I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Pledge of Allegiance
      Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 p.m.

II. REPORTS Part 1
   A. HS Student Representative Report-Zach Braca, Karyna Weaver
      Ms. Weaver and Mr. Braca reported the following:
      Today marks the fourth successful week back full time at the high school. The national honor society wrapped up selling flowers for Mother’s Day; they also did a garden clean up with Best Buddies this past month and are planning to give out teacher appreciation flowers to all the teachers within the Seymour Public School community to show their appreciation for the teachers during this hard time. A vaccine clinic was set up last week for students at Seymour High aged 16 and up. AP testing has begun this week, and will continue for the rest of May. Seymour High Performing Arts is hosting a rock concert on Wednesday May 19, sponsored by the Student Council. All seniors will be excused from their classes for the last two time blocks on June 1 for our Senior Day on the field. Junior Day has been scheduled for June 3 at Quassy Amusement Park from 6:30-10:30 where the Juniors will be allowed to enjoy the park by themselves along with a DJ dance party and food. Prom has been scheduled for June 17 at Aqua Turf open to juniors and seniors, and no outside guests. Students are currently voting on the theme. The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be a virtual event for this year.
and will take place on June 7. We are also having our senior awards and scholarship night on June 10, another event that will be virtual. Graduation Practice is June 18 bright and early at 9 am and graduation is same day in the evening at 6pm. A couple things that the students are requesting is more seating in the outdoor area during lunch, with the nicer weather more and more people want to eat outside and there just isn't enough seating to accommodate us all. Also many students are disappointed with the two tickets per graduate limitations and would like to see that expanded. For sports: Tonight the girls softball team won their game tonight against St. Paul 18- to 1 and have 9 wins 2 losses for the season. For track, girls are undefeated 6- 0 in meets and boys are 5- 1 and have a meet in Oxford tomorrow. In tennis, the girls have 5 wins and 3 losses. Ms. Harmeling gave a statement of support regarding the number of tickets for each graduating student and she said she hoped it would be talked about at this meeting.

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, May 3, 2021."

Meagan Krushinski, CEA President read a statement on behalf of the teachers requesting that the early release Wednesdays be reinstated through the end of the year. This is so teachers will have more planning time for their in-classroom students and their remote students. She said the letter was signed by 140 of our teachers.

Becky Bennett, Head Nurse/COVID Coordinator spoke about having health aides and a permanent nurse substitute. She said having these positions have allowed our nurses to have time, which they simply do not have enough of.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
   1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2021
   2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021. Removed by Mr. Garofolo

B. Financial Management Summary – ending April 30, 2021
C. Nutrition Services Financial Report – March 2021
D. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
   1. DelMonico, Marisa
      · Instructional Paraprofessional
      · Chatfield-LoPresti School
      · Replacing Amber Ball

Mr. Stanek explained that Mr. Garofolo does not have to abstain from voting on the minutes if he was not in attendance of the meeting. He can vote if he has reviewed the minutes. This is a personal choice.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) move to approve the consent agenda with item A2 removed

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES 7-0-1

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
Mr. Garofolo asked that this item (A2) be removed from the agenda because he did not attend the meeting. Ms. Harmeling asked that B be removed from the meeting but it was pointed out that the consent agenda had already been voted on. After some discussion, she decided not to remove the item.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021 as presented

SO VOTED
VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Awards Advisory Committee – 2021 Award Recipients

1. 2021 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award

   MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2021 David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Award to Jara Ciocc

   SO VOTED

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

   ABSENT: Mr. Garofolo

   MOTION PASSES 7-0

2. 2021 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award

   MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2021 John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award to Daniel and Jeannette Marra

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES 8-0

3. 2021 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award

   MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2021 Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award to Kathleen Papa-Zinko

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES 8-0

4. 2021 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award

   MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to accept the recommendation of the Awards Advisory Committee to award the 2021 Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environmental Award to Noah Blood

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES 8-0

Mr. Strumello congratulated the recipients and thanked the members of the Awards Committee.

VII. REPORTS Part 2 and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2021

   The minutes are from the April 12, 2021 meeting. Ms. Harmeling talked about the meeting held tonight, May 3, 2021, saying it was a nice meeting and a lot was covered. She said there was some problems with encumbrances but that will be resolved. She said the statement “a tight budget year” would be removed from the report. She said she is looking forward to meeting to discuss grants.

B. Updates

1. Superintendent Vacancy – Mr. Strumello

   Mr. Strumello thanked Mr. Champagne for taking over for him and noted that he completed some tasks that were requested by the consultants. Mr. Champagne has set up several meetings to gather input from various groups. They are working on how to communicate to everyone. Ms. Harmeling reminded everyone that there is a community
survey on the website. Mr. Champagne said several Administrators have communicated to their community regarding the survey. Ms. Bruno asked if the survey would be translated into several languages. Mr. Champagne said he could request Spanish. Mr. Strumelio reminded the Board that they were given the contact information of the consultants and they can call them directly. Mr. Fiorillo commended the Board on using a consulting firm. He also recommended some of the retreats that are offered on how to be an effective Board member.

2. Business Manager Vacancy – Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson said the Business Manager position continues to be posted and potential candidates are being screened and interviewed. Mr. Fiorillo is participating in the interviews. Ms. Harmeling asked what would happen if we do not find someone. He confirmed that this is a shortage area. Mr. Fiorillo said he and his colleagues would continue as long as they could. Mr. Wilson said we are grateful to Mr. Fiorillo for staying on. Mr. Fiorillo said working with the Central Office staff is a pleasure. He said we pledge to support and help Seymour through this. Ms. Harmeling said she thought we needed to think about adding an HR position. She pointed out we have a HR person at Town Hall. She said we should look at the budget and possibly make a formal arrangement with Chris Pelosi. This should be talked about at the next meeting. Ms. Bruno said she agrees the staff needs an HR position. Mr. Wilson said HR is a huge position. Mr. Pelosi spends time with the Town. He agrees he needs to spend more time with the Board of Education. He was supposed to wear both hats but had to start at Town Hall because they had a greater need to get some things in place. There is no formal agreement and we should get some clarity on his role for the Board of Education.

3. ESSER Grant Update – Mr. Fiorillo/Mrs. Tencza

Ms. Tencza said the ESSER 2 grant was recently approved by the State for $1,019,026. We can draw funds down. Most funds will be used for academic learning loss and technology and some infrastructure like the air conditioning at Bungay School. However, most of the funds will go toward learning loss. They looked at things Administrators requested during the Budget process but did not receive and included them in the grant. Mr. Fiorillo confirmed that we are aligned with what other districts have done. He said it was a good application because it was so easily approved. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see specifics. Mr. Stanek said the grant is to supplement the budget not supplant it. Will the surplus be returned to the town? Ms. Harmeling agreed saying we need to come to an agreement on the surplus. Either we return it to the Town or we have a set aside account. She also asked for a full picture of the revenue streams. Mr. Fiorillo said we can end the year at zero and it is a good conversation to have. He said the BOE is somewhat independent and the BOE has rules to guide us. These are unusual times and money is coming in in unusual ways. He said we are not doing too bad considering all that has gone on. There is definitely a need for more conversation. Ms. Tencza said the funds are for next year or beyond.

C. Board of Education Report

1. Chairman’s Comments

Mr. Strumello did not have a report other than to say they are moving forward with the consultants and he is working with Mr. Dyer to get pictures for them.

2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Champagne – reminder that May 4 is the date to vote for the budget referendum everyone needs to go out and vote. Mr. Garofolo – cannot support the CEA president’s request for early dismissal Wednesdays. He hopes the Board feels the same. Ms. Bruno said the Referendum is tomorrow as well as Star Wars Day. This is also Teacher Appreciation week. Mr. Hatfield – heard on the radio that school nutrition departments served 43 million meals during the pandemic. May 7 is School Lunch Hero Day. Also, echo Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers are super heroes! Ms. Harmeling – supports early dismissals on Wednesdays, which is a change from how she felt a few
weeks ago. She really hopes the Board will feel the same. Mr. Stanek – He supports early dismissal on Wednesdays and will make a motion as such.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on the resumption of early dismissal Wednesdays through the end of the school year.

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES 8-0

Ms. Harmeling said she has already said she understands the fluidity of students and supports a breather for all staff. Mr. Hatfield asked Mr. Wilson to clarify if the date of May 12 would affect any testing. Mr. Wilson confirmed there would be some changes to be made and communicated. Mr. Hatfield said we can change the date if there is a need and now is the time to speak up. He asked how the administrators felt about the date. Mr. Strumello said he heard a rumor that the custodial union is supportive of half days. Mr. Harmeling wondered what tests are scheduled for Wednesday. Mr. Olechna explained that CLS is already behind on testing due to the mandatory quarantine and Wednesday is the first date scheduled for Smarter Balance. Ms. Bruno asked if there is testing scheduled in the afternoon and Mr. Olechna confirmed the tests would continue into the afternoon. Mr. Freund said there are no AP tests scheduled on Wednesday. Ms. Bruno said she was concerned about the impact this would have on IEP services. Dr. Boyle confirmed that this would definitely affect the IEP hours of our most compromised students. He said kids in self-contained programs would not have a way to make up the time. It will absolutely affect them. Mr. Champagne said we are looking at four weeks. He wondered what the difference was from the start of the year. Ms. Harmeling said we are not taking away it is really a continuation. Mr. Garofolo said it was disconcerting to him that the Administration regularly accepts what the Board decides without question. He pointed out that the Board members are not the experts. He encouraged Administrators not to agree simply because we say so. Administrators should be asking if we are making the right decisions. He said the children need to be in school and we need to give the kids what they need. Decisions should be made based on what is best for the children. Mr. Strumello asked if the date should be changed to 5/19. Mr. Hatfield said he would like to hear from the other three schools. Ms. Feige said there is testing this week and makeup testing next week. Ms. Roden said Smarter Balanced assessments will be given this week and makeups are scheduled for next week. Mr. Olechna reiterated that CLS is already behind due to the quarantine and early dismissal next week will put them further behind. Ms. Tencza said this is a difficult situation. Adding early dismissals on Wednesday will affect assessments and possible end of year celebrations. She said it was her opinion that our parents fought hard to get their kids back in school. Her opinion is that it is best for our students to be in school but the Board sets the calendar. Mr. Wilson said he agrees. He feels it is more appropriate to have the kids in the classrooms. He is worried about the Special Education students. He said sometimes what is best for the teachers may not align with what is best for the students. However, if the Board chooses, we will accommodate the Board’s wishes. Ms. Harmeling says she was one of the parents who fought to bring the kids back but she said we are talking about hours. We have the signatures of 150 teachers who support this, the nurses and the custodians support this. She feels strongly what is good for the teachers is good for the students. Mr. Stanek said he feels we need to do what is in the best interest of the students noting that this is not a normal school year. He said everyone knows he is an advocate of an even longer school year but he feels this is in the best interest of the students. Mr. Garofolo questioned the logic of what is best for the teachers is best for the students. He acknowledged that our teachers have done the best they could have done this year. He continued on to say many things regarding this issue. Mr. Hatfield proposed they Move the Question. Mr. Garofolo said to give Jay his vote. Mr. Champagne called for a vote.
MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Champagne) Move the question

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 6-2

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec. Mr. Champagne) to approve the resumption of early dismissal Wednesdays through the end of the year starting on May 12

SO VOTED

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

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

MOTION PASSES: 7-1

D. Superintendent Report

1. 2019-20 District Awards
   Last week, Mrs. Tencza and Mr. Wilson went to all of the buildings to present last year’s Golden Apple Award winners with their awards. Photos of these presentations have been shared on our Facebook page. These individuals are so very deserving and it was our pleasure to award these fantastic members of our team.

2. Smarter Balance Assessments
   Smarter Balance Assessments start this week and we are confident that our students will continue to show growth and do well.

3. AP Exams
   AP exams also start this week for our High School students and we are confident that they are prepared and will do well.

4. 2020-21 District Awards
   Mrs. Tencza and Mr. Wilson had the pleasure of working with the awards committee last month and wanted to take a moment to thank them for all of their hard work in discussing the wonderful candidates for our prestigious end of year awards.

5. Safe End of Year Activities
   Mr. Wilson thanked all of the administrators, nurses, and teachers for all of their hard work in drafting safe plans for end of year activities for our students.

6. Staff Appreciation Week
   This week is staff appreciation week. It is a time where we get to say thank you to all of our staff members for all of their hard work and dedication. As Pele shared: “Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” All staff will receive a small token of our appreciation for all that they do for our students from Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Tencza.

7. Regarding the number of tickets each graduate will receive for the ceremony, Mr. Wilson said Mr. Freund and I are waiting for guidance from the State that should come on May 19. It may be possible at that time to invite more guests to our graduation.

8. Mr. Wilson confirmed that security officers are working hours as needed. No event goes uncovered. Their overtime needs to be approved by Central Office. Ms. Harmeling said she did not ask about events being covered by SSO, her specific question is, are they receiving the opportunity for overtime pay before we reach out to the police department. She asked again about the opportunity for them to receive overtime pay. Mr. Wilson confirmed we are following this protocol when the opportunity presents itself.

9. Ms. Harmeling asked about the floating nurse position, asking if it was approved or created. Mr. Wilson said the job description was developed with the help of Ms. Bennett. It will be shared with the Board for approval; they are waiting for the approval of the budget to move forward. Mr. Champagne said we should discuss this at the next meeting. Ms. Bruno asked if there are any other new positions to be approved.
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 confirmed the data is good. There has been one additional outplacement.
C. Resignations – Certified
   1. Westervelt-Crane, Danielle
      · Special Education Teacher
      · Bungay School
      · Effective June 18, 2021
D. Resignations – Non-Certified
   1. Murphy, Meghan
      · Instructional Paraprofessional
      · Seymour Middle School
      · Effective April 30, 2021
   2. Sebas, Wendy
      · Instructional Paraprofessional
      · Chatfield-LoPresti School
      · Effective June 18, 2021
Ms. Bruno acknowledged Ms. Wendy Sebas and wished her well. She also noted that Paraprofessionals Day was at the end of April.
   3. Webb, Keri
      · Monitor Paraprofessional
      · Chatfield-LoPresti School
      · Effective April 1, 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, May 3, 2021."
None

X. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello
MOTION PASSES/FAILS: 8-0
The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk

For the full audio recording of this meeting, please use the link below.
YouTube Link
https://youtu.be/fJY3HuN3bmw