



Seymour Board of Education REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2025
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/18/25
TIME: 9:20 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Champagne, Chair
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (left meeting at 9:01 PM)
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephan Behuniak
Pete Kubik

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools
Alana Zhingri, Interim Board Clerk
Mrs. Mary Sue Feige, Retired Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Paul Lucke, SHS Principal
Stephanie Ciccone, Assistant Principal SHS
Dave Olechna, CLS Principal
Lauren Reid, BES Principal
Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman
Tim Connors
Fred Stanek
Jake Velleco

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

- Mr. Champagne called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:20 PM.

B. Introductions

Introductions were made by the Board Members, Superintendent, and Interim Board Clerk.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Recognition of Mary Sue Feige - Resolution from the Board of Education

Mrs. Feige was presented with a Resolution from the Board of Education and 2 Awards of Recognition. Dr. Compton said some words of appreciation to Mrs. Feige. Mrs. Feige then read some prepared words of appreciation to the Board of Education. Mrs. Reid also read some words of appreciation for Mary Sue Feige as well. Mr. Fred Stanek also said some words of appreciation and presented Mrs. Feige with a retirement gift.

B. Bungay Building Committee Update

Mr. Fred Stanek came to ask the Board of Education to approve the purchase of land for Bungay School. A Resolution is included in tonight's Agenda.

C. CABE – Continuing Membership

Information about cost was provided to the Board of Education

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 Chairperson is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairperson'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 the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

Mr. Michael Kearney 72 Mountain Road Seymour, CT: Wanted to ask the Board if we could set up a date to be determined for a meet and greet for the students and the American Legion. He also wanted to have the Legion and Historical Society as a place where students can contact them to do some community service. He also stated that the Legion sponsors the CT Hurricanes. The Hurricanes were charged over \$5,000 to use the facility at the Middle School that night. He is not sure where the numbers come from but with charges that high, there are no more funds left for the Veterans. He has heard the Hurricanes aren't going to have a Veterans appreciation concert next year due to the high cost.

Dr. Compton stated that we look forward to working with him and the organizations too. Regarding the cost, we can work together and see where all the cost is coming from. Custodial fee is what we charge, and there must be a Police charge as well. We will find out more behind that cost.

Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman: 111 Middle Benham Road Seymour, CT: stated that if we are doing Shared Services, we want to have a meeting and discuss concerns and things out, and that there doesn't seem to have been any Facilities Committee meetings lately. She said it would be a good idea to put a town person on the committee as well. She stated that safety and our children are a priority.

Dr. Compton said that Mr. Connors is working well, and First Selectwoman Drugonis and her had a good meeting recently discussing some topics. She stated that a meeting can be held soon.

Ms. Harmeling stated as Chair of the Facilities Committee, she fully supports a meeting to happen soon, it's just that they haven't met in a while.

IV.

REPORTS

A. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci

Mr. Bucci presented the Financial Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Intra-District Transfer Requests 2025-2026

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to approve the consent agenda, removing F.2.C.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

- B. To allow the Superintendent in collaboration with the Seymour Chief of Police to authorize Mr. Ed Henry, Director of Security, Mr. Ronald Barnard, Mr. Kevin Pimpinelli, Mr. Michael Rogers, and Mr. Patrick Taylor, School Security Officers, and the substitute school security officer to carry a firearm on school grounds through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This arrangement will be reviewed and may be reauthorized prior to the beginning of each school year.

C. Senior Citizen Pass

D. District Physician Contract

1. Dr. Frederick Brown, Dr. Gary Richo – District Physicians, 2025-2026 school year

E. Approval of Minutes

1. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2025

F. Staff Hiring

1. Certified

a. Cory Woolley

- i. Music Teacher
- ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
- iii. Replacing Melissa Labbe

b. Erica Terlizzi

- i. Elementary Teacher
- ii. Bungay School
- iii. Replacing Angel McAuliffe

2. Non-Certified

a. Linda Criscio

- i. Instructional Tutor
 - ii. Bungay School
 - iii. Replacing Lily Deloma
- b. Olivia Deeley-Shay
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Bungay School
 - iii. Replacing Alyssa Latanowich
- e. Nicole Tension
 - i. ~~Instructional Paraeducator~~
 - ii. ~~Bungay School~~
 - iii. ~~New Position: Pre-school~~
- d. Kaleen Barbieri
 - i. Long Term Substitute - Second grade
 - ii. Bungay School
 - iii. Replacing Katelyn Tyer
- e. Charles Forcier
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Replacing Ellen Ceddia
- f. Loral Palmieri
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Replacing Marissa DelMonico
- g. Toni Nowotny
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Replacing Lisa Goodfellow
- h. Hakvung (Kathy) Park
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Replacing Jane Ryder
- i. Mya Seara
 - i. Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Replacing Sungok Hong
- j. Shakira Blake
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Seymour Middle School
 - iii. Replacing Matthew Castillo
- k. Christine O'Connell
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacement
- l. Janet Horton
 - i. Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacement
- M. Hannah Brighindi
 - i. Permanent Building Substitute
 - ii. Seymour Middle School
 - iii. Replacing Jessica Gagne

MOTION: move to approve the consent agenda as presented

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Final Line Item Seymour Board of Education Allocation for FY 2024-2025

MOTION: HATFIELD to approve SEC: ED.

PASSES: 5-1

B. CABE Policy 5131.911

Dr. Compton stated it's the school climate and culture policy. State mandated policy by CABE.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept and adopt CABE Policy 5131.911

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

C. CABE Policy 5131.81

General recommended Cell Phone Policy. Mr. Strumello clarified that the elementary and middle school students are not allowed to have cell phones in the classroom.

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept and adopt CABE Policy 5131.81

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

PASSES: 5-1

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the Agenda under Item J.: Sponsor of Policy 1341

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

D. Discussion and possible action regarding the Board of Education's use of a 1.75 acre parcel of land acquired by the Town of Seymour as part of the Bungay School campus.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Strumello) to approve the Resolution of land purchase for Bungay School.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

E. Manufacturing and CWE - SHS, Rich Lauer, VP of Sales and Supply Chain for Gen-El-Mec and Paul Lucke
Mr. Lucke stated that on these field trips, these companies want to offer our students internships, sometimes paid internships, but we can not accept due to not having a cooperating work education teacher. He wants the Board to know that we are missing some of these opportunities, especially in a high need field.
Ms. Harmeling asked when the State initiated that law. Mr. Champagne asked if we could possibly share this position with Oxford. Mr. Lucke stated that it is possible.

F. Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program – Reports and Checklists (BES, CLS, SMS, SHS)

G. Independent Contracts

1. Samantha Rossetti - In School Suspension Facilitator

2. Stephanie McLean - Permanent Building Substitute BES

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the independent contract of Samantha Rossetti.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to go out of order and talk about Policy 1341.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

H. Assistant Principal Hiring – Chatfield-LoPresti Schooling- (may be discussed in Executive Session)

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to enter Executive Session.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

Entered Executive Session: 8:28 PM

Exited Executive Session: 8:56 PM

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Champagne) to hire Jake Velleco as the Assistant Principal of Chatfield LoPresti Elementary School.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

- I. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (Contract)

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Strumello) to accept the Superintendent of Schools Contract as presented.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

- J. **Policy 1341**

Ms. Harmeling read the suggested wording and strikethrough recommendations of the Policy. The only thing coming out is if no period of time has been specified, it comes down after 48 hours.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve and adopt Policy 1341.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add to agenda hiring of coaches of high school and middle school sports.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept hiring of sports coaches as presented.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

PASSES: 5-1-0

Mr. Hatfield requested to view the coaches certifications.

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to accept hire of Paraeducator Christine O'Connell.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0-0

VII. INFORMATION

- A. Robotics Club and Math Team – Seymour Middle School
- B. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NEAP)
- C. Seymour Softball / Little League Home Run Derby Championship – Courtney Barton
- D. Staff Hiring
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Lisa Mariano
 - i. TESOL/ML Teacher
 - ii. District-wide
 - iii. Required annual posting
 - b. Anuoluwapo Hazzan
 - i. Elementary Teacher
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - iii. Replacing Tressa Testroet
 - 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Danielle Anderson
 - i. Literacy/Numeracy Tutor
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Returning to replace herself after substituting for SpEd
 - b. Amanda Sokolski
 - i. Substitute Secretary
 - ii. Central Office

- iii. Replacing Elisabeth Thompson
- B. Staff Transfers
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Rebecca Champagne
 - i. Social Studies Teacher
 - ii. From CLS to Seymour Middle School
 - iii. Filling vacancy from retirement
 - b. Marissa DelMonico
 - i. Instructional Paraeducator
 - ii. From CLS to Seymour High School
 - iii. Replacing Dawn LaLlave
 - c. Erin Swan Buhl
 - i. Custodian
 - ii. From CLS Food Services to CLS Custodian
 - iii. Effective June 30, 2025
 - d. Diane Fuchs
 - i. Payroll Specialist
 - ii. From Special Education Secretary to Payroll Specialist

- C. Resignations
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Tressa Testroet
 - i. Elementary Teacher
 - ii. Chatfield-LoPresti
 - iii. Effective July 3, 2025
 - 2. Non-Certified
 - a. Melissa Fredricksen
 - i. Paraeducator
 - ii. Seymour Middle School
 - iii. Effective July 23, 2025
 - b. Dawn LaLlave
 - i. Paraeducator
 - ii. Seymour High School
 - iii. Effective June 30, 2025
 - c. Christine Olowia
 - i. Payroll Specialist
 - ii. Central Office
 - iii. Effective August 22, 2025
 - d. Tyler Tomasella
 - i. Custodian
 - ii. Seymour Middle School
 - iii. Effective July 1, 2025

- D. Retirements
 - 1. Certified
 - a. Mary Sue Feige
 - i. Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 - ii. Central Office
 - iii. Effective July 31, 2025

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments
 - 1. Chairman's Comments
 - 2. Board Member Comments
- B. Superintendent Report
 - 1. BH Care Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, Derby, CT (Possible Cooperative Agreement)

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM

YouTube Link (8/4/2025): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlqhfUDTLt8>

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Seymour Middle School.