

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 25, 2019
Final Minutes

Present: Dan Hayes, Steven Sullivan, Jen Malcolm-Brown, members; Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Public Guests

A. Meeting Called to Order by Lauren at 7:02 P.M.

B. Public Hearings – Chocolate Milk Presentation:

A group of SES 6th Graders presented a petition to SSC advocating for the return of chocolate milk. They presented a list of reasons why chocolate milk isn't as unhealthy as one might think: it contains all the same nutrients as milk and does not add a significant amount of sugar to one's diet, provided that a low-sugar brand is chosen. They recommended three such brands, including Mapleline Farm and Fairlife. As a concession, they suggested the school might serve chocolate milk only a few times a week, or only on Fridays. SSC thanked the students for their fine efforts at researching and presenting; Steve noted they're the third group to make this attempt.

Gillian Budine of Community Network for Children then updated SSC on CNC's services. Funded largely through a grant that has not grown as our children's needs have in recent years, CNC undertakes significant fundraising to maintain its programming even as demand has been growing by leaps and bounds. CNC organizes playgroups and tunes & tales programs in all five member towns, distributes diapers and formula and emergency car seats, and serves as an information and support hub for U#28 families.

Finally, a member of the public urged SSC members to get as many families as possible to participate in Town Meeting in order to support Amherst Regional Schools. She also suggested Jackie should attend and brag about SES's achievements.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

#3022: \$28,528.08

#3023: \$13,111.30

Alas, the "wah-wahnn" of no gifts continues to ring woefully in our ears.

E. Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2019.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2019. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates: None.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Identification of School Choice Seats: Jackie reported that SES currently has 12 Choice students, including children of staff who are now attending through the School Choice program thanks to an MOA with the teachers' union.

DAN MOVED THAT SES PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM THIS YEAR AS A SCHOOL OF CHOICE. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations: Jennifer reported on Bruce's behalf that SES will participate in a Town-wide audit this year instead of paying for an independent one to the tune of over \$3,000.
2. Principal's Report: ELA MCAS is underway, and we're transitioning to Math MCAS in May. All students are testing on computers now, and it's imperative that we maintain a high participation rate in order to continue to enjoy the autonomy we do as a school. On a more sober note, SES is the third highest school in the state for unvaccinated children, and if the measles outbreak hits Franklin County, unvaccinated children might be required to stay at home for 30 days. Teachers will not be preparing a month's worth of home work for them, nor will we provide tutoring support, although students would be able to access the online resources we already pay for. Our nurses are in contact with the Department of Public Health.

Since we're reaching the end of the year, our schedule is jam packed! Field Day, Spirit Week, the Spaghetti Dinner, the 6th Grade trip to Boston, 6th Grade Step Up Day, and more are all coming soon.

We've had some shocking and disappointing news from the MSBA: our roof doesn't qualify for assistance because they've raised the cut-off date for roofs to 27 years (ours is 25 years old). They did examine our boilers, but indicated to Jennifer that there's little chance of their decision about the roof being changed this year.

Some parents have voiced concerns about the incipient plans at Amherst to move the 6th grade into the middle school. Amherst is already planning a new elementary school that would combine two of its schools, and this new school doesn't have the room for 6th Grade. How will this impact SES and its students?

3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer reported that the State House has voted down nearly all the education budget amendments, including the rural aid one. There may be hope for some of these in the Senate, however. On another note, Jennifer and Jackie attended a conference on vaping: it's shockingly easy to do in school.
4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: Steve reported that he voiced his concerns about the practice of locking bathrooms at the Amherst schools to discourage vaping there. There's no indication of who the next Principal will be, though the search has concluded.
5. Union #28 Report, including Budget & Personnel: No report.
6. CES Report: Dan reported that a Senate act was passed that gives more clout to educational collaboratives. Also, Gateway and Worthington are interested in joining CES, and that both virtual academies (Mt. Tom and HEC) are fully enrolled and changing students' lives. They're currently

undertaking their Executive Director evaluation, and CES, along with DYS, will be showcasing work by incarcerated youth at the upcoming Youth Art Showcase.

I. Policy Review:

First Vote on:

- ADF – Wellness
- BDB – School Committee Officers
- BDG – School Attorney
- BEDF – Voting Method

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY ADF – WELLNESS. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDB – SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICERS. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDG – SCHOOL ATTORNEY. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEDF – VOTING METHOD. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Second and Final Vote on Deletion of Policy:

- JKD – Suspension Policy

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JKD – SUSPENSION POLICY. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, June 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory Policy Committee – Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. Central Office
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Central Office
- Future agenda items –

K. Adjournment at 8:13 P.M.

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.