



# Seymour Board of Education REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2026  
Seymour Middle School  
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/22/26  
TIME: 8:00 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno, Board Chair  
Chris Champagne, Board Vice-Chair  
Kristen Harmeling, Board Secretary  
Jim Garofolo  
Jay Hatfield  
Lori Nespoli  
Ed Strumello

Board Members Absent: Pete Kubik  
Stephan Behuniak

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - 7:09 PM
- B. Introductions

## II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

**MOTION:** (Chris Champagne / Kristen Harmeling) to add Item 2D, Harvey Catlin, to the agenda.

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

### A. Bungay Building Committee Update

1. Mr. Strumello reported that proposals have been received from architectural firms and have been narrowed down to six finalists. The committee will meet again next week to further review the submissions and discuss the Owner's Representative/Project Manager proposals. Interviews and review meetings are scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday.

### B. Seymour Champion Recognitions – "Seymour CHAMPIONS"

1. Bungay School
  - a. Jameson Noyes
  - b. Madelyn Borowski
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - a. Aizlyn Hirth
  - b. Joshua Otchere
3. Seymour Middle School
  - a. Sarah England
4. Seymour High School
  - a. Jeremy Tomasheski

### C. Superintendent Recognitions

1. Thomas J. Petruny Memorial Education and Environment Award
  - a. Christopher Edwards
  - b. Ryan Edwards
2. Resolution in Recognition of Retirement

- a. Cindy Brooks

**D. First Selectwoman Recognition**

1. Harvey Catlin - recognized Harvey Catlin for his outstanding dedication and service to Seymour athletics. Coach Catlin recently achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 300 career victories as head coach of the Seymour High School girls softball program. Over the course of 29 years, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment to student-athletes, and a lasting impact on the Seymour community. The Board congratulated Coach Catlin on this remarkable accomplishment and thanked him for his many years of service.

**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 comments called 3 times, no comment

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Nutrition Services Report – Cindy Brooks
- B. Special Education Report – Dr. Kris Boyle
- C. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci
- D. Enrollment Report

**MOTION:** (Chris Champagne / Kristen Harmeling) to add Consent Agenda Item G19, the hiring of Jennifer Simonnetti as District-Wide Nutrition Services Manager.

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Intra-District Transfer Requests 2026-2027
- B. Superintendent Summer Hiring Rights
- C. Reinstate 5 Non-Tenured First Year Teachers
  1. Erica Terlizzi, Steven Marinaro, Jenna Bennett, Anthony Lacerenza, Maia Valinsky
- D. Hiring – Certified
  1. Holly Scheck
    - a. Social Studies Teacher
    - b. Seymour Middle School
    - c. Replacing Danielle Sekas
  2. Anthony Cuomo
    - a. Math Teacher
    - b. Seymour High School
    - c. Replacing Tom Lennon
  3. Erin Maloney
    1. Library Media Specialist
    2. Seymour Middle School
    3. Replacing Katherine Lee
  4. Alana Zhingri
    - a. Spanish Teacher (ARC/DSAP)
    - b. Seymour High School
    - c. Replacing Miguel Restrepo
- E. Hiring – Non-Certified
  1. William Parker
    - a. Instructional Paraeducator

- b. Bungay Elementary School
  - c. Replacing Ganesh Singh
- F. Transfer – Certified
  - 1. Katherine Lee
    - a. Library Media Specialist
    - b. Transfer request from SMS to CLS
    - c. Replacing Terri Kirkland
- G. Independent Contracts
  - 1. Barnard, Ronald
    - a. School Security Officer · Bungay School
  - 2. Criscio, Linda
    - a. Administrative Assistant · Central Office
  - 3. Fuchs, Diane
    - a. Payroll Specialist · Central Office
  - 4. Henry, Edward
    - a. Director of Security · Seymour High School
  - 5. Levey, Shannon
    - a. Executive Administrative Assistant · Central Office
  - 6. Ling, Guo
    - a. BCBA · Districtwide
  - 7. Magnotta, Michael
    - a. BCBA · Districtwide
  - 8. Martin, Derrick
    - a. Network Manager · Districtwide
  - 9. Muktan, David
    - a. Districtwide Computer Technician · Districtwide
  - 10. Olivetti, David
    - a. School Security Officer · Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - 11. Rogers, Michael
    - a. School Security Officer · Seymour High School
  - 12. Rossetti, Samantha
    - a. In-School Suspension Facilitator · Seymour Middle School
  - 13. Sarlo, Nancy
    - a. Cafe Manager · Bungay School
  - 14. Shackett, Larissa
    - a. Cafe Manager · Seymour High School
  - 15. Smarz, Cathy
    - a. Cafe Manager · Seymour Middle School
  - 16. Spence, Miriah
    - a. Accounts Payable · Central Office
  - 17. Sponheimer, Deirdre
    - a. Assistant Athletic Director, P/T · Seymour High School
  - 18. Taylor, Patrick
    - a. School Security Officer · Seymour High School
  - 19. Jennifer Simonetti
    - a. District-Wide Nutrition Services Manager
- H. School Culture & Climate Plans
  - 1. Bungay School
  - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
  - 3. Seymour Middle School
  - 4. Seymour High School
- I. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Regular BOE Meeting – May 4, 2026
  - 2. Regular BOE Meeting – June 1, 2026

3. Special BOE Meeting – May 20, 2026
4. Finance Committee Meeting – May 4, 2026
5. Policy Committee Meeting – May 4, 2026

**MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) move to approve the consent agenda as presented

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Champagne: Happy to reinstate the teachers

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

**V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. 2026-2027 Education Budget**

1. **MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) To *accept* the budget of \$42,742,765 consisting of \$42,266,311 as approved per the referendum plus \$476,454 of supplemental grant funding for the 2026-2027 school year

**DISCUSSION:** note that Kristen Harmeling states “accept”, not approve. Ms. Harmeling also provided a summary of the recent Finance Committee meeting. She reported that a revised budget line-item report is anticipated by the end of August. Once the revisions are complete, the Board hopes to hold a special meeting to realign the budget line items accordingly.

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

**MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Ed Strumello) to remove items VI. B and VI. C

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mrs. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Nespoli

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Hatfield

**PASSES:** 6-1-0

~~**B. Addition of 3 ParaEducator Positions for Special Education Programs (PAWS/CATS)**~~

~~**C. Addition of a Speech and Language Pathologist Position**~~

- D.** To abolish the existing Language Arts Consultant (LAC) positions and convert those positions to Student Response to Intervention (SRBI) positions, effective for the 2026–2027 school year, in accordance with district staffing needs and educational programming priorities.

Dr. Compton explained that the administration conducted extensive research and gathered feedback from district administrators regarding the Language Arts Consultant (LAC) positions. Based on that review, it was determined that the positions should be abolished, as the certification is no longer recognized. The administration recommended converting the positions to Student Response to Intervention (SRBI) positions to better align with current district staffing needs and educational programming priorities.

**MOTION:** (Kristen Harmeling / Jim Garofolo) to eliminate the existing Language Arts Consultant (LAC) positions and convert them to Student Response to Intervention (SRBI) positions, effective for the 2026–2027 school year, in accordance with district staffing needs and educational programming priorities.

**DISCUSSION:** Chris Champagne noted that the Board does not formally approve the agenda at the beginning of meetings; therefore, typographical errors and minor corrections can be addressed and adjusted as they arise during the meeting.

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

- E.** Assistant Principal Hiring – Bungay Elementary School (may be discussed in Executive Session)

**MOTION:** (Jay Hatfield / Kristen Harmeling) to enter into Executive Session and invite the Superintendent to discuss the Bungay Elementary School Assistant Principal position.

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

**PASSES:** 7-0-0

Entered: 7:55 PM

Exited: 8:06 PM

**MOTION:** (Ed Strumello / Lori Nespoli) to appoint Kathleen Furino as Assistant Principal of Bungay Elementary School, effective for the 2026–2027 school year.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Furino thanked the Board for the opportunity. She shared that she has been a member of the Seymour Public Schools community for 18 years and expressed her excitement about expanding her role from teacher to administrator, allowing her to support and reach even more students and families.

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mrs. Strumello, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Hatfield  
**PASSES:** 7-0-0

- F. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (Contract) (may be discussed in Executive Session)  
Dr. Compton recommended that the Board schedule an additional meeting to further discuss the Superintendent's contract and evaluation. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on June 24, 2026, to continue those discussions.  
No action was taken on this item during the meeting.

