

Seymour Public Schools



Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2025
Central Office
5:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/4/2025
TIME: 11:58
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chris Champagne
- Kristen Bruno
- Stephan Behuniak
- Ed Strumello
- Pete Kubik
- Kristen Harmeling
- Lori Nespoli

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Champagne called the meeting to at 5:13 PM with the pledge of allegiance

II. 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.

- Called 3 times, no public comment.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Independent Contract
 - 1. Diane Fuchs – Payroll Specialist

- B. Intra-District Transfer Requests

MOTION: (Ed Strumello / sec. Kristen Harmeling) to approve the agenda as presented

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli

PASSES: 7-0-0

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. BH Care Property Access Agreement 2025
 - 1. The program, based in Derby, has been recognized as an outstanding resource by Dr. Compton. Representatives met with administrative staff and service providers to review the initiative, which will primarily support a clinician assistant shared between Bungay and Chatfield-LoPresti Schools. The program is funded through grants, and



BH Care is responsible for vetting all staff entering the schools. The agreement, reviewed and approved by the district attorney, will be in place for one year, with the option for reevaluation. Board members discussed the role of the position titled "Inclusion Facilitator," with questions raised about the specific responsibilities. Ms. Bruno emphasized the district's identified need for additional social-emotional support and expressed that this program offers an important avenue to provide assistance to students. Dr. Compton noted that student behaviors have shifted significantly in recent years and highlighted the district's efforts through programs such as the Alternative Program at SHS, the Rise Program at SMS and BES, and CARE at CLS to provide comprehensive support for students – now with BH Care's support.

MOTION: (Kristen Bruno / sec. Pete Kubik) to approve the BH Care Property Access Agreement for the 25-26 school year.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli

PASSES: 7-0-0

B. CABE Policy 6146: Graduation Requirements (Community Service)

1. Mr. Lucke reported on the work of the NEASC-established building working groups, noting that one group has researched community service requirements in surrounding towns. The group proposed instituting a community service requirement of 25 hours over the course of a student's high school career, with the goal of increasing student involvement in the community and improving perceptions of teenagers. The committee also identified local resources and opportunities to support students in fulfilling this requirement. Hours would require preapproval and sign-off, with flexibility to include activities not on the official list. Mr. Kubik asked about definitions and oversight, and Mr. Lucke clarified that service would need to be preapproved. He emphasized the importance of students giving back, noting that most of the 14 districts present at a recent CASS unconference already require community service.

Board members and administrators shared differing perspectives:

Supportive views:

Mr. Kubik suggested that structured opportunities could help students engage in the community.

Ms. Nespoli highlighted the personal and social benefits of service, sharing that many students gain appreciation only after participating. She stressed its positive impact on both students and families, as well as socially and economically.

Dr. Compton noted that community service builds life skills such as confidence and empathy and can connect students to broader town initiatives.

Ms. Bruno suggested recognizing both individual and event-based service hours.

Mr. Champagne recommended scheduling monthly school-based events to create clear opportunities.

Concerns raised:

Ms. Harmeling questioned the burden on students and their families who may be reluctant to participate, suggesting that group or class-based service projects might be more effective than individual requirements.



Mr. Champagne expressed concern about whether mandated service improves students' experiences or simply serves to enhance the school's image, as well as the potential for it to detract from academic focus.

Mr. Behuniak noted that a wide range of opportunities already exists and will continue to grow, making service accessible without extensive additional support.

The discussion concluded with acknowledgement that while there is strong support for the concept, further consideration is needed regarding implementation, structure, and balance between mandatory requirements and voluntary opportunities.

MOTION: (Stephan Behuniak / sec. Kristen Bruno) to accept and adopt the CABA Policy 6146 as a requirement for graduation

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli

OPPOSED: Ms. Harmeling

PASSES: 6-0-1

MOTION: (Stephan Behuniak / sec. Kristen Bruno) To update and adopt the policy 6146 for the class of 2030.

DISCUSSION: Not unreasonable to expect for the upcoming class, prefers 2029. It's also something you could do in one week.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Strumello, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli

PASSES: 7-0-0

V. Information

A. Hiring - Non-Certified

1. ~~Terragaye Melean~~
 - a. ~~Instructional Paraeducator~~
 - b. ~~Bungay Elementary School~~
 - c. ~~Replacing Nicole Taraian~~
2. ~~Paul Hillis~~
 - a. ~~Instructional Paraeducator~~
 - b. ~~Seymour Middle School~~
 - c. ~~Replacing Trish Massaro~~
3. Natalie Marinko-Salatto
 - a. Food Service Worker
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Replacing Sol Christensen
4. Karen Oraziatti
 - a. Food Service Worker
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Replacing Cathy Smarz
5. Dawn LaLlave
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Seymour Middle School



- c. Replacing Delta T
- B. Hiring – Appendix D
 - 1. Roxanne Lindgren
 - a. STEM Club Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Replacing Kerry Rush
 - 2. Roxanne Lindgren
 - a. Robotics Club Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Replacing Jazz Band stipend
 - 3. Meagan Krushinski
 - a. Student Council Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Replacing Deb Esposito

VI. REPORTS

- A. Board of Education
 - 1. Chairman Comments
 - 2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Harmeling thanked Dr. Compton for a well-organized convocation, noting that it was brief, enjoyable, and provided a positive opportunity to see staff members' faces from the stage.
- B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Compton expressed pride in the district's staff and administrators. She noted that Board members Ed Strumello and Kristen Harmeling attended convocation, where Mr. Strumello spoke about the Bungay Referendum. The First Selectwoman was also present. Lunch was held from 12–1 and provided an enjoyable opportunity for staff to gather. Dr. Compton also reported that the School Security Officer at Chatfield-LoPresti School will be leaving the district to accept a position elsewhere.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM