

Seymour Board of Education



SPECIAL BOE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2019
Seymour Middle School
6:00 p.m.

COMBINED MEETING OF THE SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield
Jennifer Magri
Ed Strumello
Sukhman Singh, Student Representative
Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Edward Hendricks
Peter Kubik
Fred Stanek

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Michelle Esteves-Pinho, SHS
Sarah Gagaza
Quinn Lousbury
Mike Starkey
Dzenita Muhovic
Mahad Khan
Dibran Trepca
Kaya Banka

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Magri called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:38 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. **INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

A. Informal Discussion between the Seymour Board of Education and the Seymour High School Student Council

Ms. Magri explained that the Student Council is meeting with the Board for a second time this year and again it will be an informal discussion between the Board and the members of the student council. Dibran Trepca spoke about the high school newsletter that was started this year. Ms. Magri commented that she reads it and said she would like them to "mix it up" a bit. Dibran said they are thinking about doing ads. Mr. Strumello said that might be tough to do and Ms. Harmeling said there are some policies concerning this. Ms. Magri said she would like to see the newspaper shared with more people and asked that a link be posted on our Facebook page.

Dibran spoke about a livestream to be broadcast to the TV's in each classroom. It would include the morning announcements and be done every Monday. Another student asked about extending the privilege of not taking finals if you have an average of above 90 to all students instead of just juniors and seniors. This would be especially good for classes that have mixed grades. Maybe finals can be replaced with some type of project. The students asked how this was put in place for juniors and seniors and Mr. Freund explained it has been in place for a very long time, even before he came to Seymour High School. The Student Council reported that they have been meeting with the younger students to discuss Capstone and have found that many students would prefer to do internships. They suggested that the guidance department come up with a list of open internships to make it easier for students to apply to them. They reported that the play will be April 26-27. There are several senior boys who plan on participating in the Mr. Seymour contest this year. Another suggestion was to compile a list of former SHS students who can be contacted when a student would like to visit colleges. Ms. Esteves-Pinho said this information is available in the guidance department. Mr. Strumello talked about increasing the requirements for physical education. Right now, it is a pass/fail situation. He also asked the students why more kids don't attend athletic events. The students said it is mainly because of the amount of homework they have or getting friends to go with them. Someone suggested a punch card that would allow for free admission after attending x number of games. The students reported that the vandalism in the bathrooms seems to be a little bit better. There was a conversation regarding vaping and the Board said it is not just a Seymour problem; it is a statewide problem. They reminded them that they should encourage their friends not to Vape because it is not healthy and not safer than smoking. Ms. Magri talked about the See Something Say Something presentation and encouraged them to say something whenever they see something that makes them uncomfortable. Dibran said that they are working on bringing in a guest speaker. Mr. Wilson thanked the students for attending tonight's meeting and said March is Board Appreciation month. In honor of that, he brought cupcakes for the Board and shared them with the students as they closed out the meeting.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Strumello/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Magri, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk