

# Seymour Board of Education



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2019  
Bungay Elementary School  
Cafeteria  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 10/17/19  
TIME: 9:20 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield (7:50 pm)  
Edward Hendricks  
Jennifer Magri  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello  
Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative  
Zachary Braca, Student Representative

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Garofolo  
Peter Kubik

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator  
Tim Connors, Director of Operations  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, CLS  
Veronika Jelenik  
Harvey Catlin  
Alison Brett  
Cheryl Michaud  
Jennifer Cabrera

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

### II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognitions

1. Congratulations to Seymour Middle School for being recognized by the Connecticut Department of Education and the Office of Veterans Affairs. A formal ceremony will occur in the near future.

Mr. Catlin explained that this recognition is for all of the work the middle school does for Veterans throughout the year. He said he heard today that the ceremony will be the Monday or Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

B. Media Coverage

1. Media Links

[https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top\\_stories/school-board-software-choices-seymour-finance-board-topic/article\\_6af9d2e2-e461-11e9-ad31-0b0e10712214.html](https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top_stories/school-board-software-choices-seymour-finance-board-topic/article_6af9d2e2-e461-11e9-ad31-0b0e10712214.html)

[https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top\\_stories/seymour-schools-report-new-staff-and-year-s-plans/article\\_e67ced8a-d969-11e9-ba8a-7b76ee6e083b.html](https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top_stories/seymour-schools-report-new-staff-and-year-s-plans/article_e67ced8a-d969-11e9-ba8a-7b76ee6e083b.html)

[https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top\\_stories/board-hears-grievance-details-from-shs-assistant-principal/article\\_39c9a02c-d96b-11e9-bc2b-47fd3fa2427e.html](https://www.primepublishers.com/voicesnews/news/top_stories/board-hears-grievance-details-from-shs-assistant-principal/article_39c9a02c-d96b-11e9-bc2b-47fd3fa2427e.html)

<https://www.ctinsider.com/valley/nhregister/article/Six-more-standouts-to-enter-Seymour-High-School-14453069.php?cmpid=gsa-nhregister-result&ga=2.138244083.250802859.1570044661-1015000329.1508801278>

III. **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. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a topic to the agenda. If questions are posed that the Chairman is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairmen's Report portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and be no longer than two minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.**

Alison Brett, 11 Stanley Drive – Wanted to recognize the work and curriculum at the High School. Her daughter who is attending Western is doing very well in college and it is because the work she is doing in college is almost the same as the work she did in high school. She wanted to thank the teachers for the amazing job they did with her daughter.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2019
2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2019

B. Financial Management Summary – ending September 30, 2019

C. Add Jodie Roden as a signer for the Seymour Middle School Student Account at Liberty Bank

D. Out of State Field Trip – Seymour High School Visual Arts Classes to The Metropolitan Museum in New York City, NY on October 18, 2019

E. Unified Cheer Team of One – Jordan Garrido, Ansonia High School

F. Staff Hiring – Non Certified

1. FitzGerald, John
  - Monitor Paraprofessional
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Ashley Nazzaro

G. Staff Appointment - Volunteer

1. Cabrera, Jennifer
  - Volunteer Assistant Coach
  - Unified Cheer Team
  - Seymour High School

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

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

MOTION TO ADD TO AGENDA: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to add to the agenda the appointment of the student representative

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the High School Student Council and Mr. Wilson to appoint Zachary Braca as the junior BOE Student Representative

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Donations

- 1. Ms. Sharon Brezina would like to donate a HP Design Jet 800 printer that is no longer being used by her company with the hope that it can be used by Mr. Perrucci at Seymour High School possibly for his CAD class.

a. HP Design Jet 800 printer

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Dr. Hendricks) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from Ms. Sharon Brezina who donated a HP Design Jet 800 printer and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

- 2. Mr. Richie Kearns of Murrieta, CA has made a monetary donation in the amount of \$550.00 for installation of a flagpole for the Seymour High School football field in sincere appreciation for the sacrifices our military members and their families have given to our country to protect our freedom.

a. Monetary Donation of \$550.00

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the monetary donation of \$550.00 from Mr. Rich Kearns and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

AMENDED MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the monetary donation of \$550.00 from Mr. Richie Kearns of Murrieta, CA and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Sirowich, Mr. Zachary Braca  
Miss Sirowich and Mr. Braca report on the Student Council elections: Mike Starkey, President, Phil Fioretti, Vice President, Maypekarek, Treasurer, Annabelle Palumbo, Secretary and Class Representatives Zach Braca (Junior), Amanda Curtis (sophomore), Michael Casanova (freshmen). The high school will be observing Blue/Gold Fridays and encourage everyone to wear Blue and Gold to show school spirit. The Car Club and the Performing Arts club sponsored a car show. It was a good turnout. The Student Council and 15 Special Education students went to Harvest House and worked with other schools in the valley. The soccer team sponsored the Play for Hope game in support of Hope Lanzieri who recently passed away. Several groups participated in the Pumpkin Festival including Best Buddies (Tattoo Booth), National Honor Society (Pies), Softball (Fried Oreos). The sports records are: Swim (5-0), Volleyball (10-0), Football (3-1), Boys Soccer (4-2-1), Girls Soccer (3-4), Boys Cross Country (7-4), and Girls Cross Country (10-1). The PSAT will be administered on 10/16, the Homecoming Dance date is TBD, there have been several projects researching Indigenous People Day and the National Honor Society is trying to get a Power Puff game together. Ms. Magri shared that she also went to the Harvest House fundraiser in the evening and talked about what a wonderful program this is. It is done every year as food insecurity is a major problem in the valley. She thought it was wonderful that we included our special education students and thought we were the only school to do this. She said Griffin Hospital has an initiative to get people to donate healthy food.
- B. Committee Reports
1. Finance Committee Meeting – September 9, 2019
  2. Transportation Committee Meeting – September 17, 2019
  3. Facilities Committee Meeting – September 23, 2019
- C. Johnson Controls Project Update – Mr. Connors  
Mr. Connors reports on the status of the Johnson Controls project. As of October 7, 2019 all of the lighting, weatherization and miscellaneous controls are complete. At the High School, the Pool boiler and heating system is up and running, the new domestic hot water unit is up and running, and the new boilers are up and running. At Bungay School, new boilers are up and running on oil and will be starting on gas this week. (Eversource installed the gas meter last week). At the middle school, the domestic hot water heater was added to the project (hot water heater went down). There are several additional items to be possibly added to project including Gym lighting at Chatfield-LoPresti School, parking lot lights at Bungay, and parking lot lights at the high school. Projects not yet completed include: heating unit in pool locker room (they are waiting on submittals to be approved) and the roof replacement on Bungay School and the high school will be completed during this coming summer. Ms. Magri commented that there is lots of work being done.
- D. SBAC Highlights – Mrs. Tencza  
Mrs. Tencza said she will go into more depth at our next meeting but wanted to share a quick overview as there has been some information in the media. Mrs. Tencza shared a Growth Rate example and a slide entitled SB 2019 Math Growth Rate.
- E. Transportation Update – Mrs. Holmes  
Mrs. Holmes shared with the Board that there was an allegation that a school bus hit one of the teacher’s cars in the parking lot at Bungay School. Central Office, the bus company, and the police were called. After looking at the video it was determined that the bus did not hit the car and no police report was filed. Ms. Magri said she and Mr. Stanek have been trying to attend a Board of Selectman meeting regarding the condition of several roads in Seymour but with both of their schedules it has not yet happened. She suggested that Mrs. Holmes write a letter to the

Board of Selectman outlining our concerns and Mr. Stanek said he will attend a meeting. Ms. Magri said the next meeting is on Tuesday so we should try to get the letter to them before then.

F. Hiring Update – Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson reported that we continue to have openings for paraprofessionals where we have the biggest void. He said we continue to use an agency as needed but this is not a permanent fix. He reached out to Dr. Hendricks and asked that he get the word out at Sacred Heart.

G. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman’s Comments

Chairman Magri reminded the Board about registering for the CAFE conference that will be held in November. She also reminded the Board that we will have an important second meeting in two weeks with the High School Student Council and then we will review the SIP's. Negotiation update - we have a tentative agreement with the secretaries and are headed into mediation on the 10th with the administrators.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hatfield reported that Katie Malcolm, a 2005 graduate of Seymour High School has written a children’s book entitled *Roxie’s Adventures*. He suggested maybe the author could connect with our elementary schools.

H. Superintendent Report

1. All schools just completed all of our Fall NWEA testing. These results will be shared at our November meeting.

2. Our High School and Middle School are getting ready for the PSAT on October 16.

3. I am very happy to report that as of this afternoon, we have just over 1530 followers on our new Facebook page.

4. Vonda 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.

5. We had our Back to school nights last month and they were well attended:

Bungay	235 Parents
Chatfield-LoPresti	189 Parents
Seymour Middle School	60 Parents
Seymour High School	175 Parents

6. Our Parent Visitation to the Elementary and Middle Schools also was well attended.

7. Mr. Wilson said our student athletes continue to shine in the classroom and on the field.

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

Ms. Magri said she noticed that outplacements have increased by two and she was concerned about the budget. Mr. Boyle said they continue to look at bringing back students when possible. Mr. Wilson said when students come in it is unplanned but Dr. Boyle and Mrs. Holmes have been monitoring the situation. Dr. Boyle said if there is a concern, he will bring it to the Board. He said the overall numbers are trending high. He also said this is not a problem just in Seymour that it is a problem across the state. Ms. Harmeling asked if the budgeted amount could be added to the enrollment report. Ms. Harmeling also asked about students who need individual transportation. Mrs. Holmes said she will provide a spreadsheet with Special Education information. Dr. Boyle said they always try to share transportation with other districts when feasible.

- C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
1. Nimons, Michael
    - Gold Team Leader
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Replacing Toni Cassone
  2. Papa-Zinko, Kathy
    - Anime Club Advisor
    - Seymour High School
    - New Position
  3. Verchili, Laura
    - Spanish Club Advisor
    - Seymour High School
    - Replacing Toni Cassone
  4. Harvey Catlin/Carol Wood
    - Debate Club Co-Advisors
    - Seymour Middle School
    - New Position (Split)
- D. Staff Resignations – Certified
1. Dunaj, Kenneth
    - Assistant Principal
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective TBD
  2. Lombardozzi, Amanda
    - Special Education Teacher
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective October 24, 2019
- E. Staff Resignations – Appendix E
1. Meek, Sarah
    - Marching Band Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective September 9, 2019
- F. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
1. Beardsley, Ellen
    - Nutrition Services
    - Bungay Elementary School
    - Effective October 1, 2019
  2. Hartshorn, Alyson
    - Monitor Paraprofessional
    - Bungay Elementary School
    - Effective August 16, 2019
  3. Hotchkiss, Carolina
    - Instructional Paraprofessional
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective August 22, 2019

- 4. Taramelli, Ronda
  - Instructional Paraprofessional
  - Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - Effective September 21, 2019

G. Year End Closeout Adjustments 2018-2019

H. Contract Analysis

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

\*A. Assistant Principal – Seymour Middle School

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter Executive Session for discussion and possible action on the appointment of the assistant principal of Seymour Middle School. The Board invites Michael Wilson, Vonda Tencza, and the candidate into the Executive Session

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

*\*It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded*

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:26 pm

The Board entered into Regular Session at 9:02 pm

XI. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to hire Kathleen Freimuth as the Assistant Principal of Seymour Middle School

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk