

# Seymour Board of Education SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2026  
Board of Education Central Office  
6:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/29/26  
TIME: 11:09 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno, Board Chair  
Kristen Harmeling, Board Secretary  
Stephan Behuniak  
Pete Kubik  
Jay Hatfield

Board Members Absent: Chris Champagne  
Lori Nespoli  
Jim Garofolo

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. 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 public comment.

## III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools (may be discussed in Executive Session)

1. Consider that the Seymour Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. I further move that the following individual(s) be invited to attend the Executive Session:

- Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Compton provided an overview of her annual goals, performance review, and reflections on the 2025–2026 school year. She expressed pride in the district's accomplishments and highlighted several areas of success and future focus.

Dr. Compton shared her interest in organizing a Board of Education retreat, potentially in August, which may include district administrators. In addition to continuing to focus on student achievement, she emphasized the importance of reviewing and updating Board of Education policies and bylaws.

She announced that Seymour Public Schools has been accepted into a New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation cohort. This three-year accreditation process included a training session on June 5, attended by approximately sixteen administrators and staff members. Dr. Compton noted that the NEASC goals will be integrated into the district's Strategic Plan and align closely with the development of the district's Vision of a Graduate initiative. She anticipates several related projects may be completed by December.

Dr. Compton also discussed the need to develop a comprehensive five-year facilities plan. She suggested reviewing the Town's long-term planning efforts and noted that the Board will need to prioritize facility-related projects in the coming years.

An update was provided on the turf field project, which remains on schedule and is expected to be completed within the next several weeks. Dr. Compton noted that the condition of the high school track has become increasingly apparent and should be considered a future priority. Ms. Bruno suggested exploring whether funding generated through the solar project could potentially assist with track improvements.

Dr. Compton highlighted the district's outstanding year in athletics, citing numerous championships and postseason successes across multiple sports programs. She credited Athletic Director Cathy Federowicz, coaches, student-athletes, and the strong school spirit at Seymour High School for the continued success of the district's athletic programs. She also recognized the accomplishments of the middle school baseball and softball programs.

She further noted the many events and recognition ceremonies attended throughout the year, including the Seymour High School Athletic Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Hall of Fame, and Lifetime Achievement Award ceremonies, all of which showcased the many accomplishments occurring throughout the district.

### **Academic Highlights**

Dr. Compton reported that the district experienced a strong academic year across all schools.

Bungay Elementary School was recognized for its exceptional year, citing strong leadership, dedicated teachers, positive school culture, and student achievement.

Chatfield-LoPresti School (CLS) has maintained its status as a School of Distinction for the past three years, with anticipation surrounding this year's results.

The district successfully navigated leadership transitions, including the interim principal at CLS and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction position. Dr. Compton expressed confidence that the newly appointed CLS principal and assistant principal at Bungay School will be outstanding additions to the district.

Seymour Middle School demonstrated significant growth in mathematics. While sixth-grade performance remains an area of focus, administration has developed plans to strengthen both academic and behavioral supports.

Seymour High School continues to excel academically, earning recognition through U.S. News & World Report rankings and strong Advanced Placement performance. Dr. Compton reported that 41 students earned AP Scholar recognition, including Bronze and Silver distinctions. She highlighted student acceptances to Harvard, Yale, and Princeton Universities as evidence that Seymour students are well-prepared for success at the highest levels. She noted that the district remains committed to increasing academic rigor through curriculum alignment efforts currently underway under the leadership of Mr. Olechna.

Dr. Compton thanked the Board for its support throughout the budget process and acknowledged the efforts of Board members, including Ms. Bruno and Ms. Harmeling, whose advocacy helped communicate the district's needs to the community.

### **Review of Goals and Performance Report**

Dr. Compton reviewed her annual evaluation, goals, and performance report, highlighting several accomplishments:

Student Council meetings will continue to be scheduled in both the fall and spring.

The district successfully piloted a Credit Recovery Program for students requiring additional support toward graduation requirements.

The program was facilitated during the school day through teacher supervision and online instructional platforms.

The PAWS Program will be implemented for freshmen and sophomores experiencing behavioral challenges, utilizing an integrated approach that includes counseling and support services while leveraging existing staffing resources.

The ABA classroom was relocated to improve efficiency and functionality of the program.

School Climate Plans are being developed using student and staff survey data collected during the current school year.

Ms. Bruno asked whether the district is seeing positive outcomes from the recently adopted literacy curriculum. Dr. Compton responded that while results are still emerging, the curriculum has proven to be a worthwhile investment. She emphasized that explicit phonics instruction remains a critical component of literacy development and is supported by research. She noted that the district continues to utilize a balanced literacy approach while strengthening foundational reading skills.

Ms. Harmeling asked whether the curriculum deemphasizes phonics instruction. Dr. Compton clarified that the curriculum reinforces phonics-based instruction and returns greater focus to foundational reading skills.

Dr. Compton also highlighted several successful community engagement initiatives, including: Kindness Day, Athletic Pep Rally, Trunk or Treat, Awards Banquets, District Advisory and Support (DAS) Meetings, Teacher of the Year Selection Process. Board of Education Awards Ceremony

She noted that the district should consider developing a unified district logo to strengthen branding and identity.

Dr. Compton reported maintaining strong collaborative relationships with fellow Valley superintendents through both virtual and in-person meetings. She also shared plans to attend a conference in Houston, Texas, in September.

**Additional accomplishments included:**

Establishment of the Seymour Middle School Junior National Honor Society.

Exploration of expanded services for gifted learners through the SRBI process.

Ms. Harmeling expressed a preference for focusing on differentiation strategies rather than developing a traditional gifted and talented program. Ms. Bruno suggested exploring partnerships with community mentors as a potential avenue for enrichment opportunities.

Dr. Compton reported that job descriptions throughout the district will be updated. Ms. Harmeling emphasized the importance of ensuring that job descriptions accurately reflect current responsibilities and expectations.

Ms. Harmeling inquired about professional development opportunities related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), including training for staff and the need to establish secure technology infrastructure to support AI use within the district.

Ms. Bruno stated that she would like the Board to have increased opportunities for engagement and communication with district leaders, including Mr. Dyer, Mr. Connors, and Mr. Pelosi.

In closing, Dr. Compton expressed gratitude for her administrative team and the support of the Board of Education. She stated that she believes the district had an excellent year and requested consideration of a one-year contract extension. She shared her desire to remain with Seymour Public Schools and expressed hope that she will have the opportunity to see the new Bungay School completed and opened before eventually retiring.

**MOTION:** (Jay Hatfield / Stephan Behuniak) moved that the Seymour Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment, performance, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik

**PASSES:** 5-0-0

The board entered Executive Session at 7:46 PM.

The board exited the Executive Session at 8:28 PM.

No action was taken.

**IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**A. Board of Education Comments**

1. Chairman's Comments - none
2. Board Member Comments - none

**B. Superintendent Report - none**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk