

# Seymour Board of Education

## SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

June 15, 2020  
Zoom  
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/18/20  
TIME: 5:45pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ashley Sirowich, Student Representative  
Zachary Braca, Student Representative  
Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Strumello called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. High School Graduation

Mr. Freund, Mr. Lucke, Mr. DiStasi, Mrs. Tencza, and Mr. Wilson sent the Board a letter outlining the possibly structure for a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020. He briefly described what the alternative ceremony would be. Mr. Stanek asked to have the proposed ceremonies presented to the Board. Mr. Freund developed a plan that includes four separation sections at one ceremony. The Naugatuck Valley Health and Police Department did not support this plan because although there were four separate sections it was still in one area and would not adhere to the state social distancing guidelines. Speakers are going to be on video and this will be the case no matter what plan is ultimately selected. They also worked on a plan for four different groups to have a ceremony separately. There will be a video montage between each ceremony acknowledging the graduates, sending good wishes and good luck messages. The separate ceremonies will accommodate 40 students and two parents. Each group will be dismissed at the end of their ceremony. The class president will do the tassel turning ceremony. Mr. Freund stressed the importance of trying to give our students what they want whenever possible and he plans to meet with students again tomorrow. He noted students liked what Oxford did but because of our parking lots, we are faced with some physical obstacles. He said he is staying on top of everything and plans to be ready no matter what scenario is ultimately chosen. Mr. Stanek asked to hear from our student representatives. Miss Sirowich said she feels both plans are good plans in different ways. She said the students would like something like what Oxford did because it brings all the kids together for one last time. She also liked the ceremonies on the field better than the drive by option or the virtual option. Ms. Harmeling asked about the obstacles we face if we did a ceremony similar to Oxford's. Mr. Freund said it is not so much the materials because they can be moved, the biggest obstacle is that we don't have a large enough parking lot at the high school. He has checked out the middle school but the trees would be in the way of a clear view. Ms. Harmeling asked if we have checked around town for a venue. Mr. Freund said they have with no success.

Good Shepherd may be large enough as far as parking but there are problems with the view and Wi-Fi. Ms. Bruno asked about the possibility of using something in another town such as Nolan Field or the new Derby Facility. Mr. Strumello said he has been to the Derby facility and he feels parking would be a problem. Mr. Freund said the challenge of a movie drive in style of ceremony includes renting jumbo-trons and getting the support of police and Naugatuck Valley Health. If cars are parked together, streaming would be necessary. The advantage of having the ceremony on the field is that we would have the ability to stream. Mr. Strumello asked for a motion. Ms. Harmeling questioned the need for a motion since the Board has not been involved with deciding on the graduation ceremony in the past. She said as a Board member she feels no need to weigh in any further. It's a sad situation for our students.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mr. Kubik) to support the quadrisect plan as presented by Mr. Freund. Ms. Bruno asked if it was necessary to choose between the plans and she felt that we needed to be flexible regarding the numbers because it could change between now and July. Ms. Harmeling reminded the Board that Mr. Freund is meeting with the kids tomorrow and she encouraged the Board to let them do their thing. Mr. Stanek withdrew his motion saying a special meeting can be scheduled if it is needed to make a decision.

**MOTION RESCINDED:** Mr. Stanek, Mr. Kubik

Mr. Garofolo asked what the drop dead date is for a decision to be made. If we wait, how long can we wait? Mr. Freund said he has a stage and 250 chairs being delivered on July 9 and they will be configured however we decide; there is flexibility in the arrangements. Jumbo-trons need to be rented ASAP. Ms. Harmeling wanted to clarify that this decision does not have to come back to the Board for approval, we need to trust our Administration to make the right choices. This should only come back to the Board if no decision can be made. Mr. Freund said once again that the student's opinions are critical and they need a voice. He wants to hear their opinions, desires, and understanding. Mr. Strumello agreed with Ms. Harmeling. He asked Mr. Wilson to confirm that the materials can be moved if there is a need. Mr. Wilson confirmed the materials can be moved to another school and the company is well aware of this and have been notified.

B. School Survey

Ms. Harmeling reviewed the draft content of the survey for students, parents, and teachers that was discussed by the Survey Committee. Ms. Nesteriak thanked Ms. Harmeling for her review and asked what the plan is for the data we receive from the survey. She also asked if any decisions have been made regarding the fall. Mr. Strumello said he felt the data needed to be studied by education professionals. Mr. Wilson thanked the committee and applauded them for the work they have done on the survey. He said the plan is to look at the data and make decisions based on what we learn from the data. He said he believed the ad hoc committee should look at the data and administrators and teachers should also look at the data. It will be a data driven discussion. Mr. Champagne asked about the population and the expected response rate. Ms. Harmeling said she did not have the exact numbers but thought it would be about 150 students in each grade and 300-400 staff members but would involve teaching staff only. Mr. Strumello asked about the number of responses that would make the survey effective. Ms. Harmeling said there is no appropriate response rate, it really depends on how we use the data we receive. She said she thought 30-40% would be impressive. Ms. Bruno said she appreciated how comprehensive the questions were and thanked the committee for their work. She wanted to say the survey is about quality instruction and not an evaluation of our teachers. Mr. Hatfield said he thought the elementary students should also participate. Ms. Harmeling agreed but said they would have to consider which questions they are able to answer. But agreed that we should consider their input. Mr. Hatfield asked a follow up question but technical difficulties prevented the Board from hearing him. Ms. Harmeling said she will follow up with him after the meeting. Mr. Strumello told the Board that if they have input into the survey they should be in touch with him, Ms. Harmeling, or the Central Office team quickly so the survey is not delayed.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wilson explained that after the motion below was made and voted on, he would be sending a separate Zoom invitation to just the Board members to continue in Executive Session

\*A. Contracts

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Champagne) to discuss and take possible action on the contract of Administrative Assistants, Director of Food Services, Director of Security, School Security Officers, and Computer Technician for years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23. The Board invites Mr. Wilson into executive session.

Mr. Strumello polled the Board: Mrs. Bruno Y, Mr. Champagne Y, Mr. Garofolo Y, Ms. Harmeling Y, Mr. Hatfield Y, asked about the security of Executive Session, Mr. Wilson responded that the Board will receive a separate link to the Zoom meeting for Executive Session after the motion has been voted on. It is a confidential link. Mr. Kubik Y, Ms. Nesteriak Y, Mr. Stanek did not feel this motion was appropriate for executive session and there were logistical problems. He offered a change to the wording.

**RESCIND MOTION:** Mr. Kubik, Mr. Champagne

Mr. Stanek changed the proposed motion to:

**MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek) I move that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment of the Administrative Assistants, Director of Food Services, Director of Security, School Security Officers and Computer Technician for years 2020 - 2021, 2021 -2022 and 2022 - 2023 and to discuss the contractual time off for the Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent for the 2019 -2020 school year in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-225(f), 1-231 and 1-200(6)(A). I further move that the Board invite Superintendent Wilson to attend the Executive Session

**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

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

This meeting concluded at 8:19 pm

The Board returned to regular session at 9:50 pm

#### IV. **POSSIBLE ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) move the Board approve on a one time basis and not precedent setting, a carryover of 10 vacation days for the Superintendent and Associate Superintendent into the 2020-21 school year

**SO VOTED**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik, Mr. Strumello

**OPPOSED:** Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Hatfield, Ms. Nesteriak, Mr. Stanek

**MOTION FAILS:** 3-6

**MOTION:** (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Stanek) move the Board approve on a one time basis and not precedent setting, a carryover of 7 vacation days for the Superintendent and Associate Superintendent into the 2020-21 school year

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Champagne, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Kubik

**MOTION FAILS:** 4-5

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/no second) move the Board approve on a one time basis and not precedent setting, a carryover of 8 vacation days for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent into the 2020-21 school year

Mr. Garofolo - point of information - motion should state Associate Superintendent, not Assistant Superintendent

No vote was taken

#### V. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**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 10:13 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk