

# Seymour Board of Education SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

January 7, 2020  
Seymour Middle School  
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 1/14/2020  
TIME: 1:00pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

## BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kristen Bruno  
Christopher Champagne  
James Garofolo  
Peter Kubik  
Beth Nesteriak  
Fred Stanek  
Ed Strumello

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield  
Kristen Harmeling

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
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  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. 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.**

### III. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Budget Presentation – Mr. Michael Wilson, Ms. Sherry Holmes

Mr. Wilson explained that this is a discussion meeting which will give the Board of Education the opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding the 2020-21 Board of Education budget. He thanked everyone who worked on the budget including the administrators who kept their requests reasonable. He acknowledged that this is hard work but we have been able to present a respective budget. One driving factor is the insurance. The vendor has proposed a 20% increase which is astronomical. It impacts our budget greatly. Mr. Wilson reviewed the budget "cliff notes" to inform the Board of budget requests from each school. Seymour High School – 1) Two Monitor Paraprofessionals to cover the media center during the day as well as at the end of the day to monitor student athletes, 2) Music teacher is going from 0.4 to 0.8 in order to offer more music electives, 3) \$2500 placed in the professional services line item to cover the cost of teachers who

will be paid to grade Capstone projects. Seymour Middle School – 1) One special education teacher to help with the growing number of special education students. Bungay School 1) one instructional paraprofessional to help with the REACH room and other special education students in the school. Chatfield-LoPresti School – 1) the art teacher will go from 0.6 to 1.0 in order to cover all unified arts blocks. Special Education 1) Adding a 0.5 Assistant Special Education Director. This will be done using a teacher on special assignment. Mr. Garofolo asked if this overall budget in any way diminishes the status quo, does it represent progress or regression. Mr. Wilson said he respects the Board's opinion and he feels this budget represents progress and at the end of the school year the progress will be shown in the areas of more electives, arts, Capstone, and better ability to meet Special Education service hours. Mr. Champagne wondered about the pulse from downtown. Mr. Wilson said they are timid and may kick our number down a bit. He said we need to advocate for our administrative team, we cannot just maintain the status quo. Ms. Bruno asked about the inclusion facilitator and how that will differ from the Assistant Director. Dr. Boyle explained the inclusion facilitator does not require a 092 and focuses attention on the functional skills/life skills classes. The Assistant Director will be able to facilitate PPTs and assist the Director of Special Services with evaluations. Mr. Stanek pointed out he felt the legal costs were quite high and suggested an RFP be done. Mr. Garofolo talked about past initiatives such as the software to shut down copiers and printers at a cost of \$42,000. He said the Board was never updated on the savings that this incurred. He also voiced his concerns on the number of copies students and teachers are making. He suggested each FOB be assigned a specific number of copies each month and the copier would no longer respond after that number is reached. Mr. Wilson said the problem with the copier costs is the overage charges and when we go out for bid, we will be looking for the lowest overage charges. Ms. Bruno pointed out that teachers spend a lot of their own money for supplies and so forth. Ms. Nesteriak asked about capital expenses and how they work. Mr. Wilson explained that the Town will finance our large projects and we pay them back over time. We cannot do large capital projects without this partnership with the Town. Ms. Nesteriak also asked about electric and heating. Mr. Wilson said the Johnson Controls project should offer savings in this area. She asked about the certified staff payroll at the end of the year, Ms. Holmes explained this was a timing issue regarding when the check were issued. Ms. Bruno asked if the SRBI is equitable at each elementary school and Mr. Wilson said yes and they continually monitor this. Ms. Bruno also noted there was no assistant athletic director in this budget. Mr. Wilson said that is correct and we will need to see how it goes. He said it is tough to justify an assistant since we have never had one in the past and the cost is \$13,000. Mr. Freund reminded the Board that in the past the Athletic Director/Assistant Principal model was not successful. He said the union would not support one administrator doing both jobs and it would support an Assistant Athletic Director position. Mr. Champagne said he was worried that we would go backward without the Assistant AD. Mr. Stanek reminded the Board that the whole state is in a budget crisis. Ms. Bruno said she would support an Assistant Athletic Director for one more year. Mr. Champagne asked if we felt we were thinking creatively in Special Education in order to cut costs. Mr. Wilson said we are looking at it but we are not going to see real savings this year. Mr. Strumello asked about shared services for all towns in the valley. Ms. Holmes reminded the Board that we share transportation costs for special education whenever we can. Ms. Nesteriak said she would like to try and absorb the cost of an Assistant Athletic Director in this budget. Mr. Garofolo made a motion to pass the budget as presented but no one seconded the motion.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the Superintendent's recommended 2020-21 education budget with the of \$ 35,366,381 which represents an increase of \$1,219,989 (3.57%) as presented

Mr. Champagne felt were nickel and diming over \$13,000 and the Assistant Athletic Director should be added to the budget.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Bruno) to amend the motion

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek)

**MOTION PASSES:** 4-3

**AMENDED MOTION:** (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the Superintendent's recommended 2020-21 education budget the of \$35,379.381 which represents an increase of \$1,221,343 (3.58%) which includes the addition of the Assistant Athletic Director position

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Stanek)

**MOTION PASSES:** 4-3

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alison Brett, 11 Stanley Drive, Seymour – Wanted more information on how the new administrator/teacher position would work. She would like more information and wondered if a 092 was needed.

Jim Freund, President of Administrators Union – reminded the Board that the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position was stricken from the new Administrators contract.

Alison Brett, 11 Stanley Drive, Seymour – Thanked the Board for including the Assistant Athletic Director position in the new budget.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-0

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk