

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 20, 2018
Final Minutes

Present: Katie Fiander, Dan Hayes, Jen Malcolm-Brown, Steve Sullivan, members; Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Chair; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Public Guests

A. Meeting Called to Order by Lauren at 7:06 P.M.

B. Public Comments and Announcements: Weezy, representing the Fin Com, discussed dates in November and January SSC could meet with the Fin Com. Perhaps SSC could have a budget-only meeting in late October? JSC decided to set a meeting for Thursday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: No changes.

D. Warrants and Gifts: None.

E. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2018.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2018. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

Dan drew attention to the upcoming MASC Conference; Lauren has signed up for it. SSC can send one member every year.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Family Handbook – Vote:

Jennifer reported on Jackie’s behalf that there are no big changes in the handbook.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Lauren distributed copies of the SSC Resource Guide, which is designed to help SSC members locate various information related to committee/school business. Dan asked about the flow of minutes to the Finance Committee and Select Board; Dan suggested using one email address for the Fin Com, but it seems Fin Com members don’t check that regularly because of junk mail. Minutes will be sent to Weezy as well as the general mailbox.

H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Bruce requested a transfer in order to clean up last year’s finances; all the invoices and so on have come in. Steve asked where the mixer got paid from: the General Fund. Bruce thanked him for helping us get the Reserve Fund transfer at the end of the year to cover that. The laptops were also covered by monies that came in to cover the Out-of-District placement. We’re starting with a clean, zeroed-out deficit this year after this transfer. Some of the After School deficit was used to cover unexpected expenses required for an IEP at the end of the year. Katie noted it might be useful to designate the money more accurately (SPED expenses) so that our real needs are apparent to the casual observer.

Bruce noted that the new Treasurer in town might help us track revenue better so we can make more accurate decisions going forward.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE A BUDGET TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,610.66 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO PRE-SCHOOL TUITION (\$1,386.23), SCHOOL LUNCH (\$3,542.22), AND AFTER SCHOOL LINES (\$3,682.21). KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

2. Principal's Report: Jennifer reported on Jackie's behalf. Enrollment stands at 128 this September, including 9 through School Choice. It's not clear from the distributed info whether children of teachers who are enrolled through a provision in the Contract are included.

3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer reported that Opening Day was 8/27, hosted by EES. The theme was Hope because research indicates no other single factor is a better predictor of success. It enables our children to adapt and grow, and the relationships we foster between adults and students as well as among students are the ultimate source of hope.

Over the past few years we've been researching Universal Design for Learning, and this year we're shifting to implementation of UDL. An Implementation Leadership Team has been formed from teachers and staff members at all four schools to help each school implement UDL and facilitate professional development around UDL.

MASS is launching an advocacy blitz (media and education) about the inequities in public education in MA, which go back to the inequities in funding, particularly how the Foundation Formula works. Happily, Rural Sparsity Aid was passed; \$1.5 million was allocated. Now they need to figure out how to distribute it, and according to the original formulation of what counts as a rural community (<10 students per square mile), all four of our towns would qualify for aid.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: Steve reported that the RSC met once in June at a retreat, but was not that productive. They talked about how to work with the Superintendent in the future rather than address the internal problems in how RSC works. It seems like business as usual. The potential lead contamination in the water isn't being addressed except through changing out bubblers. We meet next Thursday. The new head Librarian at ARHS is an SES alum. Katie noted that a robocall went out yesterday about a potential threat, but neither students nor the school committee were aware of it; it turned out not to be serious. He also noted that when the minimum distance to cannabis shops was changed from 250 feet to 500 feet away from any school, it was enough to keep such shops out of downtown Amherst, but now that the Boys and Girls Club has moved closer to the school, a retail location has opened up that a cannabis shop is thinking of moving into.

5. Union #28 Report – including Budget and Personnel: Lauren reported that JSC met on Monday and reorganized; Lauren is the new Chair, but they didn't vote on the Vice-Chair because everyone wanted to nominate Dan, but he wasn't able to attend. JSC discussed possible meeting dates, Jennifer presented her 2018-2019 goals (implementing UDL, reconstructing the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, and examining school climate as part of a Leadership Team project), and Lauren and Jennifer made a plan to go through union policies to determine if we need any that are currently lacking (we don't need a lot because we're not a school district). Dan thanked Lauren for taking over leadership of JSC; she's going to do a great job.

6. CES Report: Dan thanked Jennifer for inviting him to attend an MASC luncheon that was very informative. At CES, things are going smoothly. The three schools being run by CES are at full enrollment, and he'll have more news after the next meeting.

I. Policy Review:

First Reading on:

GBGB – Staff Personnel Security and Safety
JL – Student Safety

Second Reading, First Vote on:

EFD – Meal Charge Policy
IHAM – Health Education
IHAMA – Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EFD – MEAL CHARGE POLICY. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IHAM – HEALTH EDUCATION. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IHAMA – PARENTAL NOTIFICATION RELATIVE TO SEX EDUCATION. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Final Vote on:

EEAE – School Bus Safety

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EEAE – SCHOOL BUS SAFETY. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business

Jennifer promised she'll bring her beloved "Shutesbury, Not Shrewsbury" mug to the next meeting.

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, November 15, 2018
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – October 2018
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Leverett Elementary School
- Future agenda items – Use of School Choice Funds

K. Adjournment at 7:57 P.M.

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.