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. RECOGNITIONS
   A. Board Member Appreciation Month
      Dr. Compton honored our Board of Education members for Board Member Appreciation Month. She thanked them for their volunteer service and their dedication to the students of Seymour.

   B. Nutrition Services Team Recognition
      Dr. Compton introduced Cindy Brooks who presented the certificates to those nutrition services team members who attended the meeting. Ms. Brooks said she is working with her organization to encourage the legislators to extend the free lunch program for another year.
C. Custodians Recognition
   While there were no custodians in attendance, Dr. Compton spoke appreciatively of
   their hard work and dedication especially through the pandemic.

D. Student Recognitions
   1. Valedictorian – Seymour High School
      Dr. Compton and the Board of Education honored Mikayla Zedek as the
      Valedictorian of Seymour High School Class of 2022.
   2. Salutatorian – Seymour High School
      Dr. Compton and the Board of Education honored Salutatorian Victoria Saracino
      for the Seymour High School Class of 2022.
   3. CAS Leadership Students - Bungay School
      Dr. Compton, the Board of Education, Principal Mary Sue Feige, and Assistant
      Principal Lauren Reid presented certificates to the students named as CAS
      Leadership Students at Bungay School.
   4. Student Ambassadors - Chatfield-LoPresti School
      Dr. Compton, the Board of Education, Principal David Olechna, and Assistant
      Principal Stacey Albertson presented certificates to the Chatfield-LoPresti
      students who were named Student Ambassadors.

III. STUDENT REPORTS
   A. HS Student Representative Report- Tyler Lang
      Sports:
      Girls basketball is in the quarterfinals for state tournament. Girls Dance team has
      qualified to compete in the New England tournament. Aj Dechici qualified for state
      opens in boys wrestling Class S championship. Boys basketball season, boys and
      girls indoor track and field and boys swimming seasons have all come to a close.
      CIAC spring season will begin next Saturday March 19 with practices for our softball,
      outdoor track and field, baseball, golf, and girls tennis. Made 25 fleece blankets for the
      newborns at Yale New Haven Hospital as part of a state student council project
      Seymour partook in. We will be making 25 gratitude cards for health care workers/first
      responders. Seymour HS students were invited to apply for a position in CASC - CT
      association of student councils officer positions - applications due by March 8. We are
      Planning another food drive for Seymour Oxford Food Bank this will hopefully take
      place late March/early April and be a competition between grades. Amanda Curtis -
      president of Student Council wants to highlight March is Mental Health Awareness
      Month. We plan to decorate 2 Student Council bulletin boards throughout the school
      as well as explore two other possibilities for raising awareness which will discuss the
      following topics, what mental health is, why it is important to discuss mental health,
      ways to get help and easy ways to take care of yourself. Teacher Appreciation Day is
      in May.

IV. 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.
Mr. Champagne explained to the audience that there was a typo in the agenda and we are
non-renewing four teachers not twenty-two.
Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman – Thanked the Board of Education. She said she would like to see something similar to what other districts in the valley do, which is have the honor roll be back and posted. She wants to include in in her 888 segment. She feels it is important. Dr. Compton agreed and talked about giving students a certificate and possibly a pin. First Selectwoman Drugonis said she was also interested in doing something similar to Mayor for a Day so students can experience what it is like to serve the community. Dr. Compton also thanked the First Selectwoman saying the meeting with the Town Finance Board went well and she appreciated the support they have shown to the Board of Education and how we are working together as a team. Jamie Bailey, 15 Oriole Lane – Her situation is currently being fixed. Spoke of the need to do some corrections in Special Education. She said she knows of five complaints against Special Education and that four of them are at CLS. She feels someone needs to do something. Cara Bordonaro, 21 Hidden Valley Road – Read the statement she read for the Finance Committee meeting about being upset about possible removal of any staff due to budget cuts. She talked about the impact of the pandemic on the children and their need for social emotional support. She emphasized the important of small class sizes and offered research showing the benefits of smaller class sizes. She asked the Board to be mindful of protecting the students’ educational and social/emotional well-being. Chris Bowen, 26 Birchwood Road – Speaking as a private citizen. No children in the system, no horse in the race. He said he is a resident and grew up in this town. He calls on this Board and all stakeholders and everyone who has someone who was damaged by this pandemic to support the Superintendent and this budget. We have to invest in our children to move forward. We need to make Seymour an attractive destination. These children become adults and we want them to raise kids in our community. We have passed lean budgets for a very long time just enough to cover salary increases for our overburdened teachers. He is calling on everyone to take the sacrifice that he is willing to take, to have our taxes go up to fix the problems that was left by prior administrators and people who may not have performed adequately in their job. We need to do this so we can move forward and not further damage our students. This community needs to turn out and have hard conversations with each other. Bring the same energy as was done with the mask mandate. People need to turn out, come out and vote yes to support the budget for our children. Elizabeth White, 49 Sagamore Road – Thanked the Board members for serving and navigating through these waters. Understa the need to correct errors but keep the needs of the kids in mind. Has three kids in school. The pandemic has taken a toll on one of them. Asked that guidance counselors and tutors not be taken away.

V. REPORTS
A. Envisions Math Program, Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid
Ms. Lauren Reid and Ms. Stefanie Newman introduced the Board to the Envisions program and how it was rolled out and implemented. They have worked with the pilot program for two years. The program has been received very well by the teachers and the students. Students seem to enjoy the program. Students are working on complex problems with the strategies they have learned. Dr. Compton complimented Ms. Reid and Ms. Newman on the wonderful presentation. Mr. Champagne offered the Board’s support saying if there is anything that they need to contact the Board.

B. Committee Meeting Update
1. Finance Committee – March 7, 2022
Ms. Harmeling said to keep the questions and comments coming. She said she is pleased with the changes to the finance reports that Mr. Bucci has made.

C. Committee Meeting Minutes
1. Finance Committee Minutes – February 10, 2022
2. RFP Committee Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2022
Mr. Champagne said this committee met and are now in the process of scheduling interviews. He is confident there will be a recommendation for the April 4 BOE meeting.

D. Special Education Department
1. Enrollment Report – Dr. Kris Boyle
Dr. Boyle indicated the data points are stable. There are several referrals being completed which may cause a bump. There was one increase in outplaced. One student aged out and one moved into the district so it evened out. Ms. Nesteriak said she would like to see trends. Dr. Boyle said he can do this using the report to the state.

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

VI. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Minutes
1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2022
2. Special BOE Meeting (Retreat) Minutes – February 15, 2022
3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2022
4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2022
B. Nutrition Services Financial Report – March 7, 2022
C. Financial Management Reports – March 7, 2021
D. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
1. Pettinella, Lauren
   · Float Nurse
   · Districtwide
   · Replacing Jenny Goduto
2. Trantum, Jamie
   · Instructional Paraprofessional
   · Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
   · Replacing Kathryn Giarratano

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the March 7, 2022 Consent Agenda as presented

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

VII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
None

VIII. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION
A. Healthy Food Options
1. MOTION: (Mr. Behuniak/sec., Mr. Hatfield) The Seymour Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2 the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.
SO VOTED

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

1. **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-21f, the Seymour Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

SO VOTED

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

2. **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-21f, the Seymour Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

SO VOTED

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

B. **Job Description – Capstone Coordinator**

Mr. Strumello questioned the last expectation regarding the position being dissolved after two years. Mr. Freund said originally the Capstone Coordinator was to be covered by the counselors as recommended by the previous superintendent. Mr. Freund said clearly they do not have the time to do this. This position is to support the counselors and then this would become a course and covered by a teacher. The funds are unused appendix e funds from the Pep Band. After this position dissolves those funds would revert back to the Pep Band.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the job description for Capstone Coordinator as presented

SO VOTED

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

C. **Donations**

1. The Seymour Police Commissioners will donate $5000 toward the Post University tuition for students who would like to participate in the Criminal Justice/Policing program and who demonstrate financial need

   **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from the Seymour Police Commissioners in the amount of $5000 and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation

   SO VOTED

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

   **MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

2. First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis has pledged to personally donate, on behalf of her father-in-law, $600 for two Post University courses

   **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Behuniak) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation from First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis, on behalf of her father, in the amount of $600 and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Levey, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

C. ProActive Sports Medicine, LLS (Athletic Trainers) Contract
Dr. Compton explained that the contract was approved in the fall, however, because of unforeseen expenses due to COVID, they have reached $19,000 on their purchase order and will go over. She estimates another $4000 will be needed for spring sports. There is the possibility that an RFP can be done to address this need next year.

D. 2022-2023 Seymour Public Schools Budget
Dr. Compton discussed many different things have been discussed to present a number that everyone can live with. She talked about attrition, non-renewals of those positions that were offered for one year only. These teachers knew when they were hired that the position was for one year only. She said she felt we need to go in with the right percentage. Teachers’ salaries go up, insurance goes up, we have to have an increase that cover this and that people will support. Ms. Harmeling asked if we know the impact on classroom size. Dr. Compton said it is too early to tell but she felt the class sizes will be reasonable. She noted that the non-renewals have nothing to do with job performance, it is simply because these people were hired for a one-year position only. She explained the long term sub that is being non-renewed is a substitute who is covering for a teacher who is out and leave and will be returning. She noted that this is done every year. Ms. Nesteriak said it is important to talk about the impact of what we do. Dr. Compton said she is always open and transparent. Mr. Behuniak said he meant no disrespect but he does not understand why we are talking about reductions in the budget that this Board approved just a few weeks ago. Ms. Harmeling said there is improvement in the information and we will fight for every penny. She reminded him that we have not voted for a reduced budget. Mr. Behuniak said he felt it was a mistake to show our hand. Need to maintain where we need to be. Ms. Harmeling said we have not shown our hand. Dr. Compton said we are just trying to be prepared.

F. Non-Renewals
1. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers
MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec. Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non-renew four non-tenured teachers, (Stephanie Pelliccio, Amy Lebetkin, Melissa Marini, and Max Salazar) the end of the 2021-22 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to (Stephanie Pelliccio, Amy Lebetkin, Melissa Marini, and Max Salazar) and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0
2. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured School Teachers (Long Term Substitute Teachers)
   **MOTION:** (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non-renew one non-tenured teacher, Mary Klesyk at the end of the 2021-22 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. I further move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to Mary Klesyk and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any request, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151

   **SO VOTED**

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

   **MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

3. Non-Renewal of Esser II Tutors
   Dr. Compton noted that Jillian Stugard has been hired and transferred into a Title I position and will not be non-renewed. Ms. Nesteriak stated again that she wanted the Board to discuss what the impact of these changes will be. She wants to talk more about the effect. We need to always tie back to how it impacts the students. Mr. Behuniak said he would like to hear less jargon and more talk as human beings.

   **MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to non-renew two Esser II Tutors, Julie Ninzel and Emily Wrogg at the end of the 2021-22 school year

   **SO VOTED**

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

   **MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mr. Chris Champagne – Thank you letter for donation on behalf of his employer
2. Mr. Ron Stebar – Thank you letter for donation in memory of his brother, Mr. Tom Stebar

X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS/SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman’s Comments
   Mr. Champagne said he attended the Meet Seymour High School night and it was a very impressive program and showed SHS as a very comprehensive school. First time this was done since 2019. Student guides were very good, very well spoken. He told the Board that the Relocation Committee has been established and their work in underway. Next week he will be attending the PTA meetings to discuss the budget.

2. Board Member Comments
   Ms. Harmeling said she is not a fan of moving Central Office to the High School especially since there was no input from the BOE. She feels there could be a different solution. She said there have been conversations about honor roll and she said it wasn’t special anymore. She recommends we really recognize high achievers. Ms. Bruno said she was really impressed with the high school open house. She was impressed with the administrators and students. There were lots of displays throughout the building. Mr. Strumello said the relocation committee met on Thursday.
B. Superintendent Report
Dr. Compton reported that the Seymour High School Athletic Hall of Fame will be having their banquet on April 30. She has had the pleasure of doing a listening forum in each of the schools which she found very the sessions very informative, she got some great input and felt the sessions were very successful. The next Communication meeting is on Thursday, March 10. She felt the 8th grade orientations were a very well put together program. We will be scheduling the rest of the committees to meet in the near future.

XI. INFORMATION
A. School Activities and Recognitions
   1. Seymour High School
   2. Seymour Middle School
   3. Bungay School
   4. Chatfield-LoPresti School

B. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
   1. Willadsen, David
      • Head Coach, Outdoor Track and Field
      • Seymour High School
      • Replacing Jenny Ames

C. Resignations
   1. Certified Staff
      a. Huckabey, Bianca
         • School Counselor
         • Seymour High School
         • Effective March 23, 2022
      b. Papa-Zinko, Kathleen
         • English Teacher
         • Seymour High School
         • Effective June 30, 2022
   2. Non Certified Staff
      a. Ballaro, Diana
         • Instructional Paraprofessional
         • Seymour Middle School
         • Effective February 4, 2022
      b. Sia, Jomarie
         • School Secretary
         • Bungay Elementary School
         • Effective March 9, 2022
      c. Williams, Rosalee
         • Nutrition Services Team
         • Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School
         • Effective March 4, 2022

3. Appendix E
   a. DeVellis, Jake
      • Assistant Football Coach
      • Seymour High School
      • Effective February 21, 2022
XII. 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.
Elizabeth White, 49 Sagamore Road – Wants our students to catch up. If our class sizes are
not able to be kept, look at our practices. Look at the protocols in place. Kelly Wrogg, 43
Patton Avenue – She said her daughter was cut about the cuts of the tutors. Her daughter was
hired in April. She said her daughter is fine with it and she is going back to school. She doesn’t
understand the different grants. Cara Bordonaro, 21 Hidden Valley Road – Read the statement
she read for the Finance Committee meeting and in the first public comment of this meeting.

XII I. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to adjourn

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 pm

NOTE: The next scheduled Regular Board of Education meeting is on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:30
pm at Seymour Middle School.

YouTube Link:
https://youtu.be/1uzuJ_C6Fo