

Seymour Board of Education SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2026
Seymour Middle School
6:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/1/26
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



Board Members Present: Kristen Bruno, Chair
Jim Garofolo
Pete Kubik
Lori Nespoli
Edward Strumello
Chris Champagne

Board Members Absent: Kristen Harmeling
Stephan Behuniak

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Bruno called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

II. 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.

- Public comment called three times, no comment.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Discussion and possible action of SPS Armed School Security Officers Assignments

Dr. Compton provided the Board of Education with a document from the Seymour Police Chief outlining the agreement, roles, and schedules for the two School Resource Officers (SROs). She clarified that the SROs are Seymour Police Department employees and that Seymour Public Schools does not have supervisory authority over them. Dr. Compton noted that there may be some misunderstanding regarding the role and responsibilities of SROs and emphasized the broad scope of their work within the schools.

The two SROs began their assignments in Seymour on Friday. Dr. Compton explained that the SRO agreement is reviewed every three years by the Police Chief, Director of Security, building principals then the board.

Dr. Compton further explained that the SROs will have the ability to flex one day periodically, with advance notice to school administration and their supervisors, provided there are no pressing needs within the school. The flex day may occur approximately once per week or once every two weeks, depending on operational needs. She explained that this provision allows the officers to have opportunities for private-duty assignments and is connected to provisions within the police union agreement. The availability of these opportunities was an important factor in encouraging officers to apply for the SRO positions.

Dr. Compton explained that the district currently has two School Security Officers (SSOs) assigned to Seymour High School as a result of an administrator grievance. She recommended moving one SSO to

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Seymour Middle School so that both the high school and middle school would have one SSO and one SRO. Director of Security Ed Henry would provide coverage when absences occur.

Dr. Compton described the proposed SSO reassignment as a positive solution for both schools and stated that the district could reevaluate the staffing structure during next year's budget process to determine whether adjustments are necessary. She acknowledged that the district was in a difficult position because it was uncertain whether the two SRO positions would ultimately be filled.

Mr. Champagne stated that Board action was not required on the proposed assignment. Dr. Compton agreed and clarified that the purpose of the discussion was to ensure that the Board was informed.

Mr. Strumello noted that SROs receive specialized training specific to their role and that the position requires more than simply assigning a police officer to a school. He emphasized the importance of the relationships SROs develop with students and their ability to identify and address potential issues before they escalate. Dr. Compton also noted that SROs have legal authority to perform certain duties beyond those of SSOs. Mr. Strumello and Dr. Compton both recognized the work of the district's current SSOs and stated that they have been doing a good job.

Ms. Bruno stated that the Board made many difficult decisions throughout the budget process and emphasized that safety and security remain a priority. She noted the district's efforts to maintain five school nurses across four schools and stated that the district currently has seven security officers across four schools. She expressed concern regarding the information provided during the budget process about what was included in the budget and emphasized the importance of developing a stronger working relationship with the police union moving forward.

Mr. Kubik asked about the timeline for notification regarding an SRO's flex day. Dr. Compton stated that the district would receive advance notice and that the officer would notify both their supervisor and the appropriate school administrator. She clarified that the flex day would not be a same-day decision.

Ms. Bruno stated that the district would not want to see a pattern in which an officer's flex day consistently fell on the same day of the week, particularly if that day historically presents greater challenges or needs within the school.

Mr. Garofolo asked how half days would affect the SRO schedule. Dr. Compton explained that the officers could use the time for paperwork and documentation and would coordinate their schedules with the Police Department. Mr. Strumello noted that staff remain in the building on half days and, therefore, the SRO would continue to provide security and protection while staff are present.

B. Connecticut Orthopedics Contract for SPS Athletic Trainer

1. Cathy Federowicz provided the Board of Education with an overview of the process undertaken to select an athletic trainer for Seymour Public Schools. She reviewed the selection process and compared the proposed arrangement with athletic trainer services utilized by several surrounding school districts.

MOTION: (Chris Champagne / Pete Kubik) to approve the Connecticut Orthopedics Contract for Seymour Public Schools Athletic Trainer

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello

PASSES: 6-0

C. Discussion and possible action to appoint a Seymour Board of Education Member to serve the remainder of John Hatfield's term

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1. Ms. Bruno reviewed the process undertaken by the Board of Education to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John Hatfield.
2. **MOTION:** (Lori Nespoli / Pete Kubik) to appoint Casey Grenier to fulfill the remainder of John Hatfield's term.
AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Champagne, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Strumello
PASSES: 6-0

Casey Grenier addressed the Board and expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve. She shared that she is a mother of two and was raised in Milford before moving to Seymour. She noted that, although she had not previously served on the Board of Education, she has been actively involved in the Seymour community as a parent, volunteer, and member of the community.

Ms. Grenier discussed her professional experience as a store manager, which has provided her with extensive experience working with the public. She emphasized the importance of listening to a broad range of perspectives, advocating for those who may not have a voice, and approaching issues with an open mind. She expressed her excitement to return to Seymour and serve the community.

Mr. Strumello, a member of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Board of Directors, welcomed Ms. Grenier and noted that CABE offers training for newly appointed Board of Education members. He stated that the training is a valuable resource for first-time board members. Shannon will provide Ms. Grenier with information regarding upcoming training opportunities.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS & SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Board of Education Comments

1. Chairman's Comments - none
2. Board Member Comments - Board members welcomed Casey Grenier to the Board of Education and expressed their support for her appointment.
Mr. Strumello announced that a CABE Area Director position is currently open and invited any Seymour Board of Education member interested in serving in the position to contact him. Ms. Nespoli volunteered to fill the vacancy.

- ### B. Superintendent Report -
- Dr. Compton reported that the district held a successful convocation on Monday and described it as a wonderful celebration to begin the school year. She noted that Ed Strumello was able to attend the event as well. Dr. Compton stated that the following day would be a very special day for the district as students return to school. She shared that staff are excited and have been working hard to prepare for the start of the school year and expressed that she feels very positive about the upcoming school year. Dr. Compton also invited Board of Education members to participate in school tours on the first day of school.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk