SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Seymour Middle School  
January 10, 2022  
7:30 pm  

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  
Stephan Behuniak  
Kristen Bruno  
Christopher Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield (8:15 pm)  
Shannon Levey  
Beth Nesteriak  
Ed Strumello

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

I. CALL TO ORDER  
A. Pledge of Allegiance  
   Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 p.m.

II. STUDENT REPORTS  
A. HS Student Representative Report- Karyna Weaver, Tyler Lang  
   None

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. REPORTS  
A. Committee Meeting  
   1. Finance Committee – January 10, 2022  
      Ms. Harmeling was elected Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Looking forward to meetings for the Budget. Special BOE Budget Workshop on January 24 and Town presentation on February 2.

B. Committee Meeting Minutes  
   1. Curriculum and Technology – December 16, 2021  
      Ms. Bruno said Mr. Lucke did a presentation and presented three proposals for the Manufacturing program being developed. The committee chose proposal #1 to be moved to the full Board for approval.
C. Special Education Department
   1. Enrollment Report – Dr. Kris Boyle
      Dr. Boyle said a new student enrolled at the end of this week. This student is already enrolled in an out of district program and we had one student age out of the special education program so the numbers did not change but there is a cost for the new student.

   2. Assistant Director of Pupil Services Monthly Update – Dr. Meghan Pogonelski

D. Bounce Back and CBITS – Dr. Meghan Pogonelski
   Dr. Pogonelski said this program was developed after Sandy Hook and deals with post-traumatic stress. The program is sustainable within the current budget. Several staff members will be trained at no cost. The program is starting small and will address the needs of our students and will consist of school based counseling as needed.

V. RECOGNITIONS
   A. The emergency preparedness art contest was hosted by NVHD to promote National Preparedness Month throughout the month of September and encourage students within the valley to learn more about what to do during an emergency or disaster and how to prepare themselves and their loved ones. NVHD, as they reflected on the last year and a half, realized that introducing children and teens to emergency preparedness themes (besides the drills they participate in at school) will likely have a positive impact on their mental health status during a real-world event, such as a storm, extended power outage, pandemic, etc. The hope was this art contest was a fun way for students to showcase what preparing for an emergency means to them. Congratulations to Emily Zhu (Grade 12) – 1st Place Winner in the High School Division
      Emily Zhu was honored for her work in placing 1st Place in the High School Division of the Emergency Preparedness Poster Contest.

   B. Peace Poster Contest
      The Lions Club is sponsoring a yearly Peace Poster Contest with the theme "WE ARE ALL CONNECTED". The contest is open to all Seymour students ages 11, 12 and 13. The Contest involves creating a Poster, no larger than 20" x 24", and no smaller than 13" x 20". Congratulations to our students: Grand Prize: Peyton Tilki, 1st Place: Elena Farmer, 2nd Place: Kiera Gliford, 3rd Place: Isabella Quintero

VI. CONSENT AGENDA
   A. Approval of Minutes
      1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2021
      2. Special Organizational Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2021
      3. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2021
      4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2021


   C. Financial Management Reports – January 10, 2021

   D. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
      1. Nintzel, Julie
         • Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
         • Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
         • Replacing Jillian Stugard
      2. Tichy, Kaitlin
         • Nutrition Services
         • Seymour High School
         • Replacing Joseph Romanauskas
3. Singh-Sookhai, Jasmin  
  - Instructional Paraprofessional  
  - Bungay Elementary School  
  - Replacing Doreen Garcia

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) move to approve the consent agenda with item A4 Special BOE Meeting minutes removed

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

### VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Item A4 Special BOE Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2022. Mr. Champagne asked that the vote count be checked on the approval of a COVID Liaison stipend. He said the vote should show at 7-0 not 7-1

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Nesteriak) to approve the minutes of the Special BOE Meeting on December 13, 2021 as amended

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**ABSTAIN:** Mr. Behuniak

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0-1

### VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

#### A. School Calendar 2022-2023

There was a discussion on the terminology “half days”. It was agreed to change this to “abbreviated days” and the Board asked that November 17 be added to the description section of the calendar.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the presented 2022-2023 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with the exception of changing the term half days to abbreviated days with a footnote explaining the change

**MOTION WITHDRAWN:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello)

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the presented 2022-2023 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with the exception of changing the term half days to abbreviated days with a footnote explaining the change and adding November 17 early release in the notation portion of the calendar

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

#### B. Donations

1. Monetary Donation from Chris Champagne

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from Chris Champagne in the amount of $500 and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**ABSTAIN:** Mr. Champagne

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0-1
2. Monetary Donation in Memory of Mr. Tom Stebar
   MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a donation in memory of Mr. Tom Stebar from Mr. Ron Stebar in the amount of $90 and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

   SO VOTED

   AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

   MOTION PASSES: 8-0

C. SHS Course Proposals
   Dr. Compton said there was lots of work put into these proposals and Mr. Lucke gave a thorough overview of the programs. She thanked Mr. Lucke and Mr. Stanek for their hard work. The was discussion of the costs associated with the programs.

1. Introduction to Manufacturing, Engineering, and Fabrication – Full Year Course
   MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology committee to approve a full year course entitled Introduction to Manufacturing, Engineering, and Fabrication for the Seymour High School 2022-2023 Course Catalog

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES: 9-0

2. Griffin Hospital Collaborative
   Dr. Compton said that Griffin Hospital came to Seymour High School on December 20 to present this program and it went very well.
   MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology committee to approve the Griffin Hospital Collaborative for the Seymour High School 2022-2023 Course Catalog

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES: 9-0

3. First Responders Pathway for Fire and/or Police – Two Half-Year Courses
   MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Ms. Levey) to approve the recommendation of the Curriculum and Technology committee to approve the First Responders Pathway for Fire and/or Police for the Seymour High School 2022-2023 Course Catalog

   SO VOTED

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

   MOTION PASSES: 9-0
4. Revision of Policy #6146
   Dr. Compton explained that this is a change in wording adding the ability to get credit for mastery learning. She said the Department of Education stated they were very supportive with this change.
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to adopt the recommendation of the Policy Committee to revise Policy #6146 as presented

   **SO VOTED**
   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

   **MOTION PASSES:** 9-0

D. RFP - Board Attorney
   Dr. Compton said the RFP had been reviewed by an attorney not connected to the RFP and it was revised and the section on liability was removed, as it was not needed. She said the Ad Hoc Committee was Chris Champagne, Beth Nesteriak, and Ed Strumello. There was some discussion on the value to weighting the criteria which could be discussed when the Ad Hoc Committee met.
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to authorize the RFP for the selection of a Board Attorney

   **SO VOTED**
   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

   **MOTION PASSES:** 9-0

E. Signatory on Checking Accounts – Addition of Dr. Compton, Vonda Tencza, and Salvatore Bucci
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms.Harmeling) to approve the addition of Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton, Associate Superintendent Vonda Tencza and Business Manager Salvatore A. Bucci as signers on all Liberty bank accounts and all Webster Bank accounts.

   **SO VOTED**
   **AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

   **MOTION PASSES:** 9-0

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS
A. Board of Education Report
   1. Chairman’s Comments
      Mr. Champagne thanked everyone and the staff for the past two weeks which has been a trying time. He reminded the Board that the retreat is coming up. Dr. Compton said Mr. Hatfield has a conflict and she would be in contact with Mr. Caruso to see if he has any other dates in February we can switch to.

   2. Board Member Comments
      Ms. Harmeling said she would like to see the retreat agenda with clear goals. Dr. Compton said she will be in contact with Mr. Caruso for his availability. Mr. Strumello asked about the post card that was send with endorsements for the election that he received. Dr. Compton said she did not know anything about this but would check with our union president.

B. Superintendent Report
   Dr. Compton thanked the Board for their support after the holiday break. The pandemic has been challenging. Nurses are working hard; we had 30 cases identified today. She said numbers are growing with staff also. She thanked the parents for being so patient with the situation. She said she and Ms. Tencza might have to go into the classroom to
cover for absent staff. She talked about the difficulties she encountered with the two storms that closed schools. She said for the most part parents understood. She said she would work very hard to make the call as soon as possible in the morning. She reported that she has been working with the principals on their needs assessments and should be wrapping this up tomorrow. She talked about the Town Budget Summit and that February 2 will be the day we present our budget to the town. She said our budget workshop will be on January 24. She said our goal is to have quality education in the Seymour Schools. She talked about the plan to produce a video to promote all the good that happens in our schools and use it with our budget presentation. She gave a special thank you to Linda Bellavance who is the special education secretary. She has been working very closely on grants with Mr. Bucci. She has done an outstanding job. She thanked the Town of Seymour for the testing kits they shared with the schools and she thanked Tim Connors who coordinated a pickup of 11 boxes of testing kits. She spoke about the upcoming retreat for the Board. She said dinner will be served and she will be sending updates about the goals of the retreat. She thanked the Board for approving the 2022-23 school calendar.

X. INFORMATION
A. School Activities and Recognitions
   1. Seymour High School
   2. Seymour Middle School
   3. Bungay School
   4. Chatfield-LoPresti School
B. Retirements
   1. Certified Staff
      a. Catlin, Harvey
         • Social Studies Teacher
         • Bungay Elementary School
         • Effective June 30, 2022
      b. Morgatto, Sara
         • School Psychologist
         • Seymour High School
         • Effective June 30, 2022

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT
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None
XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to adjourn

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**MOTION PASSES:** 9-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm

**NOTE:** The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm at Seymour Middle School.

YouTube Link
[https://youtu.be/UcrFaix6x6Q](https://youtu.be/UcrFaix6x6Q)