I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Pledge of Allegiance
      Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:48 p.m.

II. 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, August 16, 2021."
    Mr. Strumello read the following statement:
    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.
    Kiana Machnicz, 214 Mountain Road - Read a statement from a compilation of articles from the CDC regarding the effectiveness of masks. She wants factual answers regarding the wearing of masks. Jeannie Bailey, 15 Oriole Lane - Be the first in the state to make an educational decision on the use of masks in our schools. We do not co-parent with the government. “Our children and our choice”. Enough is enough. Sadie Patrick, 46 Greenwood Circle – Speak on behalf on my children regarding mask mandate. Have voice heard. I asked to have the mandate be reevaluated. Look at the science to why my children have to wear a muzzle. I am demanding the right to have the right to make decisions for my child. Our family, our choice. No science to support your change. Our right as a taxpayer to know who supports the mask mandate. Who will pay for masks? Read the label on the box. When is this going to end? Enough is enough.
III. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
   1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2021 (tabled at 7/12/21 meeting)
   2. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

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

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

V. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION
A. Staff Hiring
   1. Compton, Dr. Susan
      · Superintendent of Schools
      · Central Office
      · Replacing Michael Wilson

   Mr. Stanek asked about Dr. Compton’s certification and Mr. Strumello confirmed that she is certified in Connecticut.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education to elect Dr. Susan Compton as the Superintendent of the Seymour Public Schools

Mr. Strumello asked for a roll call vote. The Board Clerk did so.

SO VOTED

Ms. Bruno-yes, Mr. Champagne-yes, Mr. Garofolo-yes, Ms. Harmeling-yes, Mr. Hatfield-yes, Mr. Kubik-yes, Ms. Nesteriak-yes, Mr. Stanek-abstain, Mr. Strumello-yes

MOTION PASSES 8-0-1

Mr. Strumello congratulated Dr. Compton. Dr. Compton thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to participate in the interviewing process and in the public forums. She thanked them for the hours of time put into this process. She assured everyone that it was a very, very thorough process. She is a believer in letting the process work. She said she is honored and humbled to be selected. She has 40 years of education experience with 16 years as a superintendent. She thanked the administration and staff for their work during this hard situation of the past year. She again stated she
is honored and humbled and thanked the Board for selecting her. She said she looks forward to the work ahead. Mr. Strumello explained the Seymour tradition of “once a wildcat always a wildcat.” Dr. Compton is a Kentucky wildcat and is looking forward to now being a Seymour wildcat.

B. Contracts

1. Contract – Superintendent of Schools

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education to approve the proposed contract of the Superintendent of the Seymour Public Schools

Mr. Stanek edited the second paragraph of the contract to read: “The Superintendent or her designee, as approved by the Board, is expected to attend all meetings of the Board. The Superintendent shall receive notice of all Board committee meeting and she or her designee may attend such meetings.”

**AMENDED MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the recommendation of the Board of Education to approve the amended contract of the Superintendent of the Seymour Public Schools

**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**

2. School Security Officer Contract

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Champagne) to approve the recommendation of the Liaison Committee to approve the proposed 2021-22 contract of the School Security Officer Kevin Pimpinelli

**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. Wage Increase – Nutrition Services

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec, Ms. Harmeling) to approve a 2% wage increase for the Nutrition Services staff

**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. Memorial Plaque

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the donation of the Seymour High School softball team of a memorial plaque in memory of Richard Pereiras (Dutch) and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

**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. REPORTS**

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021
2. Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2021

B. Updates

1. Business Manager Vacancy

Ms. Tencza told the Board that we continue our partnership with the consultants who are providing much assistance to us in the Business Office. We have applicants that are interested in the position and we will be setting up interviews soon. This will be the first recommendation from our new superintendent for hiring. Mr. Strumello felt this sounded positive, Ms. Tencza said she thought it was. Ms. Nesteriak asked Ms. Tencza to confirm that the Finance Committee will be involved with the final interview. Ms. Tencza said yes.
C. Reopening Plan 2021-2022 School Year – Ms. Tencza
   Ms. Tencza reviewed the Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year. She said our plan is very student centered. The PowerPoint she reviewed can be found on the website.

D. Solar Project Update – Mr. Fiorillo
   Mr. Fiorillo said it is hard to follow Ms. Tencza because she does such a good job. Mr. Fiorillo shared the budget of the Nutrition Services with the Board. He said the Finance Committee did not meet before this meeting but reported we are in good shape. He thanked Marie Kashuba who he has brought on to help him exclusively in Seymour since he is so stretched thin. Mr. Strumello reminded everyone that Ms. Brooks was the past National President of Nutrition Services. Mr. Fiorillo said you can see this in the work she does. Ms. Brooks should be commended. The solar project was implemented before he was on board. Solar is to save money and it works from the day the solar is turned on but in our case it was not turned on late in our year so we did not see the savings this year’s budget. He met with Mr. Thomas regarding the $415,000 that was owed to the town. Mr. Fiorillo said he has returned the unspent balance to the Town and will make another payment. We will be adding this ongoing cost in our budget so it will be budgeted properly. Ms. Harmeling asked if the 20-21 school year the first year that we were obligated with this cost. Mr. Fiorillo said yes and we were unaware of this expense. It has not been included in the 21-22 budget either. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to learn how this was not known sooner and why it was not included in the budget so that something like this will not happen to us again. She would like to investigate this at the committee level. The HVAC Project will be funded by the ESSER grant but not completely. The Town has agreed to help with the cost of this project.

E. Update on Negotiation Meetings (Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Custodians) – Ms. Tencza
   Ms. Tencza reported there are a lot of meetings coming up for contract talks. Contracts are expired or will be expiring for teachers, paraprofessionals, and custodians. We have had two meetings for teachers already and this is because we have timelines that must be met for this contract. She said custodians and paraprofessional dates are on the table. Chairperson of the Liaison Committee, Ms. Kristen Bruno said there is lots of work ahead of us. Ms. Tencza confirmed that the Teachers Contract will expire June 2022 and the Paraprofessional and Custodians contracts have expired. Having three groups to negotiate in one year is a lot and we are open to staggering contracts to one, three, or four years to avoid this is the future.

F. Board of Education Report
   1. Chairman’s Comments
      Mr. Strumello said he resents the comment made that we don’t care about kids. He said he has worked in education and has been a BOE member for 18 years; he certainly does care about kids. He also voiced disappointment in the TV stations who don’t report on the positive things that happen in our district. He spoke of a person who is willing to offer his expertise to help reinstate a machine training program at Seymour High School.

   2. Board Member Comments
      Mr. Garofolo wanted to address the people in the audience. He said he commends them on showing your passion and applauds them. Protests serve a purpose as long as they are not violent. He went on to explain that as a Board of Education we must follow State orders. He said he hopes the protestors understand that is what the Board is charged to do. He said we try and we don’t fail very often. He suggested they turn their protests upwards. He said he respects others’ opinions and thanked them for coming out. Mr. Stanek echoed Mr. Garofolo’s thoughts. He said public comments are something that we don’t have to have to do but we choose to because it is important to listen. We are obligated to follow the Governor’s mandates.

G. Superintendent Report
   1. Our lens is all about student learning.
   2. Summer hiring continues for several certified and non-certified positions. Many great staff have been hired and we continue to look to fill all postings still open.
   3. Summer programs are completed and all students and staff are truly on vacation for the next few weeks. Thank you to each staff member who made these programs a success.
   4. ARP-ESSER II submitted last week and great news- it was approved by the state of CT!
5. Administrative retreat began today and continues tomorrow. Happy to report we all ‘escaped’ the escape rooms! Shout out to Pursue the Clues in Torrington.

6. Thank you to Jim Freund, Lauren Reid, Jen Monaco, Mary Sue Feige, Jodie Roden, and Ernie DiStasi for stepping up to help with a variety of tasks this summer.

7. Many thanks to the leadership team who met today and reviewed and had final input on the reopening plan presented today to the board of education.

8. New teacher orientation is next Thursday and Friday, and five teachers who had both 092 and TEAM certification stepped up to lead this exciting work. A huge thank you to Stephanie Ciccone, David Willadsen, Nicole Fearon, Allison Cunningham, and Alison Brett.

9. Thank you to the Board for their work and welcome to Dr. Susan Compton. We look forward to partnering and all working in the same direction to continue focusing on student learning.

Mr. Strumello thanked Ms. Tencza for serving as our interim superintendent. Ms. Harmeling echoed Mr. Strumello’s sentiments.

Ms. Tencza said it was fun!

VII. INFORMATION
A. Resignations – Certified
1. Buchta, Lauren
   - School Counselor
   - Seymour High School
   - Effective July 28, 2021

2. Dobas, Nate
   - Teacher, Music
   - Seymour Middle School
   - Effective July 19, 2021

3. Morris, Marissa
   - Teacher, Special Education
   - Seymour Middle School
   - Effective August 2, 2021

4. Zeiser, Eric
   - Teacher, Music
   - Chatfield-LoPresti School
   - Effective July 29, 2021

5. Hibson, Robert
   - Library Media Consultant
   - Seymour Middle and Seymour High School
   - Effective August 11, 2021

B. Resignations – Non-Certified
1. Ball, Amber
   - Instructional Paraprofessional
   - Bungay Elementary School
   - Effective August 4, 2021

2. Bennett, Thomas
   - School Security Guard
   - Bungay Elementary School
   - Effective June 30, 2021

3. Elliott, Megan
   - Instructional Paraprofessional
   - Bungay Elementary School
   - Effective August 13, 2021

C. Resignations – Appendix E
1. Willadsen, David
   - Advisor, Debate Team
   - Seymour High School
   - Effective August 5, 2021
Mr. Garofolo asked about hiring information and Ms. Tencza reminded him that we will be doing a summer hiring report in September.

VIII. 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, August 16, 2021.

______________ - Said she cannot hear in this room and has been told that there are technical difficulties online. She thanked the Board for their service. She said she has reached out to the Governor’s office and she knows other towns have reached out. They tell us one thing, you tell us another.

David Sherman - Frustrated that questions are asked and not answered. His wife has asked 76 questions and was met with complete silence. He said he feels you do not listen. He is upset and angry, very frustrated.

Debbie Sherman – She said I can speak for myself. She thanked the Board for their service. She reminded the Board that it is their responsibility to respond to her request in June. She said she appreciates Mr. Garofolo’s comments. She said she would like to offer an opinion on the reopening plan.

Please note due to excessive noise during the meeting and technical difficulties with the audio, some information in public comment is unavailable.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matter – Assistant Director of Special Services

   MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) Move that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter involving the hiring of the Assistant Director of Special Services. The Board invites Interim Superintendent Ms. Tencza, Dr. Kris Boyle, and Dr. Meghan Pogonelski into the Executive Session

   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

Enter Executive Session at 9:27 pm

Entered Regular Session at 9:55 pm

   MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the hiring of Dr. Meghan Pogonelski as the Assistant Director of Special Services for the 2021-2022 school year

   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

2. Personnel Matter

   MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Champagne) move that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter involving a request from a staff member for a leave. The Board invites Interim Superintendent Ms. Tencza into the Executive Session

   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

Enter Executive Session: 10:05 pm

Enter Regular Session: 10:08 pm

   MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Stanek) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Ms. Cindi Botti and the Board of Education

   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

X ADJOURNMENT

   MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to adjourn

   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
The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm

NOTE: The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:30 pm at Seymour Middle School.

YouTube Link
https://youtu.be/EpdXFJvAxsK

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk