



Seymour Board of Education REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2026
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/18/26
TIME: 11:45 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno
Kristen Harmeling
Chris Champagne
Lori Nespoli
Ed Strumello
Jim Garofolo
Casey Grenier
Stephan Behuniak

Board Members Absent: Pete Kubik

Others Present: Daphne Shea, senior student representative
Dr. Kris Boyle
Dr. Susan Compton
Shannon Levey

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.
- B. Introductions

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Correspondence

1. Letter dated August 21, 2026 to Ms. Kristen Bruno, Board Chairperson
2. NEASC - Seymour Public Schools District Candidacy Letter
3. Invitation from CT Scholastic & Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame (Inductee Ken Pereiras)

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 Chairperson is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairperson's Comments portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and no longer than 3 minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

- Public Comment was called three times, no public comment made.

IV. REPORTS -

Student Report: Daphne Shea provided an update on clubs, activities, committees, athletics, and overall student

life at Seymour High School.

A. Enrollment Report

B. Bungay Building Committee Updates – Fred Stanek, Pete Kubik, Ed Strumello

C. 2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award – First Selectwomen Annmarie Drugonis

D. Special Education Programs – Dr. Kris Boyle

Dr. Boyle provided an update on the District's special education programs, including paraeducator staffing and student supports. He reported that there are currently 385 students with IEPs, 67 paraeducators, including 54 Seymour Public Schools paraeducators and 13 Delta-T paraeducators.

Ms. Harmeling asked about the use of Delta-T paraeducators and whether the goal was to increase the number of District-employed paraeducators. Dr. Boyle explained that it would be more cost-effective to increase District paraeducator staffing, but the District continues to have difficulty finding qualified applicants. Dr. Compton noted that six paraeducator positions are currently posted. Dr. Boyle also explained that there are several benefits to hiring District paraeducators, including consistency and retention. If District positions are filled, the need for Delta-T paraeducators would be reduced.

Ms. Harmeling asked whether the District has historically brought paraeducator positions to the Board for approval. Dr. Boyle stated that this has been the past practice. Dr. Compton confirmed that administration has historically brought staffing requests to the Board of Education for approval.

Ms. Bruno asked whether Delta-T paraeducators have the same requirements as District-employed paraeducators. Dr. Boyle explained that they do not.

Ms. Harmeling asked why Delta-T paraeducators are more concentrated at CLS. Dr. Boyle explained that staffing is based on student need and that CLS has followed the same hiring process as the other schools. Dr. Boyle reviewed the District's preschool program, noting that the goal is a 50/50 ratio of students with IEPs and typically developing peers.

Mr. Garofolo asked how special education services have changed over the past ten years. Dr. Boyle explained that the overall number of students with IEPs has increased, with a greater increase in students with autism and more significant behavioral and communication needs.

Ms. Harmeling asked about the academic supports provided through the Achievement, Independence, and Mastery (AIM) program. Dr. Boyle explained that most services are provided through small-group pull-out instruction, with co-teaching models also utilized. At the secondary level, there is greater reliance on co-teaching, although pull-out services continue to be provided. He also explained that SRBI and special education services are connected through a tiered intervention process, with students being evaluated for special education services when they are not making adequate progress through interventions.

Ms. Bruno asked about professional development for paraeducators. Dr. Boyle stated that training includes online CREC modules, BCBA training on various topics, and assistive technology training through New England Assistive Technology.

Ms. Nespoli asked how Seymour compares with surrounding districts in the number of paraeducators. Dr. Boyle stated that this is not typically discussed at regional meetings.

