Seymour Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2026
Seymour Middle School
7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 11/5/26
TIME: 3:00pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Board Members Present:	Kristen Bruno, Chairperson Chris Champagne, Vice Chairperson Casey Grenier Pete Kubik Stephan Behuniak Ed Strumello
Board Members Absent:	Kristen Harmeling Jim Garofolo Lori Nespoli
Others in Attendance:	Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent Shannon Levey, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM
B. Introductions – Introductions were made for those in attendance

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Seymour CHAMPION Recognitions – Hard Working
    1. Bungay School
        a) Benjamin O'Connell
        b) Camryn Manganello
    2. Chatfield-LoPresti School
        a) Alyssa Price
        b) Madison Clark
    3. Seymour Middle School
        a) Jace Tottenham
        b) Tessa Maler
    4. Seymour High School
        a) Bailey Sadick
B. Board of Education Recognitions
    1. Alana Zhingri – Outstanding Dedication & Commitment to Seymour Public Schools
    2. U.S. News & World Report recognizes Seymour Middle School among the 2027 Best Middle Schools
    3. U.S. News & World Report recognizes Chatfield-LoPresti School among the 2027 Best Elementary Schools
C. Student Reports
    1. SHS Student Representatives Report – Daphne Shea and Jacob Lang
        a) Jacob Lang provided an update on Seymour High School clubs, activities, athletics, and

events since the previous meeting, as well as upcoming events.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. 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.

- **Lindsey Oddo, 8 Sachem Road:** Ms. Oddo expressed support for Brothers for Better, a student-led initiative to provide hygiene and personal care products. Speaking as an educator and mother, she recognized the need for these resources and the importance of students knowing where to access them. Drawing on her experience teaching in a self-contained classroom, she encouraged consideration of students with sensory needs and offered to assist with ideas. She commended the students for recognizing the needs of others and taking the initiative to help.
- **Nate Oddo, eighth-grade student:** Nate expressed support for Brothers for Better, noting that some individuals may be unable to afford personal care products or may benefit from information about good hygiene. He offered to support the initiative.

Following three calls for additional public comment, no further comments were offered.

IV. REPORTS

A. Brothers for Better: A student-led initiative to provide essential hygiene and personal care supplies to students

Ethan Sookhai, a sophomore, and Liam Sookhai, a seventh-grade student, presented the origins, purpose, and goals of Brothers for Better. Liam explained that the idea began after a student shared that his family relied on the school for meals and personal care items. This conversation inspired the brothers to focus on hygiene supplies, recognizing that every student deserves access to these essentials. Ethan reported that he spoke with school nurses and other staff members about students' needs and learned that students rely on school nurses for these supplies. The brothers hope to establish a lasting initiative that other students will continue. They have donated items to Bungay School's puberty education program and plan to include sensory items to support additional student needs. The family will donate the supplies at no cost to the district. The brothers also expressed interest in coordinating collection efforts with existing activities, such as the turkey drive. Dr. Compton acknowledged the need for these resources and commended Ethan and Liam for their initiative and generosity. She thanked them for their efforts and expressed pride in their commitment to helping fellow students.

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

Mr. Kubik reported that the project continues to move forward, with architectural planning work underway. Meetings are being held at Bungay School to coordinate with relevant groups, ensure alignment with the educational specifications, and encourage participation from all parties. Mr. Strumello reported that several "Think Tank" meetings have taken place, including participation by Mr. Coppolo, one of Bungay School's earliest principals. Dr. Compton acknowledged the involvement of Mr. Strumello, Ms. Feige, and Mrs. Bruno and welcomed Mr. Coppolo's participation, noting the value of his historical knowledge of the school.

C. Special Education Enrollment Report – Dr. Boyle
D. Financial Report – Salvatore Bucci
    1. Report deferred to the next meeting
E. Enrollment Report
F. Facilities Update – Tim Connors

Mr. Connors reported that the district is working with their insurance company and awaiting a walkthrough at Chatfield-LoPresti School (CLS) to seek reimbursement for a portion of the costs incurred. He discussed the connection between NEASC facilities planning and the district's capital improvement plan, emphasizing that implementation depends on funding and coordination with the town, which owns the buildings. Major upcoming needs include the Seymour Middle School roof and the Seymour High School track. At CLS, lights in four or five classrooms remain on due to issues with the low-voltage lighting control system. Replacement switches are no longer manufactured. Potential solutions were estimated at approximately $5,600 or $2,200 per room. Mr. Connors plans to test a solution in one classroom, although its effectiveness is not guaranteed. He also emphasized the importance of thoroughly evaluating building systems during planning for the new Bungay School. Dr. Compton reported that she and Mr. Connors are conducting walkthroughs of each school to identify needs and provide advance notice of anticipated costs. She added that the First Selectwoman is exploring potential grants for the high school track. Mr. Kubik discussed the estimated cost of replacing the track and noted that it has been resurfaced multiple times. In response to Mr. Champagne's question about grants for other projects, Mr. Connors stated that the roof project would be eligible for approximately 67% state reimbursement. In response to Ms. Bruno's question about priorities at Seymour High School, Mr. Connors identified the boiler, locker rooms, and swimming pool. He noted that the district continues to address necessary work when needed within a limited budget.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Stephan Behuniak) to approve the donation from Brothers for Better and direct superintendent to allocate the donation as appropriate
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Grenier, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0-0

G. School Improvement Plans – Bungay Elementary School: Lauren Reid & Katie Furino and Chatfield-LoPresti School: David Willadsen & Jake Velleco

Ms. Reid, Ms. Furino, Mr. Willadsen, and Mr. Velleco jointly presented their school improvement plans, highlighting a shared instructional framework that supports district alignment while addressing each school's unique baseline data. The presentation focused on three areas: social-emotional development, family and community engagement, and academic achievement, emphasizing the connections among the home, school, classroom, and student. Ms. Bruno commended the alignment between the two elementary schools, describing it as a longstanding district goal and recognizing the leadership and central office support necessary to achieve it. Dr. Compton added that strong curriculum alignment is also essential.

H. Curriculum Alignment – David Olechna

Mr. Olechna provided an overview of curriculum work completed during the summer of 2026, including a breakdown of expenditures and anticipated future costs. He explained that curriculum materials currently posted on the district website are primarily geared toward educators. The district is developing more family-friendly "Curriculum at a Glance" resources to help families understand instruction and its connection to the broader Pathway of a Wildcat. Next steps include a focus on mathematics this year and continued updates to these website resources. In response to Mr. Champagne's question about whether this work includes additional courses, Mr. Olechna clarified that it involves reviewing and updating existing courses. He noted that potential new courses could be discussed at the next Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. Bruno stated that the curriculum should be presented to the Curriculum Committee for review and adoption. Mr. Behuniak expressed support for the "Curriculum at a Glance" format, noting its accessibility and encouraging completion of the remaining resources. Dr. Compton commended the extensive work completed. Mr. Strumello recognized staff members' efforts over the summer and emphasized the importance of the Board communicating this work to the public, particularly during the budget process. Mr. Olechna gave credit to the teachers who served on the curriculum development committee, their hard work was essential to achieving

these updates.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) add to the agenda the winter coaches and volunteer list as item E
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Grenier, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0-0

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes
    1. Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026
    2. Special BOE Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026
    3. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026
    4. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026

B. Hiring - Appendix D
    1. Curhane Baldwin
        a) Boys' Basketball Coach
        b) Seymour Middle School
        c) Replacing Jeff Coppola

C. Hiring - Certified
    1. Amy Gibson
        a) Long-Term Substitute
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
        c) Substituting for Brianna Perricone

D. Hiring - Non-Certified
    1. Alyson Waldron
        a) Substitute Teaching Pool
        b) District-wide
    2. Gabriel Sand
        a) Substitute Teaching Pool
        b) District-wide
    3. Catherine DiDonato
        a) Substitute Teaching Pool
        b) District-wide
    4. Brady Jones
        a) Substitute Custodian
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
    5. Robert Smith
        a) Substitute Custodian
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
    6. Marisol Williams
        a) Instructional Paraeducator
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
        c) Replacing a Delta-T
    7. Sandra Gregory
        a) Food Service Worker
        b) Seymour High School
        c) New Hire

E. Winter Athletic Coaches and Volunteer List

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Stephan Behuniak) move to approve the consent agenda as presented
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Grenier, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0-0

VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Brothers for Better: Student Led Initiative - motion made and approved above
B. SPS District School Calendar 2027-2028 - will wait until December to take action
C. Seymour Board of Education 2027-2028 Meeting Dates - will wait until December to take action
D. Nutrition Services Non-Contract Employees Wage Increase: 2.75%
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Stephan Behuniak) increase the wages of non contract nutritional services workers by 2.75%
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Grenier, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0-0
E. National Junior Honor Society – Split Stipend Position into two Co-Advisors
MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Ed Strumello) approve the splitting of the stipend for the national junior honor society into two co-advisors
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Behuniak, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Grenier, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0-0
F. All Star Transportation Contract - Review of the past contract

Dr. Compton stated that John Defore of All Star Transportation is scheduled to attend next month's meeting to discuss transportation costs. It was noted that the fleet must be replaced every 10 years and that 13 buses are due for replacement. The discussion emphasized the need to plan for these costs to ensure continued transportation for students.

VIII. INFORMATION

A. World Kindness Day - November 13, 2026
B. Board of Education Committee Assignments
C. Staff Hiring – Appendix D
    1. Samantha Rossetti
        a) Girls' Basketball Coach
        b) Seymour Middle School
        c) Replacing Jeannine Weaver
    2. Arkadiusz Bielesz
        a) National Junior Honor Society Co-Advisor
        b) Seymour Middle School
        c) Replacing Trish Hazzard
    3. Kathylee Mehlin
        a) National Junior Honor Society Co-Advisor
        b) Seymour Middle School
        c) Replacing Jen Severino
D. Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
    1. Desiree Esposito
        a) Food Service Worker
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
        c) Per diem to Permanent
    2. Christine Zowadney
        a) Food Service Worker
        b) Chatfield-LoPresti School

c) Per diem to Permanent

3. Demi Sheahan
    a) Food Service Worker
    b) Seymour Middle School
    c) Per diem to Permanent
4. Nathalie Rivera
    a) Food Service Worker
    b) Seymour Middle School
    c) Per diem to Permanent
5. Donelda Staffieri
    a) Food Service Worker
    b) Seymour High School
    c) Per diem to Permanent
6. Blake Kravec
    a) Food Service Worker
    b) Seymour High School
    c) Per diem to Permanent

E. Retirement
1. Allison Acquavella
    a) Math Teacher
    b) Seymour Middle School
    c) Retirement effective EOY26-27

F. Staff Resignations
1. Meredith Indorf
    a) Tutor
    b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
    c) Effective 10/16/2026
2. Demi Sheahan
    a) Food Services Manager
    b) Chatfield-LoPresti School
    c) Effective 10/19/2026

G. 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
2. Board Member Comments

Mr. Kubik reported attending the SHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the first time. He commended Paul Roy and the committee for their efforts, shared his appreciation for hearing the inductees' stories and meeting their families, and encouraged others to attend next year.

Mr. Champagne addressed a Valley Independent Sentinel Facebook post concerning superintendent salaries. He recognized the extended hours and year-round responsibilities of district administrators, noting their attendance at the Board meeting following a full workday. He also described Dr. Compton's salary as low compared with other superintendents in the Valley. Ms. Bruno added that Dr. Compton regularly attends evening and weekend events. Dr. Compton referenced her 45 years of

experience and professional qualifications.

Mr. Strumello expressed regret regarding Allison Aquavella's retirement, commended her outstanding service, and noted that he had hired her. He also praised the Hall of Fame event. Ms. Bruno echoed his sentiments regarding the retirement, recalling Mr. Stanek's customary expression of accepting resignations "with regret."

Mr. Behuniak concurred with Mr. Champagne's comments and expressed appreciation for the value Dr. Compton's leadership brings to the district.

B. Superintendent Report

Dr. Compton recognized Allison Aquavella's outstanding service and acknowledged her upcoming retirement. She praised the SHS Athletic Hall of Fame event and commended Paul Roy and the athletic committee for their efforts.

Dr. Compton also reported attending the National Honor Society ceremony, describing it as one of her favorite events, and thanked Mr. Lucke and Ms. Fearon. She expressed pride in the district's student-athletes and their participation in fall sports, recognizing the school community for a successful fall season.

She announced that the First Selectwoman is hosting a community pep rally and bonfire on November 22 and reported that the SHS homecoming dance went well.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM

YouTube Link (11/4/2026): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE02nDeM-zE

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

Prepared by Shannon Levey, Board Clerk