

**Seymour Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (revised)**

September 14, 2020
7:30 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 10/8/2020
TIME: 8:26 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 7:39 pm
- Ed Strumello

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- 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
- Rob Dyer, System Technology Coordinator
- 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. Strumello experienced technical difficulties so Mr. Hatfield called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 p.m.

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 by no later than **7:15 on Monday, September 14, 2020.**

None

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2020
- 2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2020
- 3. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2020

~~B. Financial Management Summary ending August 31, 2020~~

~~C. Year End Financial Summary ending June 30, 2020~~

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) move to approve the consent agenda with Items B and C removed

SO VOTED

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

ABSTAIN: Ms. Harmeling

MOTION PASSES: 7-0-1

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Harmeling asked that items B and C be removed from the consent agenda because she had not had time to prepare to vote on the minutes

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Ms. Bruno) to approve the Financial Management Summary ending August 31, 2020 and to approve the Year End Financial Summary ending June 30, 2020

SO VOTED

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

MOTION PASSES: 8-0

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Reappointment of School System Medical Doctor

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint Dr. Douglas C. Curtiss and his designated associates as the school physician(s) for the Seymour Public Schools for the 2020-21 school year at a rate of \$12,000

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

VI. REPORTS and DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Discussion of COVID19 Policies

Ms. Harmeling said she found policy 5141.8 dense and it sends conflicting messages regarding the wearing of masks. Mr. Strumello explained that he brought it to the full Board in order to try to get it approved quickly. Ms. Bruno asked when this policy was developed by the State since they just recently changed the guidelines for the wearing of masks. She said this does not address bus drivers or bus monitors. Mr. Strumello said he felt this policy was the one that was most all-encompassing. Mr. Nesteriak asked if this policy had been compared to the Superintendent's plan and was told that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Strumello reviewed it. Ms. Nesteriak asked about the powers that were given to Mr. Wilson in August and if approval of this policy will revoke his authority. Mr. Stanek explained why this would not happen. After a discussion regarding sending this policy to the Policy Committee for review, a motion was made:

MOTION: (Mr. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) recommend that policy #5141.8 be sent to the Policy Committee for discussion and review and their recommendation sent to the full Board for discussion and possible action

Ms. Nesteriak asked for an amendment to include building level Administration be included in the discussion. Ms. Bruno requested that Dr. Boyle be involved also. Ms. Stanek said it should be expedited

AMENDED MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) recommend that policy #5141.8 COVID19 Practices be sent to the Policy Committee for discussion and review and their recommendation sent to the full Board for review and possible action at the October 4, 2020 Regular Board of Education meeting and to include the building level administration in the Policy Committee 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

Mr. Strumello said that when there is a particular issue that involves a particular group, those people are involved in the committee meeting. Mr. Strumello said he felt as if they were questioning what is going on at Policy Committee meetings and he didn't like that. Ms. Harmeling said she has the right to question at any level at any time.

B. Board of Education Report

1. Chairperson Comments

Mr. Strumello said he thought there would be no live conference this year for CABA/CAPSS Conference but he encouraged the Board members to take full advantage of the online course offerings, saying this is a good opportunity to learn. He also encouraged all the Board members to look at the bylaws (9300, 9313) which explain the role of a Board member. He reminded the Board "Those who lead should never cease to learn"

2. Board Member Comments

None

C. Superintendent Report – Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson said he felt we had a good opening and a great start to the new school year. He said he could not be happier. He and Ms. Tencza have visited the schools and have seen that students are happy to be back. He thanked everyone who made the opening a success.

1. Pandemic Actions taken by Superintendent

UPDATE ON GUIDELINES FROM OUR REOPENING PLAN AS APPROVED BY FRED DORSEY AND SHARED WITH ADMINISTRATION:

- Mandatory wearing of masks when less than six feet apart for all students and staff. If ten feet apart, you can safely remove your mask for a mask break.
- Daily cleaning procedures as discussed with the Director of Facilities. The director will then place updates online.
- Signs and messages related to stopping the spread will be placed in buildings and updated as needed via the Head Nurse and posted on our website.
- Direct our Director of Facilities to meet regularly with SONCCA in order to ensure that they are following both CDC and our guidelines.
- Direct the Business Manager to work with our Transportation provider to make sure that we are aligning with our Department of Public Health tiered system for monitoring and report updates on our website.
- Any COVID 19 related concerns must be brought to Central office as well as our Head Nurse for review.
- Work with NVHD to review health metrics
- Attendance online is mandatory as defined by checking in visually at multiple times during the day. Teachers will take attendance daily and by period at the secondary level

2. Cohort Groupings

UPDATE ON HYBRID SPLITS BY BUS GROUPS AND SCHOOL

- Please realize that the splits were done at the beginning of last week and we were in a good spot. We are still in a good spot in terms of splits and that is because of the hard work of the team since we had to readjust these numbers because of the new 75 students who have registered as well as for those students who opted out of temporary distance learning in order to participate in the hybrid model. Also, to remember in these splits is the fact that some parents called the school to change their days because of child care issues and even chose to drive them to school. The other thing to remember is that we had to change the teaching assignment of three teachers who were originally assigned to hybrid as the result of our increased Distance Learning students.

TOTAL DISTRICT SPLIT NUMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| SCHOOL | GROUP 1 | GROUP 2 |
|--------|---------|--|
| BES | 192 | 222 |
| CLS | 195 | 271(only because 23 were added for daycare facility) |
| SMS | 257 | 291 |
| SHS | 305 | 303 |

OVERALL AVERAGE K – 5 SPLITS

| GRADE | GROUP 1 | GROUP 2 |
|-------|---------|---------|
| K | 5 | 10 |
| 1 | 8 | 11 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 12 |
| 4 | 7 | 11 |
| 5 | 9 | 12 |

6 – 8 SPLITS ARE AS FOLLOWS (No more than 13 in any one class on any day)

- Grade 6 in Group 1 is 76 and there 85 in group 2
- Grade 7 in Group 1 is 68 and there 86 in group 2
- Grade 8 in Group 1 is 83 and there 80 in group 2

9 – 12 SPLITS ARE AS FOLLOWS (No more than 13 in any one class on any day)

- Grade 9 in Group 1 is 63 and there 75 in group 2
- Grade 10 in Group 1 is 78 and there 76 in group 2
- Grade 11 in Group 1 is 79 and there 72 in group 2
- Grade 12 in Group 1 is 85 and there 82 in group 2

Ms. Harmeling said the splits in CLS are super uneven and this is troublesome to her. Bus Route Cohorts was creative but she does not feel it is working out. Mr. Stanek said he was happy to hear that remedial work is being undertaken. Ms. Nesteriak said she was curious about the notification process when a positive case has been identified. She said she just wants reassurance of the procedure. Mr. Wilson said that we need to be careful not to identify the individual but a letter will go out. We are always working with Naugatuck Valley Health District. Ms. Nesteriak said she would like to see a flow chart of what will happen when. Mr. Wilson said he would draft something.

3. Hiring Report – Summer, 2020

The hiring report was shared with the Board and Mr. Wilson said it was self-explanatory. Ms. Strumello asked the Board to encourage anyone that they know looking for work to apply, saying word of mouth may help.

D. High School Student Report

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Champagne) to add to the agenda the High School Student Report

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

Mr. Zachary Braca reported that the transition went well but was very different. He thanked the Board for issuing computers to all the students saying this was a big help. He said the school climate is really different and he really feels for the freshmen, as this is not anything near to the typical freshmen experience. He is hopeful things will get back to normal at some point such as sports, clubs, student council, etc. We will have an election to appoint a junior BOE student representative at some point. Mr. Strumello said we feel for you not experiencing the normal activities but appreciate your positive attitude.

VII. INFORMATION

- A. Special Education Monthly Enrollment Update – Dr. Kris Boyle
Dr. Boyle presented the special education enrollment information saying we are experiencing a little lower enrollment numbers than a typical September. This may be due to the referrals and evaluations being behind. He reported we have 26 therapeutic placements. Mr. Strumello asked if any placements had to move due to the social distancing requirements and Dr. Boyle said not directly but we have two who are doing distance learning. Ms. Bruno asked about including SRBI data on the report and Dr. Boyle said he should be able to include it by November when he will have the data.
- B. Resignations – Summer, 2020
Mr. Wilson shared the resignations that have taken place for the 2019-20 school year. Ms. Harmeling said she was sorry to see Mr. Sorge leaving the district. She was disappointed that this was presented this way saying it was on the agenda in the past for the public to see.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Please note: If you would like to have a public comment read into the minutes at the end of the meeting, please email your brief (300 words or less) to Mr. Dyer (rdyer@seymourschools). It must be received by **prior to the Superintendent’s Report** on the meeting agenda.

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Kubik/sec., Mr. Garofolo) 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 8:30 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/AZq_IN-xdrY