Ms. Grenier asked about the District's recruitment and retention efforts for paraeducators. Dr. Boyle stated that certified staff retention is strong, while paraeducator retention is somewhat lower but remains positive. He noted that the District has had success recruiting former Seymour High School graduates for ESY and that the State recently established a free training program to help individuals become qualified as paraeducators.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Kristen Harmeling) Move to add the September 14, 2026 Financial Report to Item V.A.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 8-0-0

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026
 2. Policy Committee Meeting – August 3, 2026
 3. Finance Committee Meeting – August 3, 2026
 4. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2026
 5. Finance Committee Report – September 14, 2026
- B. Hiring - Non-Certified
1. Liliana Gonzalez
 - a. Instructional Tutor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. New Hire
 2. Mark Jachimowski
 - a. Substitute Custodian
 - b. District-wide
 - c. New Hire
- C. Seymour High School Attendance/Tardy Officers
1. To approve the renewal of the SHS Attendance/Tardy Officers for the 2026-2027 school year as follows: Allen Aldrich, Nicole Fearon, Laura Verchili, and Jennifer Monaco. \$2,000 per faculty member.
- D. BH Care and Seymour Public Schools Property Access Agreement

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Jim Garofolo) Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, with the addition of Agenda Item V.A., the September 14, 2026 Financial Report.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

ABSTENTION: Casey Grenier

PASSES: 7-0-1

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Jim Garofolo) Move to add the Nutrition Policy to Item 7H.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 8-0-0

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. FBLA Nationals Trip: Washington, D.C.

- a. Ms. Emily Jepson requested approval for an out-of-state FBLA trip to Washington, D.C., November 4–7, 2026. She explained that the trip is not a competition but will provide students with leadership opportunities, networking, and workshops. Eight students are expected to attend, and transportation will be shared with two other schools. The estimated cost is \$600–\$800 per student, depending on whether grant funding can be used toward transportation.

MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) Move to approve the out-of-state FBLA field trip to Washington, D.C., November 5–7, 2026.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Champagne asked whether the required field trip form had been submitted. It was clarified that Board approval is required prior to submission of the form.

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 8-0-0

- B. CABE Policy 5131.6 - Chemical Health Policy for Seymour High School
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Jim Garofolo) Move to update and adopt CABE Policy 5131.6, Chemical Health Policy for Seymour High School.
DISCUSSION: Dr. Compton explained that the policy is required for athletics and must comply with CIAC requirements. She noted that the policy may return to the Board next month with a minor revision.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0
- C. CABE Policy 3542.43 - Meal Charging Policy
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Jim Garofolo) Move to revise and adopt CABE Policy 3542.43, Meal Charging Policy.
DISCUSSION: Mr. Champagne referenced LINQ, checks being made payable to the Seymour Schools Lunch Program, and establishing a \$150 threshold.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0
- D. Chess Club/Board Games for Seymour Middle School (Incubator Request, 26-27 school year)
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Kristen Harmeling) Move to allow Mr. O'Rourke. to begin the incubator request process for a Chess Club/Board Games Club, and Pokémon Club at Seymour Middle School.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0
- E. Pokémon Club for Seymour Middle School (Incubator Request, 26-27 school year)
- F. Yearbook Advisor Stipend (Co-advise and split the stipend 50/50)
MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Stephan Behuniak) Move to approve splitting the Yearbook Advisor stipend 50/50, in accordance with the agreement with the union.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0
- G. Interim Assistant Principal - Seymour Middle School, Mr. Jim Freund (40 days)
MOTION: (Kristen Harmeling / Chris Champagne) Move to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to assign Mr. Jim Freund as Interim Assistant Principal at Seymour Middle School for 40 days.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0
- H. Nutrition Policy
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Stephan Behuniak) Move to approve the 2026-27 Nutritional National School Lunch Program Policy Statement as presented.
AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Behuniak, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Grenier, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 8-0-0

VIII. INFORMATION

- A. School's Student Handbooks
1. Seymour High School
 2. Seymour Middle School

3. Bungay Elementary School
4. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- B. High Dosage Tutoring Math Grant – Mr. David Olechna
- C. Seymour High School Department Chairs and Coordinator
 1. Department Chairs
 - a. Melissa Anelli – School Counseling
 - b. Jennifer Monaco – English
 - c. Cathy Federowicz – Math
 - d. Erin Scozzafava – Science
 - e. Nicole Fearon – Social Studies
 - f. Allen Aldrich – Special Education
 2. Department Coordinators (Department Observations)
 - a. Melissa Anelli – School Counseling
- D. Seymour Middle School Appendix D Non-Sports
- E. Network Manager Contract 2026-2027
- F. Superintendent Summer Hiring
 1. Brittany Clark
 - a. Special Education Teacher
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 2. Lynn Colafrancesco
 - a. Instructional Tutor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 3. Alexa Donahue
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 4. Desiree Esposito
 - a. Food Services Staff (per diem)
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 5. Tammy Guillette
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 6. Tonya Johnson
 - a. Para-monitor
 - b. Seymour High School
 7. Brynn Kelley
 - a. Music Teacher
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 8. Maribeth Mills
 - a. Para-monitor
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 9. Sarah Montini
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Bungay Elementary School
 10. Justine Raro
 - a. Para-monitor
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 11. Nathalie Rivera
 - a. Food Services Staff (per diem)
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 12. Donelda Staffieri
 - a. Food Service Staff (per diem)

- b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
- 13. Jennifer Tirella
 - a. Instructional Tutor
 - b. Seymour High School
- 14. Christine Zowadney
 - a. Food Services Staff (per diem)
 - b. Seymour Middle School
- G. Staff Hiring - Non-Certified
 - 1. Victoria Babineau
 - a. Permanent Building Substitute
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Replacing Shayna Landau
- H. Appendix D
 - 1. Roxann Lindgren
 - a. Robotics Club Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - 2. Michael Oberdick
 - a. STEM Club Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - 3. Joshua Tilton
 - a. Assistant Football Coach
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Replacing Shawn Wandel
- I. Staff Transfers – Non-Certified
 - 1. Tara Andrews
 - a. Tutor
 - b. From SMS to SHS
 - c. Effective 9/8/2026
- J. Staff Resignations – Non-Certified
 - 1. Shawn Wandel
 - a. Assistant Football Coach
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Effective 8/3/2026
 - 2. Hakyung Park
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Effective 8/17/2026
 - 3. Allyson Burroughs
 - a. Instructional Paraeducator
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Effective 8/21/2026
 - 4. Jocelyn Cases
 - a. Food Services
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Effective 8/17/2026
 - 5. Elmedina Kazaferi
 - a. Food Services
 - b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Effective 9/4/2026
 - 6. Tueta Kazaferi
 - a. Food Services

- b. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - c. Effective 9/4/2026
- 7. Roxanne Lindgren
 - a. Robotics Club Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. September 1, 2026
- 8. Trisha Hazzard
 - a. National Junior Honor Society Co-Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Effective 2026-2027 School year
- 9. Jennifer Severino
 - a. National Junior Honor Society Co-Advisor
 - b. Seymour Middle School
 - c. Effective 2026-2027 School year
- 10. Michelle Esteves Pinho
 - a. PowerSchool Master Scheduler
 - b. Seymour High School
 - c. Effective 2026-2027 school year
- K. School Events
 - 1. Bungay Elementary School
 - 2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
 - 3. Seymour Middle School
 - 4. Seymour High School

IX. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

- 1. Chairman's Comments - none
- 2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Champagne: Commented on the positive aspects of social media and noted that individuals have a First Amendment right to express their opinions on social media. He encouraged people to consider the parliamentary process and procedures followed during Board meetings before making judgments about the actions of others. Champagne also asked whether a list of volunteer coaches could be provided.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton: Reported that the first two weeks of school have gone well and expressed that she is proud of the students and staff. She noted that the CLS Meet the Teachers Night was held the previous week, with three additional Meet the Teachers Nights scheduled at the other schools. Dr. Compton encouraged families to attend these events and meet their children's teachers and school staff. Dr. Compton welcomed new Board member Casey Grenier to the Board. Dr. Compton reported that she will be working with Attorney Dugas next month regarding her contract. She announced that on October 7, a District team will participate in NEASC training. She also reminded the Board of the October 5 strategic planning dinner, which will focus on the Pathway of a Wildcat, District and Board goals, and strategic planning. The session will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the working session scheduled from 5:00–6:45 p.m. with administrators. Dr. Compton provided an update on the Bungay Building Committee project and the solar project, noting that both will continue to move forward. She explained that the purpose of the grant is to create an opportunity for ongoing annual funding to support facilities for the schools and the Town.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM

YouTube Link (9/14/2026): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdcSjlnRuas>

Note: The next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm in Seymour Middle School.**

Prepared by: Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk