

Seymour Board of Education REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2020
Seymour Middle School
7:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Bruno
Christopher Champagne
James Garofolo
Kristen Harmeling
Jay Hatfield (7:40 pm)
Peter Kubik
Beth Nesteriak
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative
Zachary Braca, Student Representative
Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, SMS
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS
David Olechna, Principal, CLS
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS
Paul Roy
Fatima Silva

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Introductions

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Recognitions
 - 1. Thank you to the Seymour Middle School Cafeteria staff for their outstanding effort in making the December 20 Holiday lunch for the students a festive time.

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 Chairman is able to answer those questions may be addressed under the Chairmen's Report portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and be no longer than two minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

Fatima Silva 4 Elmwood Drive, Seymour – voiced her concern regarding how her years of service was calculated by the State. She also voiced a concern on how Central Office has handled her complaint regarding her retirement check.

Paul Roy, 80 Washington Avenue, Seymour – As president of the Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Roy thanked those Board members who attended the last SHSHOF banquet. He asked the Board of Education to reconsider not issuing certificates to the SHSHOF Class of 2018.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Special BOE Organizational Meeting – December 10, 2019
 - 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2019
 - 3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes - December 12, 2019
- B. Nutrition Services Financial Report – November, 2019
- C. Staff Hiring – Certified
 - 1. DeLoma, Jaclyn
 - Library Media Specialist
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - Replacing Carrie Stepeck
- D. Staff Hiring – Non Certified
 - 1. Oddo, Lindsay
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Bungay Elementary School
 - New Position

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) move to approve the consent agenda with Item IV A3 Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2019 removed

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

V. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Stanek asked that Item IV A3 Special BOE Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2019 removed from the consent agenda. He would like the minutes to be changed to reflect that he did not abstain but instead he refused to participate because he had issues with how the meeting was conducted.

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting with the changes requested by Mr. Stanek

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- A. BOE Committees

Mr. Strumello said this was a challenge to do just as it has been for any chairperson in the past but he is happy he was able to give each Board member their first choice and either their 2nd or 3rd choice. He thanked Mr. Stanek for choosing only one committee and Ms. Bruno for accepting the recommendations made for her.

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board of Education for the appointment of members for the standing BOE Sub committees as presented

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

B. Add to Agenda

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to add to the agenda

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to make official the hiring of Jenny Ames as an Assistant Coach of the High School Indoor track team as tentatively approved by the Board of Education at the Electronic Meeting of December 12, 2019

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

VII. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. HS Student Representative Report – Miss Sirowich, Mr. Braca

Mr. Braca reported that the Spanish Club decorated the hallways with Mexican Folk art for the Papel Picado event. Miss Sirowich reported that boys basketball are 0-4 with a game tomorrow against Kennedy. Girls basketball is 2-3, indoor track has already gotten multiple state qualifiers and is hope to get in the top 2 of NVLs. Boys swimming is 0-0, and the first meet is tomorrow. Midterms will start next week, Play Clue will be on Janaury24 and 25. Tickets go on sale next week. National Honor society is hosting a winter dance in February. There will be ski trip to Magic Mountain on February 1. The student council is looking into hosing a blood drive at the high school. FBLA is preparing for the competition which is quickly approaching. Students will be choosing what events they will compete in. Mr. Strumello asked if the swim season is long this year and Miss Sirowich confirmed it was.

B. Board of Education Report

1. Chairperson Comments

Mr. Strumello said there has been discussion downtown regarding moving Central Office to the high school. He expressed concerns about the safety of the students and how the building needed to be reconfigured so people visiting central office would not have access to the rest of the building. He asked the Board's opinion about who should handle this discussion, should it be the facilities committee, the full Board, or the Chairperson? Mr. Garofolo suggested forming a small committee to discuss specific needs. There was also some discussion regarding the cost of the renovations. Mr. Stanek said he was in favor of this move and felt it was long overdue. He said he felt the Board should not be finding out about this through minutes. We should be collaborating on this and other issues. In the future, the Board of Selectman should let the Board of Education know. Ms. Harmeling asked if this was included in this budget year and she felt it should be a town expense.

Mr. Wilson said if the building is sold, the proceeds should come to the Board of Education. Mr. Strumello said the minutes said \$135,000 is set aside and that is not correct. Mr. Strumello said he has asked that Mr. Wilson put the items he will be discussing on his Superintendents report on the agenda. He felt this is a positive change.

2. Board Member Comments

Ms. Harmeling said she felt the Sports Hall of Fame was wonderful but wondered if there is any representation from the Board of Education on the committee. Mr. Roy said there is not. Ms. Harmeling said she felt there should be some representation from the Board and from the high school since they are putting this in our high school. Mr. Roy said there is no limit on who is on the committee. As long as they attend the meetings, they can make suggestions and vote. He said in fact they are always looking for new members and new ideas. Open to anyone; they do not need to be a resident or a Seymour graduate. The meetings are the first Monday of the month which conflicts with the BOE meeting schedule.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to add to the agenda a discussion regarding the Seymour High School Hall of Fame Class of 2018 resolutions

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

Mr. Stanek explained that the certificates are the resolution that is passed by the Board. Ms. Dauerty takes care of putting them in certificate form for the banquet. Ms. Harmeling asked about the wording and Mr. Stanek said he would share this with her. Mr. Hatfield said we have done this every year and he is in favor of doing this to bridge this gap. Mr. Strumello reminded the Board that it was not done for the class of 2018 because there was a concern about one of the recipients. The Board of Education decided not to give the certificates-resolution this year (class of 2018) because of this. Mr. Champagne questions why it was decided to skip the whole class if the problem was with just one person. Mr. Strumello said the BOE had the issue with an employee and did not want to give accolades to someone who didn't fit the reasoning behind the honor. Mr. Roy explained that the criteria is achievement in high school; maybe a person is not stellar in life but should be recognized for their accomplishments in high school. He said he felt that class deserves the recognition from the Board of Education and asked the BOE to reconsider. Mr. Hatfield felt that the resolution doesn't do any more than to compliment the inductees. Mr. Stanek said he agrees with Mr. Roy. Mr. Roy said Mr. Lang never played sports in school but was given a special recognition for the contributions he has made to the athletic community of Seymour.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to recognize the Class of 2018

Ms. Harmeling said the decision was made and now less than a year later we are going to change it? She reiterated that plaques should not be going up on the wall in our high school without input from the BOE and the administration of the high school. There was some discussion regarding how other schools handled their hall of fame. Mr. Freund said there are plans in the works for an academic hall of fame also. Ms. Bruno said she would like that extended to the arts also. Ms. Bruno said she has concerns about revisiting the decision regarding the class of 2018 with no new information or having the information from the time the decision was made.

Mr. Stanek said it was not a vote; the chairperson at the time made the decision. Mr. Hatfield had done some research and found that the hall of fame was discussed at an athletic committee meeting in August, 2010 and must have been approved sometime after that. Mr. Hatfield made a motion to postpone the discussion on the class of 2018 until the March 2nd BOE meeting.

No second was made.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Hatfield) to issue resolutions to the 2018 Class of Seymour High School Sports Hall of Fame

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stanek

OPPOSED: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak

ABSTAIN: Mr. Strumello

MOTION FAILED: 3-5-1

C. Superintendent Report – Mr. Wilson

1. Happy New Year

On behalf of all the Administrators, Teachers, and Staff, Mr. Wilson wished everyone a Happy and Healthy 2020.

2. Budget Retreat hosted by the Town

In December Mr. Wilson, Ms. Tencza, and Ms. Holmes attended the third annual Budget Retreat hosted by First Selectman Miller. At this meeting, all town budgets were presented and addressed. All stakeholders got the opportunity to hear the needs of the various departments. They also got to hear from some of our vendors (insurance and liability carriers) in order for them to let us know where we were and what we needed to budget for the upcoming year. Also discussed, was the possibility of moving the Board of Education Office to the High School.

3. Facebook Update

We have just over 1600 followers on Facebook

4. Annual community meeting hosted by BOE

Date to be announced for a community meeting about BOE share out topics such as budget, technology, security, food services, facilities, and curriculum.

5. Tentative last day of school

As of today, Mother Nature has given us two snow days, which places our tentative last day of school as June 11

6. Budget process discussed for January 7

Mr. Wilson, Ms. Holmes, and Ms. Tencza have worked hard on creating the budget to recommend to the BOE. A copy of this budget has been passed along to the Board of Education for your review. Board members were able to review this document and ask any questions that they had. All questions have been reviewed, answered, and sent back to all Board members. We are looking forward to our Budget discussion tomorrow evening.

7. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Tencza have continued to be visible in our schools in order to witness all of the hard work and dedication of both our teachers and our students.

8. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Holmes served lunch on December 20 for the students at SMS and had a great time doing so. Also, the SHS band members did a fantastic job performing for the students.

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. Activities and Recognitions
 - 1. Seymour Middle School
 - 2. Bungay Elementary School
 - 3. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle
- C. Staff Hiring – Appendix E
 - 1. Dingle, Amanda
 - Advisor, Art Club
 - Seymour Middle School
 - New Position
- D. Staff Resignations (Retirement) – Certified
 - 1. Garlock, Nancy
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Seymour Middle School
 - Effective June 30, 2020

Mr. Stanek recognized Ms. Garlock as a member of his Seymour graduating Class of 1972 and acknowledged her as a wonderful teacher.
- E. Staff Resignations – Non Certified
 - 1. Johnson, Suzanne
 - Instructional Paraprofessional
 - Seymour High School
 - Effective January 2, 2020

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*A. Contract Reopeners

**It is anticipated that the asterisked items will be discussed in Executive Session from which the public will be excluded*

Mr. Stanek objected to the proposed wording of the motion for executive session. Ms. Harmeling said she did not understand why the item was entitled contract reopeners and did not know the intent. Mr. Wilson explained that we need to discuss the contract of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst as well as the Associate Superintendent's contract as it ends in June, 2020. Mr. Wilson said the nature of the discussion is confidential and apologized for the error in the language of the proposed motion and suggested that the BCBA piece should be discussed.

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to enter Executive Session to discuss the contracts of the Superintendent, the Associate Superintendent and the Board Certified Behavior Analyst. The Board invites Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Tencza into executive session.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

OPPOSED: Mr. Hatfield

MOTION PASSES: 8-1

Enter Into Executive Session: 8:43pm

Enter Regular Session: 9:27pm

X. POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: (Mr. Hatfield/sec., Mr. Champagne) approve the contract of Victoria Williams, Board Certified Behavior Analyst for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

MOTION PASSES: 9-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk