

Seymour Board of Education



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026
Seymour Middle School
6:30 pm

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

Committee Members Present: Kristen Harmeling
Kristen Bruno
Lori Nespoli

Others in Attendance: Salvatore Bucci
Dr. Susan Compton
Shannon Levey
Jim Garofolo
Chris Champagne

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

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 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 called 3 times, no comment

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Financial Statement

Mr. Bucci reviewed the financial statement with the committee and noted that there were very few variances. He highlighted the bottom-line figures to emphasize the significance of the unanticipated repairs and maintenance expenditures at CLS. Mr. Bucci noted that it is only the end of August and that the budget will be balanced, but he wanted to bring attention to these significant expenditures.

Ms. Harmeling appreciated the transparency but expressed concern that it may be premature to suggest the district is behind the eight ball. She asked for clarification regarding the amounts already encumbered for building contracts and services.

Mr. Bucci explained that accounts 431 and 433 include recurring maintenance expenses established at the beginning of the fiscal year, which are outlined in the budget book.

Ms. Harmeling asked whether the current year's budget book includes that same level of detail and requested an updated budget book that reflects encumbrances. Mr. Bucci stated that an updated budget book would be provided at the October meeting.

Ms. Bruno emphasized that this information will be essential when the committee begins developing the upcoming year's budget.

Ms. Harmeling also requested additional information regarding technology equipment expenditures, specifically whether fewer Chromebooks were purchased than anticipated.

Dr. Compton explained that Chromebook deliveries had been delayed and that the district needed to ensure sufficient devices were available for the upper grades. She stated that a detailed report outlining the number of Chromebooks ordered would be provided. Dr. Compton also noted that students in the lower grades have reduced screen time and are using technology less frequently. She suggested that the elementary principals and Mr. Rob Dyer attend the October meeting to provide an overview of Chromebook purchases and technology use in the elementary schools.

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments

2. Board Member Comments

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Compton provided an update regarding the compressor issues at CLS, which began in April or May. She explained that the district changed service providers and that the new company has been doing a great job. Dr. Compton requested that the company conduct an analysis of the system to better understand the issues and the history of the repairs. Dr. Compton explained that the initial compressors delivered to the district were damaged and had to be returned and replaced. She emphasized the importance of understanding the full history of the situation, noting that if the original compressors had been repaired successfully, the subsequent issues with leaking may have been avoided. She further explained that the carpet damage resulted from rooms having inadequate airflow because the HVAC system was not operational while the compressor issues were being addressed. The affected carpet has since been removed. Dr. Compton reported that the rooms were tested for mold, and no mold was identified in the testing conducted to date. The art room is scheduled for additional testing, after which the district expects to conclude its investigation into the mold concerns. Dr. Compton noted that the most significant issues were concentrated in one wing of the building and invited committee members to view the affected flooring and geothermal system. She stated that the district has incurred substantial repair expenses but does not anticipate continued breakdowns at the same level. She also indicated that it would be helpful for committee members to review the related invoices. Dr. Compton reported that approximately \$18,000 was spent at Seymour Middle School on HVAC-related repairs. She added that Mr. Bucci and Mr. Tim Connors have contacted the district's insurance carrier to arrange a walkthrough regarding the mold concerns. If the assessment determines that a legitimate insurance claim exists, the district will pursue it. Mr. Garofolo asked whether the new compressors are covered by a warranty. Dr. Compton explained that four compressors have been replaced and that the geothermal system contains approximately 16 to 20 compressors in total. She stated that the district would need to confirm the warranty details, noting that the new compressors should have warranty coverage. Ms. Bruno emphasized the importance of considering the remaining compressors and planning for their eventual end of life. Ms. Harmeling requested that a list and summary of the geothermal system be provided, including the history of repairs, components that have been replaced, and the findings of the company's analysis.

MOTION: (Kristen Bruno / Lori Nespoli) to accept the financial report of the Finance Committee meeting on September 14, 2026 and send it to the full board.

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Nespoli

PASSES: 3-0-0

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by: Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk