BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jim Garofolo  
Kristen Bruno  

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Jim Freund, SHS Principal  
Jodie Roden, SMS Principal  
Mary Sue Feige, BES Principal  
Dave Olechna, CLS Principal  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Allison Calvert, SMS Teacher  
Derrick Martin, Network Administrator  
Ernie DiStasi, SHS Assistant Principal  
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal  
Kathleen Freimuth, SMS Assistant Principal  
Lauren Reid, BES Assistant Principal  
Stacey Albertson, CLS Assistant Principal  
Rob Dyer, Director of Technology  
Jen Peterson, SMS Teacher  
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk  

I. CALL TO ORDER  
A. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance  

II. PUBLIC COMMENT  
None  

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION  
A. K-12 Assessment Discussion  

Mrs. Tencza had the administrators and teachers put together a K-12 sample of assessments used in the classroom at Mr. Garofolo’s request. The link was shared with the committee and broken down into four priority standards: 1.) Unified Arts and World Language 2.) Engineering practices, using models, analyzing data 3.) Problem solving and constructing arguments, explaining and communicating thinking 4.) Communicating to support a claim using valid reasoning and evidence. Mr. Garofolo concentrated on the World Language. He said he had reviewed this section and thought the projects were very well done and was genuinely satisfied with the level of what we are giving the students and the efforts of the teachers. Kristen Bruno thanked everyone for putting this together. Ms. Harmeling agreed this was awesome. She worries about the use of online assessments especially the use of Edgenuity.  

Mr. Lucke explained that with the shortage across the nation of qualified substitutes Edgenuity was used when a teacher was out for a long period. Extra support was offered by content area teachers. Edgenuity will also be used for students to do credit recovery. The elementary school talked about Lexia, which is an elementary program that offers online resources. This helps teachers adjust instruction to meet student’s individual needs. This is not used only as a supplement for those students that are struggling, it is also offered as an enrichment program for students that are excelling. The committee asked how this information was shared with parents. Mr. Olechna said that it would be shared at the parent teacher conferences. Mrs. Feige stated that Progress Reports and Formative Assessments were also shared with parents.
B. Failure Rate Discussion

The committee reviewed the Seymour Middle School and Seymour High School failure rates for Quarter 1 last year and compared them to the failure rates for Quarter 1 and 2 this year. Mrs. Tencza has been studying the failures rates at these schools since she started in Seymour and while the high school is tracking marginally higher this year, the middle school rates have jumped significantly. This is not just a Seymour problem; this has been noted across the country. Strategies have been put in place to get the students to reengage with learning. High needs students have already been brought back; meetings with parents, teachers and counselors are set up weekly; phone calls, and e-mails to parents and students are done on a daily basis. The high school is doing credit recovery with Edgenuity and has teachers after school offering instructional support. The middle is also offering afterschool instruction and working with students during the Response block. Ms. Harmeling says we are not going to be able to make up for all of the lost time this summer. She wondered if it would not be better to let the students that are struggling repeat the year. Mr. Garofolo said if he wasn’t convinced before of the need to bring the students back into school after listening to the comments tonight, we absolutely need the students to return to class. He also stressed the fact that we can’t let our standards diminish or give students grades to which they are not entitled. Mrs. Tencza assured him this would not happen.

C. Review of Revisions to Textbook Adoption Form/Policy (to reflect digital textbooks)

The Textbook Adoption Form was edited to reflect Digital Textbooks as well. Ms. Harmeling was unsure what that entailed. She was more concerned with classes that have no textbooks at all. Mrs. Tencza stated that textbooks are not curriculum. Ms. Harmeling felt the committee didn’t have insight into the digital platforms that drive curriculum and the parents are confused. Mrs. Tencza said that the online math program “Illustrative Math” currently used at the middle school has hard copies for purchase as well but they are very expensive and teachers do not feel all parts are needed so digital was selected. Teachers are making copies for those students that responded better to paper and pencil then the online component. Ms. Harmeling would like to see the version on CABE of this policy. She would also like to see a list of classes that have textbooks, those with digital textbooks and those that use both. Mr. Garofolo suggested they give this to the Policy Committee for review.

D. Middle School Schedule Discussion

Mrs. Roden and Mrs. Freimuth shared their proposed schedule for next year. The teachers at the middle school requested that the revised schedule have consistent instruction. The new schedule has daily instruction in all major content areas with Unified Arts meeting every other day. Students in sixth grade will get an exploratory of all Unified Arts classes and in seventh and eighth grade, they will be presented with choices to reflect their interests. A personalized Response course is offered for students as well as a daily homeroom/advisory check in; this permits the student daily social emotional interactions with teachers and peers. Mrs. Calvert and Mrs. Peterson spoke on why the teachers like the new schedule. The committee were huge fans of the new schedule. Mrs. Tencza says the middle school is excited to begin implementing this in the fall.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman’s Report
None

B. Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Tencza thanked everyone for coming. She also wanted the committee to know that the state is still giving the standardized tests. We will be giving the Las Links, SBAC, and NGSS tests to students in May. Those students doing distance learning will be given the opportunity to come in to school at a time that works for them to take their tests. Students that do not want this option will be given the chance to take the tests at home.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION : ( Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn meeting at 9:28 PM.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling