Seymour Board of Education
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Seymour Middle School
January 10, 2022
7:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Champagne
Kristen Harmeling
Beth Nesteriak

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Salvatore Bucci, Business Manager
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER
A. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Champagne called for nominations for the chairperson of the Finance Committee
Ms. Nesteriak nominated Ms. Harmeling
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to close nominations
SO VOTED
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak
MOTION PASSES: 3-0
A vote was taken and Ms. Harmeling received three votes.
Ms. Harmeling was elected Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Mr. Champagne turned the
meeting over to Ms. Harmeling

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

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
A. Financial Management Summary – January 10, 2022
As has been reported in the previous Finance Committee meeting, the Employee
Benefits category is projected to be over budget for the current fiscal year. There is also
a significant negative variance in the Tuition account, which relates to Special Education
costs for in-district students who travel out-of-district for educational services. As the
Board is aware, the District has little control over the expenditures it incurs for Special
Education services. If a student requiring such services lives in Seymour, the District is
required to provide such services. At the beginning of December each year, the District
files a preliminary Excess Cost Recovery grant report with the State documenting
expected expenditures for the school year. This year’s report reflects an anticipated
recovery amount of $700,000. The December report includes an offset of $600,000
against the year-to-date deficit amount in this category. Since the District is responsible
for the first $72,000 of costs for each student receiving services, $100,000 was held in
abeyance for students who may move into the District during the remainder of the school year. A final grant report is filed at the beginning of April to account for any adjustments to the preliminary December report. Mr. Bucci reviewed the remaining information presented in the Financial Management Summary. Ms. Harmeling asked that the Management Summary be changed on page two from BOE to BOF. She mentioned that she was concerned about the timeline for the budget process. Mr. Bucci said we are planning to meet on January 24, 2022. Ms. Harmeling said the presentation to the town is on February 2. Mr. Champagne asked if there is a draft for them to review and Dr. Compton said it would be done by the January 24 meeting. There was discussion on the bus contract and what impact that may have on the budget.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Financial Management Summary ending December 31, 2021

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak

**MOTION PASSES:** 3-0

**V. REPORTS**

A. Chairman’s Report

There was talk of making a video that celebrates our successes and how we can market our budget. Doing a road show to the PTAs and the senior center. Goal is to anticipate questions from the public. We want to do everything we can to help the public to understand our needs.

B. Superintendent’s Report

None

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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None

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nesteriak

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerly
Board Clerk

YouTube Link:
https://youtu.be/UcrFaix6x6Q