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Seymour Board of Education

NUTRITION, HEALTH, & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 6, 2019
Seymour Middle School
6:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Champagne
Edward Hendricks
Fred Stanek (6:35 pm)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Cynthia Brooks
Richard Kearns
Bernadette Hamad
James Freund
David Olechna

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Hendricks called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:31 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Unpaid Meal Balances Update – Ms. Cindy Brooks

Mrs. Brooks reported to the committee that as of Friday a total of \$2,540 was owed to the lunch program. She said Seymour Middle School had the majority of the debt with a couple of families having very large outstanding debt. She has met with one family and informed them non-payment could result in her 8th grade child not being able to walk in the promotion ceremony. The parent said she would try to get it caught up. Mrs. Brooks said they send home notices every week. She has put a notice on the menus saying your child may receive an alternative lunch if outstanding debt is not paid. Dr. Hendricks said this is a bill that parents owe and we have tried to work with parents to get the bills paid. Mrs. Brooks said one family applied for and qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch so their bill will not go any higher but the balance is still their responsibility. Mr. Champagne asked if the students could be prohibited from participating in field trips. All agreed they did not want to punish the child because a parent hasn't paid. Mr. Stanek asked what the average amount owed was. Mrs. Brooks said they have two siblings who owe \$187 and \$410 but the majority of the debt is around \$18 to \$20. Dr. Hendricks confirmed that the Board attorney said the parents are liable and are there any legal recourse for the Board of Education. There was a discussion about small claims court but with the legal fees it would probably not be feasible. The Board will continue to send letters home to the parents asking them for payment. Dr. Hendricks said he will write the letter. Mrs. Brooks asked about middle school and high school students getting a cheese sandwich and the committee agreed that they would rather not do this at this time.

- B. See Something Say Something – Mr. Rich Kearns
Dr. Hendricks said the Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed and Ok'd by the Board Attorney. Ms. Harmeling said she has had input from parents who wondered how students who are not allowed to use their cell phones in school will be able to use the app. Mr. Kearns explained that in an emergency situation where students are being evacuated from a building, they can use their cell phones. Students can always use their cell phone after hours. If they know of a situation they can go to administration or guidance instead of using the app. Dr. Hendricks said he attended the presentation and thought it was really good. Ms. Harmeling expressed her concerns regarding how Sandy Hook Promise used us. She had a problem with a mailing that went out where the subject line was Another School Shooting Averted. She also said they quoted one of our employees. She said she didn't think they should do this because it's not about them but about the kids. Dr. Hendricks said he would have a conversation with them. Mr. Kearns suggested this be discussed in executive session because there is more to the story.
MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Stanek) to send to the full Board for approval for the Seymour Public Schools to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Sandy Hook Promise to implement the See Something Say Something Anonymous Report App

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 3-0

- C. Grants
1. CPR Grant and Training – Mr. Rich Kearns
Mr. Kearns reported that we have 95 or 97 employees certified in CPR with Mr. Kearns and Ms. Bennett certifying 72 of those. We received \$1500 from PMA. These courses were offered to everyone including the Board of Education members. Mr. Kearns continues to certify people in CPR saying he can do this at any time.
 2. Additional Grant Opportunities
Mr. Kearns said he is always looking for grants. He has the BMX shows lined up for the elementary schools and the X Games Show for the high school. He has received grants for a drug prevention program and a safe driving program. Mr. Kearns said he promotes each show when the event draws near.
- D. Vaping in Schools
1. Seymour High School – Jim Freund
Mr. Freund hosted an Administrative Round Table recently where the topic was Vaping Prevention and Discipline. Prevention starts with education, kids are more likely to respond to information regarding the negative health impact of vaping. With regard to discipline, each valley school handles it a little differently. Ansonia/Derby issues a summons or a \$50 to \$100 ticket and suspends a student for 10 days. For THC the vape becomes paraphernalia in which case the student is arrested, suspended for 10 days and expelled. Seymour suspends for five days. There was a discussion on supervision and he found that in most schools the SRO and security guards patrol the hallways. In Seymour we have two monitor paraprofessionals one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Mr. Freund feels we need to be stricter and feels that we are deficient in supervision. Mr. Freund talked about the long term health impact of vaping. The oil that is used in a Vape pen contain heavy metal and toxins and stay in the lungs permanently. The long term health ramifications are unknown.
 2. Seymour Middle School – Bernadette Hamad
Mrs. Hamad said vaping is not a huge problem in the middle school. They have experienced two situations where the parents bought the vapes for the students. They were confiscated and returned to the parents. The health curriculum for 7th grade includes a section on vaping. We will expand that to the 8th grade curriculum.
- E. Traffic Congestion at Schools – Christopher Champagne
Mr. Champagne said traffic continues to be an issue. Coming down Skokorat took quite some time. He wondered if there is anything we can do with the back lot. At CLS, the parents use the

teacher's lot and the problem is the school was not designed to handle the number of parents who drop their kids off. In fact all of our schools are overwhelmed with parents dropping their kids off rather than sending them on the bus. We have experienced several accidents in our lots. Dr. Hendricks suggested we talk with our bus company. CLS has a good system but there are just too many kids being driven to school. Mr. Olechna said that his staff does a good job of keeping the traffic moving.

F. Breakfast in Elementary School Classrooms – Christopher Champagne

He said that at the last meeting it was decided that Mr. Wilson would look into what we can do about kids eating breakfast in the classroom. Mr. Wilson reported that he did look into this and found that having kids eat in the classroom is the most efficient way to get the kids fed and no change will occur at this time.

IV. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

Dr. Hendricks reported that he has written a resolution to present to the Town regarding an ordinance prohibiting the sale of vaping products to minors in Seymour and he will present it to the full Board for approval.

MOTION: (Dr. Hendricks/sec., Mr. Champagne) to send for approval of the Board of Education of Seymour Public Schools a proposal to ask the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Seymour to consider and act upon a resolution that an Ordinance entitled "Sale of Tobacco and Vaping Products to Persons under Twenty One (21) Years of Age Prohibited".

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 3-0

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Mr. Stanek) to adjourn

SO VOTED

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Stanek

MOTION PASSES: 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk