
5. Review the mid-year evaluation process for teachers and administrators

6. Update on the plan for posting a new Athletic Director position. Mr. Wilson indicated that this would be redrafted to be at the high school and be the Dean of Student Affairs. An interim Athletic Director will be hired.
7. Update on Facebook - As of today, we have 1325 followers on our Facebook page. Mr. Stanek said he would like to hear more discussion regarding the Dean of Students and Athletic Director position. Mr. Hatfield said he would like to hear about the timeline and asked if there are any other options. Mr. Wilson said there were not many options. Ms. Harmeling asked if interim positions were posted or if they were word of mouth. Mr. Wilson said it can be either way. He said we need to look at what is best for the district, having two positions or one? He said he felt it was unrealistic to find one person to do both jobs from March to June. He said he would look at retired people to bring in. Mr. Strumello reminded the Board that they are the only ones who can create and eliminate position. He said it was important that we as Board members express our opinions. He reminded the Board that they have the power.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tanya Gayle, 23 Oakwood Drive – said we stayed throughout this very well put together meeting. We are asking for compassion for Mr. Lucke. You have made mistakes as have I she said. She said she has learned from her mistakes. She talked about her children going through the Seymour School system and participating in sports. She asked again that Mr. Lucke be reinstated tomorrow.

Steve George, 27 Gilyard Street – You are hiring a qualified coach in Mike Kearns. He thanked the Board for hiring him and said that he is going to be great!

Jennifer Cabrea, 122 Davis Road – Mr. Lucke needs to come back. Our children were supported by Mr. Lucke, he participated in sports. Where is Mr. Aprea? Mr. Brennan? Please reconsider. Taking these teachers away is harming our students.

Susan DeRosa, 1 Evening Star Drive – Her child received tremendous support from administrators and coaches. She feels the new Athletic Director needs to be passionate for the sports. Kids need help with college scholarships. This graduating class has been ruined. These people were coaches as well as mentors. Don't hire someone to do two jobs. Bring back Paul Lucke, he is their mentor.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Into Executive Session: 10:06 pm

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment of Ms. Tara Yusko. The Board invites Ms. Yusko into the session.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-0

No action was taken.

Out of Executive Session: 11:17 pm

- B. Into Executive Session: 11:18 pm

**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 Superintendent Michael Wilson and Associate Superintendent Vonda Tencza to attend.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-0

No action was taken.

Out of Executive Session: 11:49 pm

- C. Into Executive Session: 11:49 pm

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss pending claims and litigation and to invite Superintendent Michael Wilson and Associate Superintendent Vonda Tencza to attend.

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-0

No action was taken.

Out of Executive Session: 12:16 am

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 am.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk

