

Seymour Board of Education



Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

February 2, 2026

Seymour Middle School

6:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 2/3/26
TIME: 4:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kristen Bruno
Kristen Harmeling
Lori Nespoli
Chris Champagne (non-committee member)
Ed Strumello (non-committee member)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent
Salvatore Bucci, Business Manager
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM

II. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling) to nominate herself for chairperson of the Finance Committee

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli

PASSES: 3-0-0

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.

- Public Comment called three times, no comment

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Financial Statement

Ms. Harmeling thanked the administration for the management summary and turned the discussion over to Mr. Bucci.

Mr. Bucci reviewed his approach to the monthly financial summary, noting that figures continue to shift as the year progresses. With approximately five months remaining in the fiscal year, he highlighted several key items.

Within certified staff, the current variance is largely related to the vacancy of the Chatfield-LoPresti School Principal position. An additional projected variance is anticipated due to a recent notification of a teacher retirement.

The primary concern is within non-certified staff. The budget includes 51 paraeducators; however, there are currently 55 on staff, along with an additional 8-11 Delta-T paraprofessionals being utilized. These positions are mandated by students' IEPs. As a result, this line item is projected to be approximately \$200,000 over budget. Mr. Bucci noted that this overage may be partially offset by anticipated savings from students returning to the district from outplacement. A new outplacement tabulation will be completed at the end of the month.

He also shared that the district expects to receive the first installment of a state grant, anticipated to be 75% of the total award, though the percentage may change. Additionally, the district received a state "seed grant" of approximately \$144,000 intended to offset costs for new hires beginning July 1 that were not initially planned for. These funds may support additional paraprofessionals but cannot be used for third-party services such as Delta-T. The district has not yet spent the funds and is awaiting clarification on allowable uses.

Facilities costs remain a concern. Since the last meeting, approximately \$55,000 has been spent on glycol and other maintenance issues. The district has also received \$57,000 in snow removal bills from the Town of Seymour this year, including \$33,000 for the most recent storm. While the work has been thorough, Mr. Bucci noted the significant expense and the impact of overtime and weekend scheduling during the snow storms. Ms. Harmeling asked whether the district had discussed these costs with the Town. Mr. Bucci stated that he has not yet but agreed that a conversation would be appropriate. Historically, these costs have been paid from the facilities line item. He noted that this year's charges are nearly three times higher than in prior years, though there have been more frequent snow events. Ms. Harmeling commented that, while increased costs are understandable, this may be an area for further discussion with the Town. Ms. Bruno added that storms have often occurred on weekends and holidays and that parking bans have required additional use of school lots. Dr. Compton stated she plans to meet with town officials to discuss the matter and acknowledged the financial strain.

Ms. Harmeling questioned the discrepancy between the number of budgeted paraprofessionals and the current staffing levels. Dr. Boyle explained that while some positions go unfilled, the district continues to see increased needs based on IEP requirements. Ms. Harmeling expressed concern about the financial impact of continued reliance on Delta-T and suggested increasing recruitment efforts and exploring adjustments to compensation to attract more paraprofessional staff. Dr. Boyle confirmed that positions are posted. Dr. Compton added that some staff absences are due to FMLA and noted additional needs related to preschool programming. Ms. Bruno asked for clarification on how Delta-T staff are being used (short-term versus long-term coverage).

Mr. Bucci reiterated that the Board is being informed due to the potential use of the state seed grant funds and that the district will continue to evaluate hiring additional paraprofessionals to reduce reliance on Delta-T services. A recalibration will occur at the end of the year. Ms. Harmeling asked whether the grant is limited to staffing. Dr. Boyle explained that funds may also support new programs or materials but must be spent within the July 1–June 30 timeframe. The application is due around February 20. Mr. Bucci anticipates having more information on approved uses by the next Board meeting.

V. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments
2. Board Member Comments

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Dr. Compton addressed questions regarding a reported mold issue at Chatfield-LoPresti School. She clarified that a leak had occurred, which prompted the inquiry. Upon investigation, no substantial mold was found.
A staff member requested to be relocated as a precaution. The district spent over \$50,000 addressing cleanup and remediation at Chatfield-LoPresti School. Dr. Compton noted that, at the time, there was no Director of Curriculum & Instruction in place, and an interim principal was serving at CLS, which influenced how these expenses were managed.

All related reports and documentation will be shared with the Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk