

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, February 14, 2019**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present: Katie Fiander, Dan Hayes, Stephen Sullivan, Jen Malcolm-Brown, members; Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; 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:**

**C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:**

**D. Warrants and Gifts:**

Jackie reported that a “gift” of \$94 in box tops has come in.

#3017: \$10,805.35

#3018: \$4,596.67

#3019: \$36,380.47

#3020: \$30,316.77

#3021: \$800.00

**E. Approval of Minutes from Monday, January 17, and January 30, 2019.**

**LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2019. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2019. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS. (ONE ABSTENTION.)**

**F. Unfinished Business / Updates: None.**

**G. New Business / Discussion Items**

1. Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public Schools: With technical assistance from Jackie, Lauren distributed copies of this resolution. Dan noted that we need to indicate our school district in this statement.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**H. Reports:**

1. Director of Finance and Operations – FY20 Preliminary Budget: Bruce reported that the Statement of Interest has been submitted. There have been a couple of infrastructure issues at the school: part of the

furnace needs to be repaired (at a cost of \$1,000), and the tractor needed a \$2,500 repair to its hydraulics. Jackie said we're going to try to absorb these costs into our current budget, and Dan recommended sending an email to the Fin Com and Select Board letting them know, just in case it turns out we can't pay for them.

Bruce went on to discuss the FY20 Preliminary Budget: the biggest drivers are loss of grants, an increase in our share of the U#28 budget, contractual increases, and loss of Circuit Breaker funds. He said that he, Jackie and Jennifer have worked hard to get to this budget, and that it will meet the needs of the school. The overall increase is 1.99%. We are waiting to hear back on an extension of an Inclusive Kindergarten Learning Environment grant that might add \$10,000, but that's not in the budget at present.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY20 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,273,111. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

2. Principal's Report:

Jackie reported that we instituted our first Blizzard Bag, although we're calling it an Alternative Structured Learning Day. We got very positive feedback on it, for the most part (at least, more overwhelmingly positive than negative). We'll be doing a survey on it, and we plan to hold a second one as part of a pilot. We'll get feedback and tweak things, but apart from some questions about how to do things, we haven't heard anything seriously negative. Some parents expressed appreciation that they didn't have to deal with the ice. The work is designed to be done independently, and teachers are available to help students remotely.

In other news, the Spaghetti Dinner is coming up May 17, and we're thinking of changing the structure of the 6th grade graduation to be in the afternoon during a school day. Lauren cautioned that this change might make it challenging for working parents to attend. The teachers have proposed this change because it aligns with what other schools do. Jen suggested this be taken to the parents' organization as well for feedback.

Our next Artist in Residence, BZ Reilly, will lead students in making a school mural. MCAS starts in early April, and all students will be taking the test on computers this year. Finally, for enrollment, we have 12 School Choice students and a total enrollment of 127. So far, the Choice families have been very supportive and strong. We have robust numbers in most classes now.

3. Superintendent's Report:

Jennifer shared updates on the political scene. The new Chair of the Education Committee is a supportive advocate of educational funding. Last Monday, legislation was filed that would guarantee equitable funding for rural schools, establishing a statute committing to an equitable funding formula in the future. The Rural Day on the Hill has been delayed by weather until February 28. We're moving forward with the Alternative Structured Learning Day pilot at three out of four U#28 schools now.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that a consultant's hours have been significantly increased for the district. There's also a lawsuit filed against the school district over water quality that is going into mediation. Some of the suit was thrown out, but the remainder of the case was intact enough to necessitate mediation. A bill is moving through the Legislature that reduces acceptable lead amounts in drinking water. On January 31, Superintendent Mike Morris along with the Principals and Vice-Principals came up to meet with Shutesbury

residents, but nobody showed. Perhaps we should hold it later, in the spring? Winter seems to be a time when everyone holes up. Steve was able to ask a lot of questions in any case, including uncomfortable questions about math homework. The Principal Search is ongoing.

5. Union #28 Report, including Budget & Personnel: No report.

6. CES Report:

Dan reported that they had a phenomenal presentation from the CES Director of After-School Programs. A number of students served by CES have special needs and they're testing very well, so the state is starting to look at what CES does as a model for success. A big part is the integration of the curriculum into all aspects of the school day. Things are good at CES; the budget is on target and grants are being submitted.

### **I. Policy Review:**

Second Reading, First Vote on:

- AE – Commitment to Accomplishment
- ADC – Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
- JEB – Age of Entrance

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY AE – Commitment to Accomplishment. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY ADC – Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JEB – Age of Entrance. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

Final Vote on:

- GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
- JFBB – School Choice
- AC – Nondiscrimination
- GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
- JB – Equal Education Opportunity

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GBA – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JFBB – SCHOOL CHOICE. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY AC – NONDISCRIMINATION. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GCF – PROFESSIONAL STAFF HIRING. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JB – EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

Second and Final Vote to Delete:

JICJ – Mobile Electronic Signaling Devices

**DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JICJ – MOBILE ELECTRONIC SIGNALING DEVICES. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**J. Future Business:**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, March 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory Policy Committee – Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. Swift River Elementary
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Swift River Elementary
- Budget and Personnel Committee – TBD
- Future agenda items –

**K. Adjournment at 7:50 P.M.**

**DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**