

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 30, 2026  
Seymour Middle School  
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 4/16/26  
TIME: 2:30 pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno  
Chris Champagne  
Kristen Harmeling  
Jay Hatfield  
Pete Kubik  
Lori Nespoli  
Jim Garofolo  
Stephan Behuniak  
Ed Strumello

Others Present: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent  
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance - Kristen Bruno called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM

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 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.

- No comment

IV. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Hockey Cooperative Program (Co-Op) and any future Co-Ops

The athletic committee voted to recommend to the full board that the board establish a girls hockey co-op.

**MOTION:** (Stephan Behuniak / Jay Hatfield) enter into a hockey cooperative program for girls hockey

**DISCUSSION:** We reached out to West Haven, and they were receptive. Future cooperative opportunities will be determined based on interest, as well as the number of players and associated costs. While it's difficult to provide a definitive answer at this time, given our current budget considerations, we will be mindful of expenses and evaluate each opportunity on a case-by-case basis.

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

**PASSES:** 9-0-0

B. Discussion of Director of Nutrition Services and Food Service Program

Dr. Compton shared that Cindy Brooks would be available by phone if needed, following a lengthy conversation with her. She recommends that we continue moving forward with maintaining our own food services program.

We have posted the position and currently have two applicants. We plan to conduct interviews tomorrow with Cindy and Mr. Bucci. Ms. Brooks has been very supportive throughout this process.

We are hopeful to bring forward a recommended candidate for this position at the next Board of Education meeting.

C. BOE Budget for FY 2026-2027

Dr. Compton reported that the budget currently stands at 4.3%. She noted that the Public Town Meeting is scheduled for April 7th and encouraged attendance. While not advising how individuals should vote, she emphasized the importance of being present.

Ms. Bruno explained that the last budget approved by the Board of Education was 4.7%. Since then, the district has realized health insurance savings, but will also need to assume 50% of the shared service contracts. While an exact figure is not available, Mr. Bucci estimates this cost to be approximately \$180,000.

Ms. Harmeling provided a point of clarification, noting that the Board of Finance did not formally vote to add the \$180,000 back into the budget; rather, it was a general consensus. She added that line items will need to be adjusted at the appropriate time.

Ms. Harmeling also shared that there has been increasing concern from the community regarding potential cuts if the budget does not pass or is reduced at the Town Meeting. Historically, the district has not developed a reallocated budget until the end of the school year when final numbers are available. However, this year appears to be different, and the Board should be aware of the growing demand for clarity on next steps.

Ms. Bruno stated that, as in the past, the Board will defer to Dr. Compton for guidance regarding the budget.

Dr. Compton clarified that while she can make recommendations, she does not have final authority. She added that if reductions are necessary, they would likely result in a reduction in force. She concluded by expressing hope that both the district and the town will be supported.

## **V. REPORTS**

- A. Chairman's Report
- B. Board Member Comments
- C. Superintendent's Report

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk