

**SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Seymour Middle School  
September 12, 2022  
7:30 pm

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Kristen Bruno  
Christopher Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Shannon Levey  
Beth Nesteriak  
Ed Strumello  
Tyler Lang, Student Representative

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Stephan Behuniak  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Salvatore A. Bucci, Business Manager  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Derrick Martin, Technology  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Ronald Barnard, School Security

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance  
Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.
- B. Moment of Silence  
Mr. Champagne called for a moment of silence for all of those lost in the 9/11 tragedies.

**II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Recognitions
  - 1. Champion Program for Student Recognition  
Dr. Compton and Mrs. Tencza introduced the Seymour Champions program. This program will be used to recognize students who are creative, kindness, empathy, or show good character. One student from each school will be recognized each month. Anyone can nominate a student.
  - 2. Superintendent Student Recognitions-Academic Achievement
    - a. Tyler Lang  
Congratulations to Tyler Lang on being a recipient of the Rensselaer Medal. Dr. Compton explained that this honor has been awarded for more than 100 years and is given to promising secondary school students who have distinguished themselves in mathematics and science. The recipient will receive \$30,000 a year. Board member Beth Nesteriak, a graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute presented Tyler with his certificate acknowledging this honor. We are all so proud of him!

**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 Chairman's Comments portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and no longer than 3 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.  
None – Public Comment closed at 7:40 pm

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. Summer Hiring Report

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2022
  - 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 24, 2022
- B. Financial Management Reports – September 12, 2022

~~C. Donation from Connecticut Basement Systems~~

~~Ms. Jennifer Dauphinals of Connecticut Basement Systems would like to donate a Triple Safe Sump Pump to be utilized as a learning tool in the Construction Fundamentals course at Seymour High School~~

~~D. Donation from Chris Del Sole~~

~~Mr. Chris Del Sole would like to donate \$3000, which will be matched by Sustainable CT Community Match Fund to start the "All Kids Bike" Program at Bungay School~~

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve consent agenda items A1, A2, and B as presented

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

**VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Champagne asked that item C – Donation from Connecticut Basement Systems and item D- Donation from Chris Del Sole be removed from the consent agenda.

C Donation from Connecticut Basements Systems

Ms. Jennifer Dauphinals of Connecticut Basement Systems would like to donate a Triple Safe Sump Pump to be utilized as a learning tool in the Construction Fundamentals course at Seymour High School.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to accept the donation from Ms. Jennifer Dauphinals of Connecticut Basement Systems of a Triple Safe Sump Pump to be utilized as a learning tool in the Construction Fundamentals course at Seymour High School and to empower the Superintendent to determine the placement of this donation

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

D. D. Donation from Chris Del Sole

Mr. Chris Del Sole would like to donate \$3000, which will be matched by Sustainable CT Community Match Fund to start the "All Kids Bike" Program at Bungay School

**MOTION:** (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the donation of \$3000 from Chris Del Sole to start the "All Kids Bike" program at Bungay School and ask that the Superintendent determine placement of this donation.

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

Mr. Garofolo asked for some detail on what this program is. Dr. Compton said it is a program regarding bike safety and the physical education teacher at Bungay School has agreed to oversee this program. Ms. Feige and Ms. Reid are very supportive of this program and will bring more information to our next Board meeting.

**VII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. Change a Current Unused Appendix D Position

Ms. Jodie Roden requests that a current unused Appendix D position of either Small Steps or Audubon Club, which have not been used in years be changed to a National Junior Honor Society Advisor

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the recommendation of the superintendent to use a current unused appendix D position (either Small Steps or Audubon Club) for the creation of a National Junior Honor Society Advisor position at Seymour Middle School

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

- B. Contract Revision – School Security Officers  
Originally approved by the Board on July 11, 2022
1. Kevin Pimpinelli, CLS  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the recommendation of the superintendent to update the 2022-2023 contract of school security officer Kevin Pimpinelli to include the recommended revisions  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0**
2. Ronald Barnard, BES  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Nesteriak/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the recommendation of the superintendent to update the 2022-2023 contract of school security officer Ronald Barnard to include the recommended revisions  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0**
- C. Team of One – Ansonia High School  
Ansonia Athletic Director Thomas Brockett is requesting permission for students Karolina Morrelli and Melanie Vasquez to participate as members of the Seymour Girls Swim Team for the 2022 season  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the recommendation of Athletic Director Ernie DiStasi to approve the request from Ansonia High School to include Karolina Morrelli and Melanie Vasquez as a team of one with the Seymour High School Girls Swim team for the 2022-2023 season  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0**
- D. CABE Policy Audit for Seymour Board of Education  
The Policy Committee met today and approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to send this to the full Board for approval. This audit will be a full top to bottom complete audit. Ms. Nesteriak asked how long the audit will take to complete and Dr. Compton said it will be at least a few months. Mr. Champagne let all the Board members know that this is open to anyone who has input. All changes will go through the Policy Committee. Mr. Strumello said the last audit which as in 2008 when by the numbers. He suggested we look at the numbers and prioritize which ones we want to address first. He said be prepared to save some time for this, he recalls the last audit took a good year to complete.  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Levey/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the recommendation of the Seymour BOE Policy Committee to approve the hiring of CABE Policy Services to conduct a full policy audit of the Seymour Public Schools Policies in the amount of \$10, 800  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0**
- E. Create a Part Time Position, Part Time Athletic Trainer – Seymour High School for the 2022-2023 School Year  
Ms. Nesteriak asked if there was a job description and Dr. Compton confirmed there was one. Mr. DiStasi said this position is needed in order to be truly effective with the day-to-day efficiency. The main job of this trainer will be to clear concussions and wrapping. This is a new position this year as the need is greater than in the past. The service provider is not present every day. Athletes need to be cleared every day. The fall season includes 200 athletes. Mr. Garofolo asked if this is a boiler plate job description. Dr. Compton said this job description was created for this position. This person will not be transporting students, main focus is concussions and wrapping. Dr. Compton said there may be a rare time where this person will cover an event.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve the recommendation of Athletic Director Ernie DiStasi to create a position of part time athletic trainer at Seymour High School for the 2022-2023 school year  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-0-0**

## VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Staff Hiring
  - 1. Hiring, Certified
    - A. LaMendola, Alexandra
      - Music/Chorus Teacher
      - Seymour Middle School
      - Replacing Clare Callahan
    - b. Mitchell, Dana
      - School Counselor
      - Bungay School
      - Replacing Amy Lebetkin
  - 2. Hiring, Non-Certified
    - a. Christian, Sol
      - Nutrition Services
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Replacing Deanna Osborne
    - b. Hamel, Jodie
      - Instructional Paraeducator
      - Bungay School
      - Replacing Jane Frosceno
    - c. Iadarola, Jocelyn
      - Part Time Secretary, 2022-23 School Year only
      - Seymour High School
      - New Position
    - d. Johnson, Tonya
      - Monitor Paraeducator
      - Seymour High School
      - Replacing Tonya Johnson (position never filled, applicant reapplied)
    - e. Smarz, Catherine
      - Nutrition Services
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Replacing Rosalee Williams
    - f. Thayer, Christine
      - Nutrition Services
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Replacing Jennifer Popielasz
    - g. Zhingri, Alana
      - Administrative Assistant
      - Central Office
      - Replacing Pat Boyle
  - 3. Hiring, Appendix D
    - a. Catlin, Harvey
      - Debate Club Advisor
      - Seymour Middle School
      - Replacing Harvey Catlin (position open, filled as a retiree)
    - b. Cleveland, Brian
      - Assistant Coach, Girls Soccer
      - Seymour High School
      - Replacing Stefanie Newman
    - c. Esposito, Emily
      - Performing Arts Advisor
      - Seymour High School
      - Replacing Joshua Swetts

- d. FitzGerald, John
  - Pep Band Director
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Brandt Schneider (position was never filled since 1/31/2020)
- e. Goldstein, Zachary
  - Head Coach, Boys Soccer
  - Seymour Middle School
  - Replacing Zachary Goldstein (Resigned position now returning; position was not filled)
- f. Jurzynski, Thomas
  - Head Coach, Girls Swim
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing Nick Blade
- g. Swetts, Joshua
  - Band Director
  - Seymour High School
  - Replacing John FitzGerald
- 4. Staff Transfers, Certified
  - a. Brett, Alison
    - Inclusion Facilitator/Coach, Elementary Level
    - Districtwide
    - New Position
  - b. Fenton, Samantha
    - Long Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher
    - Bungay School
    - Replacing Stefanie Newman (on leave)
  - c. Lucuk, Sara
    - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Replacing Allison Bopp
  - d. Otto, Lindsay
    - Special Education Teacher
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Replacing Alison Brett
- B. Resignations
  - 1. Certified Staff
    - a. Callahan, Clare
      - Music Teacher
      - Seymour Middle School
      - Effective August 1, 2022
    - b. Giannettino, Meghan
      - Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Effective August 26, 2022
    - c. Ogren, Alicia
      - Special Education Teacher
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Effective July 28, 2022
    - d. Schofield, Samantha
      - Special Education Teacher
      - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      - Effective September 23, 2022
    - e. Zargos, Amber
      - Special Education Teacher
      - Seymour High School
      - Effective September 30, 2022

2. Non-Certified Staff
  - a. Gilormino, Genienne
    - Instructional Paraeducator
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Effective August 11, 2022
  - b. Grailich, Lindsey
    - School Nurse
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective September 29, 2022
  - c. Klisus, Christina
    - Instructional Paraeducator
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective August 5, 2022
  - d. Osborne, Deanna
    - Nutrition Services
    - Chatfield-LoPresti School
    - Effective August 17, 2022
  - e. Van Pelt, William
    - Instructional Paraeducator
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective September 15, 2022
3. Appendix D
  - a. Callahan, Clare
    - Advisor, Glee Club
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective August 1, 2022
  - b. Frosolone, Nicholas
    - Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective June 25, 2022
  - c. Frosolone, Nicholas
    - Head Coach, Cross Country
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective June 25, 2022
  - d. Frosolone, Nicholas
    - Yearbook Advisor
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective June 25, 2022
  - e. Goldstein, Zachary
    - Head Coach, Boys Soccer
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective May 17, 2022
  - f. Goldstein, Zachary
    - Head Coach, Boys Basketball
    - Seymour Middle School
    - Effective May 17, 2022
  - g. Spear, Emily
    - Advisor, Drama Club
    - Seymour High School
    - Effective August 29, 2022

**IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**A. Board of Education Comments**

**1. Chairman's Comments**

Mr. Champagne reported that he, Mr. Strumello, and Ms. Nesteriak attending the CABA Summer Leadership Conference. He talked about the student voice where the student speakers talked about how they appreciated being asked questions. Mr. Champagne said possibly we can assign one student to each committee to elicit input. Mr. Strumello agreed that more input from students would be good. Mr. Champagne said the speaker was the Commissioner of Education. He said there was information on curriculum changes to which he will share links. It was said that Board members should be role models to the students. Mr. Champagne will be invited PTA presidents to our Board meetings. He said when writing policy, it should always be from the positive side, not negative. He also said he would like to invite our legislators to the Board of Education meetings also. There was information at the conference on school safety and Mr. Champagne said he noticed that a lot of the suggestion that were made were things that we already do. He said Seymour is ahead of the curve.

**2. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Bruno as chair of the Liaison Committee wanted to wish all of the bargaining units a Happy Labor Day. Mr. Strumello said he filled in for Chris Champagne at convocation and was especially impressed with Mr. Kearns talk about active shooters and making sure doors are never propped open. He said the talk overall made him feel his children and grandchildren are safe.

**B. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Compton reported that as of now our enrollment is 2136; BES 450, CLS 581, SMS 488, SHS 617. She reported that opening day when great. Our teacher of the year, Mallory Knutson did a phenomenal job with a very inspirational speech. Dr. Compton talked about the book *The Energy Bus* which has been shared with administrators and will be shared with BOE members, and others. She talked about the first day of school and how thirteen buses rolled and overall was a smooth morning. She thanked the entire staff for their work to make the first day so successful. She said the kids were happy to be back and it was a good week. In October Ms. Tencza will be talking to the Board about professional development. She was happy to report the Administrative Retreat was a success and we were happy to be in the beautiful facility of Connecticut Basement Systems. She said she got good feedback from the administrators. She invited the Board to the Relocation Committee meeting tomorrow at 7:00 pm. The first item will be tours of the facilities. She said there has been lots of progress on our new facility. She thanked Mr. Connors for all of his hard work as well as Mr. Stanek and Mr. Strumello for their service to the building committee.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOLLOW UP/CONTRACT**

\*A. Discussion and possible action concerning the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (maybe discussed in executive session)

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

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) move that the Board enter executive session for discussion of the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. Further move that Dr. Susan Compton be invited to participate in the executive session

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:12 pm**

**ENTER REGULAR SESSION: 8:39 pm**

**XI. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Discussion and possible action on the Superintendent's contract**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Levey) move to approve the contract/agreement as presented between Seymour Board of Education and Dr. Susan Compton with the effective date of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk

YouTube Link:

<https://youtu.be/EWpBDhggob0>