## VII. INFORMATION

- A. BusPatrol: School Bus Stop-Arm Enforcement Program  
Dr. Compton discussed the BusPatrol School Bus Stop-Arm Enforcement Program as a potential additional student safety measure. She recommended bringing Director of Security Ed Henry, the Chief of Police, and representatives from All-Star Transportation to a future meeting to review the program in more detail and discuss implementation considerations.  
Dr. Compton noted that this initiative represents an additional layer of safety aimed at protecting students during bus loading and unloading procedures.
- B. Hiring - Non-Certified  
1. Terri Kirkland  
a. Substitute Teaching Pool  
b. District-wide
- C. Extended School Year Summer Hires  
1. ESY Program 2025-2026 hiring of: Deborah Baldarelli, Nicole Fearon, Dana Mitchell, Jennifer Karpovich, Stephanie DelPo, Erin Perry, Jen Widlar, Trevor Frisbie, Shannon Searles, Darlene Soden, Denise Mathew, Katelyn Tyer, Kelley Garofalo, Deborah Schietromo, Deborah Bennett, Jenna Bennett, Christy Bisaillon, Jennifer Monaco, Sue Schoenig, Debbie Baldarelli, Melania Iczaz, Deane Herde, Lynn Santillo, Ashley Nazzaro, Jennifer Piscioniere, Suzanne O'Hara, Allyson Burroughs, Mridula Chaudhary, Heather Yablonski, Keyajha Muhammad, Sarah Paskiewicz, Allison Baker, Laura Ercoli, Diane Lydiksen, Micheal Magnotta  
2. Mr. Strumello: disappointed in the lack of male teachers participating in the esy program
- D. Resignations  
1. Dawn Llalave  
a. Paraeducator  
b. Seymour Middle School  
c. Effective May 15, 2026  
2. Carly Bomba  
a. Food Service Worker  
b. Seymour Middle School  
c. Effective May 18, 2026
- E. School Events  
1. Chatfield-LoPresti School  
2. Bungay Elementary School  
3. Seymour Middle School  
4. Seymour High School

## X. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Board of Education Comments  
1. Chairman's Comments – **Ms. Bruno** expressed excitement to celebrate the district's graduates and noted, as Mr. Stanek often states, that this is the most important meeting of the year. She thanked all those who participated in celebrating students, and extended appreciation to Dr. Compton and the administration for

their efforts during Friday's visit, noting their ability to organize the event successfully on short notice as commendable.

2. Board Member Comments

**Mr. Strumello** shared that he was fortunate to attend the moving-up ceremonies at Bungay Elementary School and CLS. He commented on the wide range of professions students expressed interest in pursuing and humorously noted that only two students mentioned wanting to become teachers.

**Mr. Hatfield** commended students and staff for their participation in Friday's event, noting that students exemplified the characteristics of Seymour. He highlighted how well students spoke in front of a cabinet member and praised their strong representation of the town. He also noted the enthusiasm of middle school students and requested that the Board review the kindergarten registration process, specifically the transition from preschool to kindergarten, to explore opportunities for streamlining.

**Ms. Nespoli** shared that she was fortunate to attend Friday's event and praised the administration and students for their efforts, expressing pride that Seymour was able to host such an experience. She extended congratulations and best wishes to graduating middle school and high school students.

B. Superintendent Report

**Dr. Compton** reported that the moving-up ceremonies at CLS and Bungay were outstanding. She noted that the middle school ceremony would take place the following morning, with Seymour High School graduation scheduled for that evening, both of which hold special significance.

She also reflected on Friday's Superintendent's Roundtable, during which she had the opportunity to speak about the importance of federal funding. She shared that she engaged with Congressman Perkins and emphasized the importance of maintaining existing federal grant programs and ensuring they are not altered in ways that would negatively impact students. Dr. Compton noted that she would welcome future opportunities to serve as a voice in support of federal educational funding.

Overall, she described the visit as highly successful and expressed pride in the students, particularly noting that both the high school and middle school students represented the district exceptionally well. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of teaching students how to respectfully disagree.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

YouTube Link (6/15/2026): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMGMzy6BHb8>

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Seymour Middle School.

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk