

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Final Minutes

Present: Katie Fiander, Dan Hayes, Jen Malcolm-Brown, 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 7:01 P.M.

B. Public Comments and Announcements:

Dan thanked SSC for sending him to the MASC conference in Cape Cod. The resolutions were interesting (he'd discussed them prior at CES). Some passed, some didn't. He watched Jennifer's presentation about the New Superintendent's Induction Program; she did us proud. Dan sat on a panel about CES and how collaboratives provide valuable services both to students and staff. One interesting panel was on virtual learning academies, which can offer lots of options to students in rural districts.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Dan urged SSC to make decisions on capital requests, as the Capital Planning meeting is coming up soon.

D. Warrants and Gifts: None.

E. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, September 20, 2018 and October 18, 2018.

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

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2018. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Shutesbury Town Committee Meetings: Dan noted that the Town was looking at posting notice of meetings online, to avoid complications with not being able to get in contact with the Town Clerk in time.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Use of School Choice Funds: Jennifer invited feedback on the appropriate use of these funds. One requested use is to support the Artist-in-Residence program (\$3,000), which doesn't have a place in the operating budget. Lauren noted that SSC has been encouraged to use School Choice Funds to support things whenever we can. Dan added there was a comment from the Fin Com Chair that perhaps parents of SES children should sit on the Fin Com; the school might receive more support that way. Dan himself thinks we are capable of advocating for what the school needs regardless of who sits on the Fin Com. Lauren commented that in the years she's been here, the Town has been supportive of SES. Jennifer cautioned SSC that other school districts have come to rely on School Choice Funds for operating expenses, and now they're stuck being dependent on it.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE USING \$3,000 OF THE SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS TO SUPPORT AN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Bruce reported that he's met with the PTO, which has been reorganizing itself internally. He pointed them in the right direction for state reporting requirements. They discussed the nature of the funds they have, which need to be sorted out properly into appropriate reporting categories. It's a work in process. On the budget horizon, it looks like we'll have final proportions and percentages for each U#28 Town's contributions by mid-December. Finally, Bruce met with the Fin Com and updated them on where we're at currently. Some funding sources have disappeared (like grants), which has changed the dynamic in the budget. It's essentially a reset year, and we'll go from here. Dan said that at the Division 5 meeting, he advocated strongly for creating an action plan for the next few years that addresses budget and program issues. If we can all be coordinated in making our needs and challenges known, we'll have a stronger voice. Day on the Hill is a nice event to attend, and some things can happen there, but it's not really the place to move any serious levers. Why aren't our Democratic legislators listening to us? Regional transit went almost all the way to the end, then just stopped. Stan Rosenberg was able to advocate for us because of CES's research; he used their numbers to make an argument that things need to change.
2. Principal's Report: Jackie emailed her report to SSC but couldn't attend, and Jennifer couldn't fill SSC in on the mysterious "happenings" mentioned in the report. Jennifer reported that SES won a prestigious award; we're now in the top 52 schools in the state based on test scores. SSC praised Jackie for her hard work to bring us to this place.
3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer reported on her goals for the year: taking UDL from exploration to integration, reconstructing the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, and developing a school climate survey to learn more about the culture and climate in each of the schools. Rural School Aid has been allocated through DESE, but two towns in U#28 didn't qualify (Shutesbury and Leverett). Despite this, she feels positive that some funding has been allocated, and banding together as a group of Superintendents led to concrete results. Lastly, we had a Professional Development day at which teachers attended workshops led by our own teachers and staff. Jennifer thanked Annie for organizing the day. Lauren commented that one particularly effective aspect of this model is that the presenters, being from the district, really know their audience, the schools, the communities, and the students.
4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: Steve was not present to report. Katie wondered when the Four Town Meeting is happening; the RSC put out a potential meeting date of Dec 1, but hasn't followed up yet. Jennifer said it's been posted as Dec 8, but tentative. Dan said Amherst was looking at a 2% increase.
5. Union #28 Report – including Budget and Personnel: Lauren reported that we're meeting this coming Monday.
6. CES Report: Dan reported that CES met last night. Things are going well there; we have full capacity at all three academies we're either running or assisting with, providing quality services at reduced cost to students with special needs. Our budget last year was a little in the red, but that's not a big deal given the scope of the budget. The organization is very entrepreneurial and dynamic, and remains a leader in providing special education services.

I. Policy Review:

First Reading:

GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
JFBB – School Choice
AC – Nondiscrimination

GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
JB – Equal Education Opportunity

Jennifer noted that “pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions” has been added to the protected classes for all of these policies.

Second Reading, First Vote on:

GBGB – Staff Personnel Security and Safety
JL – Student Safety

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GBGB – STAFF PERSONNEL SECURITY AND SAFETY. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JL – STUDENT SAFETY. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Final 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. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business

SSC discussed compiling the capital needs for SES in anticipation of the Capital Planning meeting. Needs include roof, floors, and boiler, although Bruce is hoping we can get some of this taken care of through MSNBA. Dan wondered about the boiler; he’d heard there wasn’t a recommendation to replace it. Bruce will work with Jackie more to clarify needs.

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee –Monday, November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Leverett Elementary School
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Leverett Elementary School
- Future agenda items – Capital Planning requests

K. Adjournment at 7:53 P.M.

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.