

Seymour Board of Education  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
August 17, 2020  
Zoom  
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 9/3/20  
TIME: 10:05 AM  
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:**

Michael Wilson, Superintendent of Schools  
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent  
Sherry Holmes, Business Manager  
Kris Boyle, Director of Special Services  
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk  
Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator  
Tim Connors, Director of Operations  
Cindy Brooks, Director of Nutrition  
Jim Freund, Principal, SHS  
Paul Lucke, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Ernie DiStasi, Assistant Principal, SHS  
Jodie Roden, Principal, SMS  
Kathleen Freimuth, Assistant Principal, SMS  
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, BS  
Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal, BS  
David Olechna, Principal, CLS  
Stacey Albertson, Assistant Principal, CLS

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Hatfield called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Hatfield took over the meeting as Mr. Strumello had technical difficulties that prevented him from running the meeting.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Please note: If you would like to have a public comment read into the minutes, please email your brief (300 words or less) comment along with your full name and address to [rdyer@seymourschools.org](mailto:rdyer@seymourschools.org) by no later than 7:15 pm on Monday, August 17, 2020.

Mr. Mike Rotatori - Hi. My name is Mike Rotatori. I live at 14 North Benham Road. I have just read the plan for going back to school. I am deeply concerned that my child will be exposed to the virus. The purpose of distance learning is so your child does not get exposed. Requiring kids to be in person for the first week defeats the purpose. There should be another option for parents that choose to keep their child home. Are you going to be responsible for my child catching the virus that week? Also, my child should get the same education from distance learning compared to the hybrid model. Why are you separating the two? Thanks, Mike

Tara Burn, 11 Amber Drive - I would like to thank the members of the reopening committee for their work on the plan. I do, however, have two concerns, regarding the number of students on buses and in the middle school lunch waves. I feel that 59 students on a bus, and 90 students in the lunchroom, are not conducive to social distancing. It simply is not safe to run buses and the lunchroom with that many students during a pandemic. Having the students sit at tables facing each other, without masks, could

cause the transmission of aerosols. Please find ways to lower the capacity of students on buses and lunch waves, and keep our children safe.

Christopher Del Sol - To Whom It May Concern, Given the hybrid model that Mr. Wilson has settled upon, many working families are going to need alternative schooling on the three days our children will not be physically present in school. In addition, our kids will continue to require socialization with their peers, which is so very important for their development. Learning pods and microschools have been in the news frequently, and it is my belief there may be many families in Seymour that are interested in these types of arrangements in lieu of the hybrid model outlined tonight, however, they may not all be able to connect via social media channels. **Please describe the plan** to facilitate connecting families (outside of us doing it on our own via facebook) that may be interested in forming full-time distance learning pods, or hybrid-learning pods to combine their resources to hire a tutor or teacher until life returns to normal?

Jody Gernstanhaber - Hi I have 2 questions regarding the plan that I think many parents may also have that perhaps can be answered/clarified in the meeting. One - if a student in group A is not able to attend in person on their scheduled day because of illness, appts, etc can they remote learn with Group B for that day and still get credit for attendance and work that day? Two - along the lines of question 1 - if a hybrid student will be absent from in person for an extended period of time because of illness, individual need to quarantine, etc will they be able to continue to remote learn with the hybrid remote groups in their class or will they be switched to full distance learning (therefore another teacher) during their absence? Thanks. Jodi

Kristi Chiamonte, 36 Davis Rd – Hi. Questions: If my family has a personal reason/schedule conflict for the in person school days my child is assigned to can we apply to be change to different in person days ie assigned to thurs/fri but need to go mon/tues for personal schedule reasons? How do you expect to get a good mix/diversity of children from segregating by bus route? Further how is the administration going to be able to get proper class numbers that way? Most towns seem to do alphabetical for more flexibility. Thank you

Lee Angelosek - Dear Board, Lee Angeloszek (SMS) This is a copy of a request letter from the Union regarding an Early Retirement Incentive this year for those deciding to retire due to Covid concerns. These are unprecedented times so perhaps you will kindly consider. My retirement of 34 years in Seymour is only due to health concerns with the pandemic. Here is the letter from the Union. Thank you.

Alexander Overkamp, 18 Cherry Street - I read the minutes from the last Board of meeting. It was deeply disturbing that all questions asked by either members of Board of Education or by the public were never answered. Is this protocol? Ms. Harmeling asked: "Who will choose what model? No answer given. (which model should be voted on by Board of Education who Seymour voted for) Mr. Champagne asked: "Who chose hybrid model?" Not answered. Just because Lamont operates without laws created and passed by legislature does not mean the Town of Seymour should have Superintendent decide on hybrid model with zero data provided nor should decision be made without a vote by Board of Education on ALL options. The committee that met last Monday had no discussion on 100% live model nor was there any discussion of data used to decide on hybrid. Per State of CT website re: travel advisory (not a law) The banned states are those with positive cases of 10 per 100,000. That equals one-hundredth of 1%. Is this the same criteria that will determine the shutting of our schools? There has been no discussion on data used to make decisions, why not? CT has crushed the curve, is this not relevant? Lamont said the other day that if any state can go 100% live school it is CT, let's do it (at least discuss option and vote). This process on school re-opening and the sham committee after the decision was already made to go to hybrid with the lack of a vote from the board until this part of the process makes me feel more and more like we have: TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Mike Rotatori, 14 N Benham Rd - My name is Mike Rotatori. I live at 14 N Benham Rd, Seymour, CT 06483. I have a comment for the meeting on reopening of schools in the fall. The current positivity rate in Connecticut is very low. As a parent of a immunocompromised child, I think it will be difficult to maintain and enforce social distancing and mask wearing. I hope that you will allow the parents to choose distance learning over a hybrid model. Thanks Mike

Nadia Napolitano, 5 Third Ave - Good morning, My name is Nadia Napoletano, address is 5 Third Ave in Seymour. My question is directed at Seymnoir Middle School - we are new to to the community, have submitted all required documentation to the registration office and want to know if and how we can opt for remote learning only for my 8th grade son, and if so, when is deadline? (Also, we need to be signed up for notices and information). Thank you, Nadia

### III. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### A. Reopening Plans for Fall 2020

##### 1. District Plan – Michael Wilson

Mr. Wilson thanked the members of the newly expanded Reopening Committee for all of their time and effort. He said he really enjoyed listening to all the content that was presented. He thanked them for attending this Board meeting and for their tireless work, suggestions and the content that was incorporated into the letter to parents. Mr. Wilson explained that the bus routes insure community. We have ten families that we are working on to resolve problems. All the bus routes are coming together and the Administration is working on the continuum of learning. Thank you to Mrs. Boyle for her work with the buses. Each administrator will present their plan and will hold Q&A sessions for their school. At the administrative retreat a recurring theme was how excited to have our students back.

