SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2021
ZOOM
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Peter Kubik
Beth Nesteriak
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Zachary Braca, Student Representative
Karyna Weaver, Student Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
David Fiorillo, Interim Business Manager
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Derrick Martin, Technology
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

A. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 736 p.m.

II. REPORTS Part 1
A. HS Student Representative Report-Zach Braca, Karyna Weaver
Mr. Braca said today was a very special day. While talking to people today the consensus among us was that it really felt like our second first day of school. It was awesome to see some of the faces that we have not seen since the pandemic started over a year ago. To kick off being back, today was the first day of spirit week. Today was America Monday, tomorrow is tropical Tuesday, followed by white lie Wednesday, Thursday is jersey day and Friday we are having our annual color war where each class decorates their hallways their respective colors. The national honor society will start selling flowers for Mother's Day for $2 each. Miss Weaver reported that the golf team today won their first match against Sacred Heart Academy. Tonight is senior day for the cheer. Cheer this season; they placed first at Hattery Fest, and the first battle at Saint Joes. Congratulations to Daisy Calvert was chosen an all-state cheerleader for Class M. Track and Field has their first meet on Thursday at Wolcott. Softball start their season with an upcoming game on Friday against Naugatuck. Tennis has started practices. The baseball team won a game tonight, congrats to the seniors on that team. Ms. Harmeling welcomed back the students saying the Board is very happy to have them back in school and it was great to hear a "normal" report.
III. PUBLIC COMMENT
Please note: "If you would like to make a public comment during this meeting, please complete the "Public Comment Request Form" which can be accessed via the link: https://forms.gle/ecNornPqigowkFpW7, which can also be accessed on the Seymour Public Schools homepage under contacting the board. Requests must be received no later than 6pm on Monday, April 12, 2021."
None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
   1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2021
B. Financial Management Summary – ending March 31, 2021 (Removed)
C. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
   1. Coppola, Joshua
      · Night Custodian
      · Seymour High School
      · Replacing Nick Kubik
D. Staff Hiring – Appendix E (Removed)
   1. Ames, Jenny
      · Assistant Coach, Outdoor Track
      · Seymour High School
      · Replacing Stefanie Newman
E. Signatory on Checking Accounts
   To approve the removal of Sherry Holmes as a signer on all Liberty Bank accounts and all Webster Bank accounts due to her resignation
F. Signatory on ED-099 Agreement
   To approve the removal of Sherry Holmes as a signer on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and add as a signer, Michael Wilson, Superintendent and David Fiorillo, Interim Business Manager

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) move to approve the consent agenda with items B and D1 removed

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES/FAILS: 9-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
D. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
   1. Ames, Jenny
      · Assistant Coach, Outdoor Track
      · Seymour High School
      · Replacing Stefanie Newman

Mr. Strumello questioned what position this person is being hired. Mr. DiStasi explained she is a current coach and is being brought forward for the Head Coach position.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/Mr. Hatfield) that Jenny Ames be hired as head coach for Seymour High School Outdoor Track as recommended by Mr. DiStasi

SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
ABSTAIN: Mr. Garofolo
MOTION PASSES/FAILS: 8-0-1

B. Financial Management Summary – ending March 31, 2021

Mr. Hatfield asked Ms. Harmeling if everything is in order since he was unaware the Financial Management Summary was available online. Mr. Harmeling did a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting and confirmed she felt everything is in order.
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) move to approve the Financial Management Summary ending March 31, 2021

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Awards Committee Student Representative

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the High School Administration to appoint Victoria Saracino to the Awards Committee as a student representative

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

B. Healthy Food Option:

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Hatfield) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Seymour Public Schools certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

C. Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions:

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) the Seymour Public Schools will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

D. Set High School Graduation Date – Class of 2021

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the 2021 Seymour High School graduation dates as June 18, 2021

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0
E. Set Last Day of School  
**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to set the last day of school as June 18, 2021 provided there are no further school closings  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**MOTION PASSES:** 9-0

F. Superintendent Search Consultants  
The Board received one proposal and elicited more proposals. They then had presentations to hear the proposals from five firms. Ms. Harmeling said the presentations were really well informed and in depth. The firms were asked what services we would receive from them. She is looking forward to working with Ray & Associates. Mr. Strumello echoed Ms. Harmeling’s thoughts. Mr. Hatfield thanked Mr. Strumello for all the work he put in to getting these firms for the presentations. Mr. Strumello has informed the other firms that we are going forward with Ray & Associates. Mr. Kubik said a lot of time went into listening to the presentations and the deliberations took hours. He is happy with where we are.  
**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to enter into contract with Ray & Associates, Inc. as consultants for the search for the new superintendent of the Seymour School District  
**SO VOTED**  
**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
**ABSTAIN:** Mr. Garofolo  
**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0-1

VII. REPORTS Part 2 and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION  
A. Committee Reports  
1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2021  
B. Updates  
1. Superintendent Vacancy  
   Mr. Strumello spoke about the superintendent vacancy in item VI-F  
2. Business Manager Vacancy  
   Ms. Tencza updated the Board that the position is continuing to be posted and they are conducting rolling interviews as appropriate people apply.  
C. Board of Education Report  
1. Chairman’s Comments  
   None  
2. Board Member Comments  
   Mr. Stanek said he hopes that the Seymour School District will sponsor a vaccine clinic for those high school students who are eligible for the vaccine. Ms. Tencza confirmed that she, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. Bennett, are having conversations and will update the Board. Mr. Champagne said he visited the vaccine clinic at the old middle school and said it was extremely organized. He thanked all of those who were involved including our nurses, sub nurses, and EMT’s and others. Mr. Champagne also wanted to talk about bringing the ½ day Wednesdays back through the end of the year. Ms. Tencza explained that there are many assessments taking place and having time away from the buildings is not feasible.  
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add to the agenda a discussion on resuming ½ days on Wednesdays  
   **SO VOTED**  
   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello  
   **MOTION PASSES:** 9-0
Mr. Champagne said when the pandemic started, Wednesdays were set aside to do deep cleaning and prep time for teachers. He wonders if this can be continued in a creative way so as not to affect assessments, such as possibly doing it on another day of the week. Mr. Kubik said his understanding is the cleaning is now ongoing and there is not a need for additional cleaning. Ms. Tencza confirmed this. Mr. Hatfield said some schools are doing half days. He said testing is secondary to student mental health. He asked what other districts are doing. He said in his district, Wednesdays are half days through the end of the year. Ms. Tencza said we could work possibly around testing. Ms. Bruno was asked what her district is doing and she said some people are happy and some are not. We need to trust administration that they are doing what is right for students. Ms. Harmeling reminded the Board that we had a conversation regarding ½ day Wednesdays previously. Right now, we are only talking about six additional Wednesdays. She said she feels the kids have lost enough time and they need to be in school for social encounters and for fun. We need to accommodate testing and should leave it as is. Mr. Garofolo said he supports the Administration and we should move forward and try to reduce further learning loss. Mr. Strumello was in agreement and said kids need to be in school as much as possible.

D. Superintendent Report – Ms. Tencza
1. All Students Back in School
2. Outdoor Track Coach
3. Working on Graduation Plans for Middle School and High School
   Ms. Tencza confirmed that we are working on plans for some type of graduation for our Middle School and High School. As we get closer, more details will be shared. She said the plans are for an outside ceremony on June 18 with a rain date of June 19. Each student will be given two tickets for attendance.

Mr. Garofolo asked if there will be a distinguished graduate this year and Mr. Stanek confirmed that Mr. Kearney would be held over as the Distinguished Graduate since he was unable to speak at last year’s graduation.

VIII. INFORMATION
A. Activities and Recognitions
   1. Seymour Middle School
   2. Bungay Elementary School
   3. Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
B. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle
   Dr. Boyle noted there was a rise in therapeutic placements and this was due to the need to place an elementary student and students who have moved into town that are already placed. He said the remaining numbers are consistent. They continue to do referrals. He said we are currently below our typical. He also gave a brief overview of the SRBI at the request of Ms. Bruno. Mr. Garofolo asked if there has been an influx of new students coming to Seymour. Ms. Tencza said we have had more than the normal number of requests of parents who wish their students stay in Seymour through the end of the year. She said the influx is normal, while exiting seems to be a little greater.

C. Resignations – Non-Certified
   1. Clemens, LaRue
      • Instructional Paraprofessional
      • Seymour Middle School
      • Effective February 12, 2021
   2. Esposito, Tommaso
      • Part Time Custodian
      • Floater
      • Effective February 12, 2021
3. Garofalo, Jeffrey
   • Monitor Paraprofessional
   • Bungay School
   • Effective April 2, 2021
4. Oddo, Lindsey
   • Instructional Paraprofessional
   • Bungay School
   • Effective March 25, 2021
5. Reyher, Deborah
   • Nutrition Services
   • Seymour Middle School
   • Effective February 17, 2021

D. Resignations – Appendix E
1. Burns, James
   • Assistant Coach
   • Baseball
   • Seymour High School
   • Effective March 11, 2021

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
Please note: "If you would like to make a public comment during the second Public Comments section of this meeting, please complete the “Public Comment Request Form” which can be accessed via the link: https://forms.gle/ecNornPqigowkFpW7, which can also be accessed on the Seymour Public Schools homepage under contacting the board. Requests must be received prior to the Superintendent’s Report on the agenda on Monday, April 12, 2021."

None

X. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

NOTE: The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

YouTube Link
https://youtu.be/OZYs4hfYJf4