

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA - AWARDS CEREMONY
Seymour Middle School, Auditorium
June 1, 2026
6:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 6/2/26
TIME: 11:25 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno, Board Chairperson
Christopher Champagne, Board Vice-Chair
Kristen Harmeling, Board Secretary
Jim Garofolo
Jay Hatfield
Pete Kubik
Lori Nespoli
Edward Strumello

Board Members Absent: Stephan Behuniak

Others Present: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent
Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman
Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM
- B. Welcome – Ms. Kristen Bruno delivered brief welcoming remarks, expressing appreciation for the students, staff, families, and community members whose hard work, dedication, and support make a meaningful difference, as well as those who took the time to recognize and nominate others for these awards.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Awards Recognitions
 - 1. 2026 Distinguished Alumnus of Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - a. Mr. Lucke announced that Mr. Kurt Miller is the 2026 SHS Distinguished Alumnus
 - 2. Retiring Staff Members – Mr. Jim Garofolo, Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. District-Wide – Dr. Susan Compton
 - 1. Cindy Brooks
 - 2. Judith Taylor - absent
 - 3. Sandra Hokuson
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School – Mr. Jim Freund and Mr. David Olechna
 - 1. Terri Kirkland
 - 2. Darlene O'Callaghan
 - c. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Kurt Zeppetello
 - 3. Golden Apple Awards – Ms. Kristen Bruno, Mr. Jim Freund
 - a. Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid
 - 1. Gina Kindt
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School – Mr. Jim Freund
 - 1. Beth Drost
 - c. Special Education – Dr. Kris Boyle
 - 1. Larissa Shackett
 - d. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
 - 1. Meagan Krushinski
 - e. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Domenic DiPaola

- f. District – Dr. Susan Compton
 - 1. Alana Zhingri

- 4. PAW (Progressing in All Work) Award – Mr. Pete Kubik, Dr. Kristopher Boyle
 - a. Bungay School – Mr. David Willadsen
 - 1. Deacon Coppola
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School – Mr. Jake Velleco
 - 1. William Stimple
 - c. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Ernie DiStasi
 - 1. Colin Ritton
 - d. Seymour High School – Ms. Stephanie Ciccone
 - 1. Ryan Rinko

- 5. CABE Student Leadership Award – Mr. Christopher Champagne, Mr. Edward Strumello
 The CABE Student Leadership Awards Program is designed to honor Connecticut High School and Middle School students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. Two students from each school, in a CABE member district, are eligible to receive the CABE Student Leadership Award.
 - a. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
 - 1. Adriana Wasko
 - 2. Kourtney Desrosiers
 - b. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Angelina Riccio

- 6. CAPSS Award of Excellence – Mr. Jay Hatfield and Mr. Ed Strumello
 The CAPSS Award of Excellence is based on community service and service to others; academic prowess (relative to ability); and leadership service to the school community.
 - a. Seymour High School - Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Valeria Ganchala-Chaves
 - 2. Lily Moir
 - b. Seymour Middle School - Mr. Keith O'Rourke
 - 1. Juliana Bell
 - 2. Tyler McCarthy

- 7. Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Leader Award – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Ernie DiStasi
 - a. Seymour Middle School
 - 1. Adley Overkamp
 - 2. Juliet Lin

- 8. SCASA Award – Ms. Lori Nespoli and Dr. Susan Compton
 The SCASA awards program allows area superintendents to recognize students' accomplishments based on academic, extra-curricular, and community service criteria.
 - a. Bungay School – Ms. Lauren Reid
 - 1. Parker Capozziello
 - b. Chatfield LoPresti School - Mr. Jim Freund
 - 1. Ariella Perez
 - c. Seymour Middle School – Mr. Keith O'Rourke
 - 1. Savanna Bednar
 - 2. Leah Guarino
 - d. Seymour High School – Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 1. Alyssa Vergati

2. Valeria Ganchala-Chaves

9. First Selectwoman & Superintendent Community Award – First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis and Dr. Susan Compton
 1. Seymour Food 2 Kids; Shannon and Mackenzie Bullard
10. Coaching Recognitions – Mr. Stephan Behuniak, Ms. Deirdre Sponheimer
 - a. CHSCA Hall of Fame 2026 - Volleyball
 1. Cathy Federowicz
 - b. CHSCA Assistant Coach of the Year - Volleyball
 1. Heather Yablonski
 - c. 300th Girls' Softball Wins
 1. Harvey Catlin
 - d. CIAC Division III Girls' Basketball State Championship Runner Up
 1. Brian Cleveland
11. David A. Brumer Excellence in Education Community Award – Ms. Hannah Rozum, Ms. Alexis Stamos, Ms. Natasha Duke and Ms. Kristen Harmeling
 - a. Jeannine Weaver
 - b. Susan Duke
12. John J. Gallagher Memorial Athletic Award – Mr. Joe Carrafiello, Mr. Jay Hatfield and Mr. David Willadsen
 - a. Edward Strumello
13. Vincentena Kobasa Excellence in Teaching Award – Ms. Natasha Duke and Mr. Stephan Behuniak
 - a. Meaghan Cleveland
14. Karen R. Stanek "Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat" Memorial Award – Mr. Fred Stanek, Mr. Jay Hatfield and First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
 - a. Lily Moir
15. Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award – Ms. Roxann Lindgren and Ms. Kristen Bruno
 - a. Christopher Edwards - absent
 - b. Ryan Edwards - absent
16. 2026 Paraeducator of the Year – Ms. Kristen Harmeling and Dr. Kris Boyle
 - a. Dana Satkowski
17. 2026 Educator of the Year – Dr. Susan Compton, Ms. Lauren Reid
 - a. Nicole Hiscock
18. Recognition of Board of Education Student Representative – Mr. Christopher Champagne and Dr. Susan Compton
 - a. Jeremy Tomasheski
19. Ambassador Award – Dr. Susan Compton and Ms. Stephanie Ciccone
 - a. Annabelle Tessitore
20. Graduates of Griffin Allied Health Program – Mr. Fred Stanek and Mr. Paul Lucke
 - a. Sophia O'Neil

- b. Janelis Cruz
 - c. Katelynn Castillo
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- 21. Valedictorian, William Jacob Lee – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 22. Salutatorian, Anuhya Bhushan Shah – Dr. Susan Compton Mr. Paul Lucke

 - 23. Top 10 Students – Class of 2026 – Dr. Susan Compton and Mr. Paul Lucke
 - 10. Layla Ann Dickens
 - 9. Kevin Anthony Rodriguez
 - 8. Angelina Marie Riccio
 - 7. Alyssa Rose Vergati
 - 6. Ariel Eve Zedek
 - 5. Chloe Victoria Pemaselci
 - 4. Cassidy Lucia Marcinczyk
 - 3. Ryan Dong
 - 2. Anuhya Bhushan Shah
 - 1. William Jacob Lee

III. RECEPTION

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

YouTube Link (June 1, 2026) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plnUTRdQoIY>

Prepared by: Shannon Levey, Board Clerk