- ##### 2. Elementary Schools – David Olechna, Mary Sue Feige, Staci Albertson, Lauren Reid
- Mr. Olechna talked about the collaborative plan between Chatfield-LoPresti School and Bungay School. Some parts of the plan will be different such as the layout of building. Curriculum will be the same in each school. Mr. Hatfield asked if the presentation can be screen shared and Mr. Dyer explained with all the people who are signed in and unidentified we run the risk of being “zoom bombed”. Ms. Harmeling said she would like to go forward, Mr. Kubik agreed. Mr. Hatfield asked if anyone objected and no one did. Mr. Dyer turned the screen share on. Mr. Olechna said many communications were sent to parents. Important updates were sent by email and phone messages. Information was included in the newsletters and parents were asked to read in order to stay informed. Mr. Olechna said school is different from what it was in March. He said they are working on a welcoming atmosphere and will focus on students managing stress and what they are feeling. We plan to celebrate the successes along the way. Attendance will be taken daily. Bus arrival/departure will have a procedure that will need to be followed by all. Students will stay on grade level and will enter the building by grade level. Parent drop off/pick up procedures will be communicated. Ms. Albertson said curriculum fits the hybrid model. Remote Learners will have assignments. Each class will begin with a morning meeting. The curriculum is from Teachers College. There will be in-house conferencing. Remote Learners and In-house students will follow the same daily schedule. There will be a five day rotation for Unified Arts, physical education will be outside whenever weather permits. All PPTs and 504 meetings will be held by video conference. Classrooms with students who have nut allergies will be a nut free environment and they have asked parents in those rooms not to send in lunches that contain nuts. Mrs. Feige said breakfast will be held in the classroom and students will be eating lunch at their desk. The playscape will be sanitized. There will be no birthday celebrations with food from home. No food from home will be allowed in the school. There will be minimal travel in the hallways, no water fountains but water bottle fillers will be available. There will be designated bathrooms for each cohort. Ms. Reid talked about minimized trips to the nurse. The nurses will have all the appropriate PPE. The nurse’s office will be cleaned and sanitized after each child. The nurses will wear facemasks. Recess will be outdoors and masks can be removed. Children will receive a brown paper bag to put their mask in. The classrooms are set up for social distancing as much as possible and the sharing of materials will be minimized whenever possible. Children will take home their Chromebooks home each night. They will be using Google classroom. We ask parents to wash the facemask daily. They are encouraged to take the child’s temperature each morning. We are asking that no non-essential items be brought to school. Ms. Bruno asked about cleaning the classroom of pre-k students in between the am and pm classes. Mr. Connors said the classroom will be

cleaned in between sessions; they will not be sanitized while children are there due to state regulations. Ms. Bruno asked if there was enough time to do this. Mr. Connors said there are two classrooms, three full time custodians and 45 minutes between sessions is more than enough time to clean. Ms. Bruno asked about additional support in the classroom since the teacher will be dealing with in class students and students at home. Mr. Olechna said there is no additional support in the classroom but para support may be available. Ms. Reid said teachers can check in with remote learners and partners will be used to engage students with mini lessons and short live videos. Ms. Albertson said a lot of visuals in K-5 will be used for in house students and remote learners. Mr. Champagne asked about attendance being taken several times a day and what measurement will be used. Mr. Olechna said attendance of remote learners would be used to make sure they are engaged and are doing their work. We will touch base and offering assistance. Mr. Champagne asked about lessons in reading and math. Ms. Albertson said reading and writing mini lessons would match the in-class lessons. In math, since students need to see the process, the teacher will be live and will show to how to work out the problem. Students will also work independently. Document cameras will be very useful. Teams will work to identify any potential problems. The Math Expressions Online platform will be used. Mr. Champagne asked what a document camera is. Ms. Reid explained this camera is like an old school overhead projector or a white board. You can place the manipulative on it and the teacher can work with it online. The advantage is it is very interactive and visual. When asked if we have them, Ms. Reid said Ms. Tencza and Mr. Dyer are working on this. Mr. Dyer confirmed they have been ordered and we are waiting for delivery. Mr. Dyer said delivery would probably be in the first or second week of September. He noted that everything is on backorder as there is a worldwide shortage of technology right now. He has been working with vendors and feels hopeful about the delivery happening in the first or second week of September. Mr. Champagne said he would like to hear more about what instruction will look like. Mr. Dyer said there will be double bandwidth for a one time installation fee. Mr. Garofolo asked what consideration in the event of a breakdown in technology. Are there spares and how will this be handled. Mr. Dyer said a lot of this is covered in the Q&A sessions that were posted earlier. He said we would maintain a good level of service. Every child will get a Chromebook and there are spares just not many. Whenever possible service will be remoted in. If a replacement will be needed, it will be placed in a plastic bag and left in the parking lot under the supervision of a technology staff member. The parent will switch out the computers and the returned one will be repaired if possible. Ms. Nesteriak asked how many students would be in the classroom and she was told there would be 12 students to 24 desks. There will be under 30 in the buses as of now but keep in mind some parents will pick up and drop off. Ms. Nesteriak asked if the bus routes would be changing. Mr. Wilson confirmed that this is being worked on to ensure social distancing. Ms. Reid reminded everyone that the bus information could be found on the website with Transfinder. Ms. Holmes said Ms. Boyle and Mr. Gardner are working to finalize the bus routes and accommodate the 10 families that have not yet been worked out. There will be 25-30 kids on each bus. Mr. Strumello said he had no questions and stated the thorough presentation matches the thoroughness of the plan. Mr. Champagne was concerned about shoulder-to-shoulder learning, much off time, and the huge juggling act between distance learning and in class. Ms. Harmeling said the shoulder-to-shoulder learning would be with masks on. Everything is being balanced. She said this was a great job so far. She understands there will be adjustments. Mr. Olechna said the teacher for full Distance Learning would not be teaching the hybrid model. Parents will need to let us know by 8/20 if they want to do full distance learning. If we do not hear from them, we will assume they are going to do the hybrid model. Ms. Bruno asked if the Distance Learning teacher would be Seymour staff. Mr. Olechna confirmed that it would be a teacher who is currently employed by either CLS or BES. Mr. Hatfield asked if an elementary school student who was doing distance learning and did their work later in the day, would the work count. Mr. Olechna confirmed that the student must attend during the

- school day at the scheduled times. Mr. Hatfield asked about distance learning and unified arts. Mr. Olechna said they would be receiving the same instruction as in-class learners.
3. Seymour Middle School – Jodie Roden, Kathleen Freimuth
- Ms. Roden spoke about sharing with the Board the same plan that was shared with parents today. She said we will be providing all levels of support for staff and students as guidance cannot be expected to take care of everything. They will be leaning on team leaders for additional support. Ms. Freimuth said everyone would have ownership. Ms. Roden talked about staff support and they will have a secret sunshine person who will make sure the staff is ok. Support will be consistent. The school will deal with social distancing with respect. There will be ongoing communication with the staff. There will be communications weekly with the parents and maybe a little more in the beginning. The whole school will read together. Ms. Freimuth said everyone has a role, students and staff. Everyone will need to respect the space for social distancing. Administrators and staff will model for the students. The whole goal is to keep students and staff safe. We may have to stagger start times; students will go directly to period one. There will be no lockers. The middle school will be cohorting students and students will travel class to class with their cohort. Unified Arts will be with cohorts. Everyone will be dismissed from Period 7. Dismissal will be two buses at a time. Parent pickup will be alphabetical. There will be three lunch waves with four students per table. Students will remove masks after getting their food. In between each lunch wave, there will be five minutes to clean. Ms. Freimuth said in academic classrooms, the student will have the same desk and students will be responsible for cleaning their area. Bathrooms can be used during classes but will be scheduled to avoid congregating in the bathroom. This was piloted last year. Attendance will be taken every day in class and distance learning. Ms. Roden said as we become acclimated to distance learning that our remote learners would be engaged. She reminded everyone that this might change as we go along. Again, the important thing is to keep students and staff safe. Ms. Freimuth spoke about the schedule that will be seven periods a day. Period times have been adjusted. Seven periods allow for Unified Arts classes for all students. The cafeteria will be spread out to 50% capacity and lunch will be 25 minutes long. This is an adequate time to eat and provides adequate time for custodians to clean. PPTs and 504 meetings will be virtual. There will be foot traffic signs. Ms. Bruno said the whole child approach is impressive. She is worried about distance learners. Ms. Freimuth said there are genuine concerns but they want their distance learners to be a part of everything. Mr. Champagne asked if five minutes is enough time to disinfect, Mr. Connors confirmed there are more custodians working and five minutes is enough time to clean (they will not be sanitizing while kids are in school per state guidelines). Mr. Garofolo commended Ms. Roden and Ms. Freimuth on a good presentation. Mr. Kubik said it was a good presentation. Mr. Strumello said he had no questions and state this was a solid presentation of a plan for the most unique of our students
4. Seymour High School – Jim Freud, Paul Lucke, Ernie DiStasi
- Mr. Freund said there would be four periods a day to minimize time in the hallways. This schedule will temporary during the pandemic. Masks will be worn at all times. They need to cover the nose and mouth, head coverings are not allowed due to security reasons. Breakfast will be in homeroom. Since there are no lockers being used, students will go right to homeroom. Teachers are working to minimize books that have to be carried. An extra lunch wave has been added. Students can eat outside with proper social distancing. There will be 4-5 minutes for passing times. Bathrooms will be open for two students at a time. Mr. Lucke explained attendance would be taken to ensure students are logged on. If students are sick, parents should call the school. In-person/remote learning attendance will be taken in every class. If a student misses two classes, parents will be contacted. Google Meet will be used instead of Zoom. Students are well versed in Google classroom. He reminded students that it is their responsibility to charge their Chromebook every night and this is very important. Kids will be going to homeroom and this is where the social emotional checks will be done. Teachers will be on the lookout and approach a student if

they feel there is a need. Teachers will handle minor medical needs in order to minimize trips to the nurse's office. Mr. DiStasi talked about the schedule and said he is proud of going back to a schedule that was used several years ago. He said there were many positives back then and we are optimistic with schedule. We will be using 4x4 blocks in cohort. The benefits of this is fewer transitions in the hallway. There will be extended time in live classes. Remote learners will join in. This schedule also allows us to add the fourth lunch wave and allows for seven minutes in between for cleaning. Ms. Bruno asked about athletics. Mr. DiStasi said there is lots of uncertainty with regard to sports. Thursday will be critical as the CIAC and the Department of Health will be meeting. Ms. Bruno asked about restrictions for the performing arts. Singing requires 15 feet of distance so it will be outside when possible. Mr. Lucke said there are some restrictions for live performances also. Mr. Champagne asked about Wednesdays when deep cleaning is done and asked what staff will be in the building. Mr. Freund said staff would be in the building. Mr. Connors said state guidelines prohibit children from being in the building for sanitizing. When classrooms are being sprayed, teachers will not be present. Mr. Garofolo asked what protocols are in place for student drivers. Mr. Freund said he would be meeting with Mr. Kearns tomorrow. Because of the hybrid schedule there will be half the number of cars so they can be social distanced. Details will be worked out. Mr. Lucke said the school Q&A would answer many of these questions. Ms. Harmeling asked if we really need distance learning if the goal is real time participation. She said it would be beneficial to have students remote in five days a week. She says she feels students want to be in school. Mr. Wilson explained that we are following state guidelines for distance learning. He said we really want students to be in school and the hybrid schedule provides for this. Mr. Kubik said with regard to masks we need to make sure students understand the importance of wearing masks properly. Many people wear masks improperly and what is the plan to enforce this in the schools? Mr. Lucke said this is a disciplinary matter. If students continuously wear masks improperly or try not to wear a mask, they will be told to correct their behavior. He said we would not tolerate ongoing problems. Mr. Kubik said it is not fun to wear a mask but kids need to understand the importance of doing so. Mr. DiStasi said there will be opportunities for teachable moments and that there will be consequences and repercussions for not wearing a mask or wearing one improperly. They will learn the effect this has on other people. Mr. Strumello said this was another solid presentation and plan. I appreciate the explanation of the unique concerns for HS students - masks for id purposes, charged Chromebooks. Hopefully the CIAC makes up their minds. Mr. Strumello thanked the committee saying thanks - For all of us, quoting a learned person- "Be Flexible, Be Compassionate, Listen, because WE have a lot to learn. Mr. Wilson thanked the team of administrators for their presentations. He said this was a collaborative effort and the learning continuum is very important. He said everyone is very excited to welcome staff and students back. He thanked everyone for their hard work and time. We all agree that the safety of students and staff is paramount. Mr. Garofolo said he was pleased with all presentations. He asked how the communication will be should we have an outbreak. Mr. Wilson said we are in constant communication with NVHD and if we an outbreak, we will suffer no loss of learning as we can go to full distance learning. Students have Chromebooks. This type of decision will be made in conjunction with the health department. Ms. Bruno said decisions would be made with NVHD based on what is going on in the community. The group will meet probably monthly to look at our numbers and this will continue until we come back. Ms. Harmeling said she felt the State would make the decision to go full distance learning. She said we will have conversations but the State will be the one to decide. Mr. Strumello said we have a lot to learn. Mr. Stanek said the virus is still with us and his opinion is we should not be in school. We are doing our best with masks and social distancing but the virus is still among us. We need to place health and safety first. He said he admires the hybrid model but is fearful of the spread. He proposed distance learning for the first semester. He feels it is not viable at this time to

protect everyone. He does not mean to take away from all of the hard work of the committee. Mr. Champagne echoes Mr. Stanek's thoughts 100%.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to endorse the Reopening Plans for Fall 2020 as recommended by the Superintendent and the members of the Reopening Committee with one provisional change that the district plan the first four days of school be altered to reflect the newest information that was shared earlier today and that the bullets that apply to teaching and learning at the middle school and high school be removed so that they do not appear to be misaligned with the school plan

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Champagne, Mr. Stanek

**MOTION PASSES: 7-2**

B. Revised School Calendar 2020-2021

Ms. Harmeling said she likes and supports the four-day schedule and asked if 178 student days satisfies the State. Mr. Wilson confirmed the State guideline is now 177 student days. Ms. Harmeling asked about distance learning on snow days and Mr. Wilson confirmed that this has not yet been officially approved by the State. Ms. Nesteriak asked about the logic regarding the changing of the ½ days to non-remote days. Mr. Wilson said they felt this would be a help to parents to not worry about students coming in on half days. Ms. Nesteriak liked the revisions. Mr. Hatfield said this is a new era in education and asked if this calendar is temporary. Mr. Wilson said this is the calendar for the 20-21 school year.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to revise the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented

**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**

C. Pandemic Guidelines

Mr. Stanek said he felt items C&D need to be considered together. It is important to give the Superintendent the power to make these decisions. We as a Board pass policy but have not passed policies with regard to the pandemic yet. The policy committee needs to start looking at policies with regard to emergencies and pandemics. He said he is in support of the motion and Item D also. Ms. Bruno and Ms. Harmeling questioned what they were passing and did not understand the motion. Ms. Bruno said she would like to know the difference between guidelines and administrative policy. Mr. Wilson said policies and guidelines are intermingled and need to be considered so that we can move forward. Mr. Stanek added as a Board we pass policy but right now, we do not have policies with regard to the pandemic. We need to take action now on this. Mrs. Bruno asked if we are giving the Superintendent, the authority to accept policy from the State or make policy. Mr. Stanek said this motion was drafted by Mr. Dorsey, Board attorney. Mr. Stanek wrote the motion in Item D. He said he is favoring Item D but has no problem with Item C. **MOTION:** (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Mr. Kubik) the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enact guidelines to be enforced in schools as a result of the restrictions placed on the district because of the pandemic. These guidelines will come from the Board approved return to school plan and will be shared with the Board at our monthly meeting. Some of these will include, but are not limited to masks having to be worn at all times by both students and staff, having no visitors within the buildings, and different procedures for lunch within our schools. While this may in essence have policy implications, these guidelines will only be enforced during the time of this current pandemic.

**MOTION RETRACTED:** Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Kubik

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

D. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to implement and enforce governmental orders, directives and guidance as the same impact, restrict or otherwise affect the operation of the Seymour Public Schools during the current declared Covid-19

pandemic state of emergency. This covers gaps until a policy can be passed. Ms. Nesteriak asked how actions come back to the Board. Mr. Wilson said anything enacted or shared electronically would be part of his report to the Board at the monthly Board meetings. Ms. Nesteriak suggested this be a standing agenda item. Mr. Hatfield asked Ms. Dauerty to include this on future agendas. **MOTION:** (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) move that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to implement and enforce governmental orders, directives and guidance as the same impact, restrict or otherwise affect the operation of the Seymour Public Schools during the current declared Covid-19 pandemic state of emergency. I further move that the Board of Education may modify or revoke the authority granted by this Motion as any duly noticed 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

#### **IV. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

##### **A. New Positions**

##### **1. Permanent Building Substitutes**

Ms. Bruno asked if the proposed Covid-19 funding could be used for this. Ms. Holmes said yes these grant funds can definitely be used to fund the building substitutes. Ms. Harmeling questioned if we are allowed to use funds in this manner. Ms. Holmes explained that we are getting \$229,244 which will be used for building subs. \$115 per day x 180 days = salary. Benefits are approximately \$15,000. \$134,000 is part of the grant being put in now and the additional amount will be for technology. Mr. Hatfield asked if the CARES money is guaranteed money. Ms. Holmes said it is guaranteed but we need to apply for it in a grant application. Ms. Harmeling said the money has already been set aside and it is a given. The other funds are not a given. Ms. Holmes said that is correct, we do not know the amount but we have been told the amount will be forthcoming. Ms. Harmeling said she supports the position of building substitute completely but is having a hard time with amount of pay for a certified teacher. She asked what the benefit is over being in the sub pool. Ms. Holmes said in the pool it is first come first serve. She said she could reach out to other districts for salary information to show we are paying the correct amount for this type of position. Mr. Hatfield asked about a job description. Mr. Garofolo asked if a permanent building sub would be eligible for sick leave and they become sick, would we be paying for them not being there. Ms. Holmes said there is sick leave for this position along with workers compensation. Mr. Garofolo said why not hire a teacher for a year. Mr. Wilson said hiring a teacher would be more expensive. Permanent building subs is a way for teachers to get a foot in the door, they will work for 178 days. This is the route to go. Ms. Harmeling said there is not enough information for the Board, no salary, benefits or sick day information has been provided.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to table this item to the first regular meeting in September

**SO VOTED**

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

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-0

##### **2. Health Aides**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Stanek) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to add the position of health aide for Bungay School, Chatfield-LoPresti School, Seymour Middle School, and Seymour High School

Mr. Garofolo and Ms. Harmeling said we have the same issue as the last item. We do not have enough information.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Champagne/Ms. Bruno) to table to the first regular meeting in September

**SO VOTED**

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



**OPPOSED:** Mr. Stanek

**MOTION PASSES:** 7-1

3. Instructional Paraprofessional

Dr. Boyle explained a new family is moving into Seymour from Derby, which will increase the need in the REACH classroom. Ms. Harmeling asked if this could be paid by a grant. Dr. Boyle said he would look into this.

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Kubik) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and Dr. Kris Boyle to add an additional position of instructional paraprofessional for the REACH room at Bungay School

**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

B. Budget Adjustment

1. Bus Monitors

Ms. Harmeling asked for the dollar amount. Ms. Holmes said she looked into the pay for bus monitors and it was \$11.21 per hour. Ms. Harmeling said we do not hire these so it hard to approve without the financial information. Mr. Hatfield asked if we should table. Ms. Harmeling said we could not table as school is starting soon and this position is needed. Mr. Hatfield had a concern about the screening process for hiring. Ms. Bruno asked what the role of bus monitor is. Mr. Wilson said this was prompted by the need to make sure kids are wearing their masks on the bus. Ms. Harmeling asked if there was any discussion about having parents volunteer for this. Ms. Holmes said no. Mr. Hatfield said he would like more information even if this motion passes. Ms. Nesteriak asked about some duration on the motion.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the salary addition of bus monitors under the transportation line item since bus monitors are hired through our contracted bus company and to revisit the decision at the October 5 BOE meeting

**SO VOTED**

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

**OPPOSED:** Mr. Garofolo

**MOTION PASSES:** 8-1

C. Donations

1. Donation – Thermometers

Mr. Wilson publically thanked the Naugatuck Valley Health District and their partner, Kinsa for all of their hard work to make this happen. We are very appreciative of this donation. Naugatuck Valley Health District and their partner, Kinsa are donating a supply of thermometers to the Seymour Public Schools

**MOTION:** (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of thermometers from Naugatuck Valley Health District and Kinsa and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

**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

2. Donation – Face Masks

Ms. Alison Vance has generously donated 400 handmade fabric facemasks to the Seymour Public Schools

Mr. Hatfield said this was such a wonderful thing to do and it is such a kind gesture. He said we must be sure to have Ms. Vance to a meeting when we are back to live meetings so we can acknowledge and recognize her.

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Stanek) to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the donation of 400 fabric facemasks from Ms. Alison Vance and direct that the Superintendent determine the placement of this donation.

**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

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Please note: If you would like to have a public comment read into the minutes, please email your brief (300 words or less) comment along with your full name and address to [rdyer@seymourschools.org](mailto:rdyer@seymourschools.org). Your email must be received on Tuesday, August 17, 2020 before the start of the Superintendent's Report on the agenda.

Yesenia Simeone - To the BOE and School Administrations. One concern I am sure that many parents will have including myself is that during distance learning Days parent will have to find childcare for distance learning days. Is there a back up option if the child cannot be available during the school time? The child shouldn't be held accountable if the parents will need to be at work and will not be able to help them till they come home from work. Thank you.

Lauren Scofield, 103 Colony Road - While I appreciate the amount of time and work that was put in trying to make a plan for children to return to school amidst a Global Pandemic, I have to question and comment on a couple of things: 1. The decision to share that PowerPoint with the public was poor and not well vetted. Blue text on a blue background is never a good idea, especially when the text and the background blend together and cut off pertinent information. The presentation as a whole includes misuse of punctuation, way too many words per slide, and should never have been approved as the final draft of something that is so important to so many. If my child submitted that same work as an assignment, I would expect her to receive a failing grade. As a product of the Seymour School system myself, and the parent of an incoming 7th grader, I'm disappointed to see that PowerPoint used as a representation of our town's published plan. 2. I also have to comment on the idea that the students are responsible for the sanitation procedures of their desk(s) before the next student comes in to use that same desk. While I understand we are all in this together and everyone needs to work as a team, I have concerns that the health of our children is left in the hands of other children. In order to return to my office building, a group of adults had to be trained on how to properly sanitize common areas after use. Who is going to be responsible for ensuring that children follow these same protocols? I agree that there is no "one size fits all" for these uncharted waters that we are currently navigating, but the health of our children and staff should not be left in the hands of other children.

Tara Burn, 11 Amber Drive - My public comment was not read at the beginning of the meeting, perhaps due to the technical difficulties. I would like to reiterate that 95 students in the lunchroom at SMS, is just unacceptable. The students will not be wearing masks, which poses a greater risk for the transmission of aerosols. In other districts, middle school students will be eating in their classrooms or in smaller groups with their cohorts in their lunchrooms. While this is not ideal, it would be safer for the students. Please consider this for our students. Thank you,

Michael Rotatori - I am a little confused on the decision to have a separate teacher for the students that are in full distance learning. Can some explain how they thought it was a good idea to have a separate teacher? It seems that it would make more sense to have one teacher that teaches the class, and the teaching is broadcast to the distance learners. Thanks

Michelle Fritz, 43 Elm Street - My name is Michelle Fritz I live at 43 Elm Street, under the hybrid bus route plan, both of my kids are on bus 42 but one is at CLS and it says they would be bus group 1 and the other one at SMS would be group #2. My children who live in the same house will be going to school on different t days. Can this be fixed?!

Bernadette Paternostro, 20 Meadow Woods Road - My name is Bernadette Paternostro. My question is if I decide to have my children be part of Full Distance Learning, who will be teaching them? Will it be a Bungay teacher? Will they be part of their normal classroom? I've heard different statements one being that distance learning will be provided by the State of CT in which a Bungay Teacher will not be teaching them. Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond.

Andrew Venditti - How do you plan to assign students who take separate busses throughout the week due to divorced parents parenting plans? My kids live with me half of the week on Tomlimson Rd and half the week on with their mother on Knorr Ave. Historically, they've taken the bus from my house half the week and their mothers half the week. Thanks, in advance, for your response.

Julie Ann Melissano - I have one daughter in Bungay on bus 31 and one daughter at the middle school and bus 36. The children are going to school on different days. I am a full-time working single mother. It is impossible and unacceptable for my children not to be on the same school schedule. What is going to be done about this to accommodate?

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** (Mr. Kubik/sec., Ms. Harmeling) 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 11:36 pm

Submitted by:  
Lee-Ann Dauerty  
Board Clerk

The Public is invited to participate in a listen only mode using the link below:

YouTube link

<https://youtu.be/hlmmRFGLsAk>