

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 13, 2020
Final Minutes

Present: Dan Hayes, Steve Sullivan, Jen Malcolm-Brown, Katie Fiander, members; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Bruce Tanner, Director of Finance & Operations

A. Meeting Called to Order by Dan (Secretary chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chair) at 7:04 P.M.

B. Public Hearings:

FY 21 Budget: None.

Other Public Comments and Announcements: None.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

#3014: \$12,058.51

E. Approval of Minutes from January 16 and January 28, 2020:

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2020. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2020. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. FY21 Budget – Discussion and Vote on Final Adoption of Budget: Bruce said we had a very good meeting with the Select Board and the Fin Com the other night. Some Rural Aid has been added. Dan thanked Jackie and Bruce for putting together a great budget.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY21 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,191,073. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Calendar: Jackie said that we have a bit of a problem with the calendar next academic year because Amherst decided to start on Aug 31 (Labor Day is very late this year). This puts us in an awkward position because we either have to start on Aug 24 with the rest of U#28 (we know we'll be calling Snow Days, so we have to give ourselves enough time) and have a week during which middle and high schoolers will be home, or start on Aug 31 and finish the school year super late (near the very end of June). Teachers understand the problems either way and are pretty much split on their preferences. Another issue: people make vacation plans ahead of time. We don't need to make a decision now; we just need to be aware of this problem. Katie said it's more important to sync with Amherst on the Feb and Apr breaks. Dan suggested

splitting the difference, starting on Aug 26 or 27; Jackie will bring that up with the teachers. SSC supports whatever decision Jackie makes.

H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations: Bruce reported that he submitted the MSNBA application: fingers crossed! It's been a quiet month apart from the budget.

2. Principal's Report: Jackie reported that the past few weeks have been really interesting with weather, cancellations, Flu A, Flu B, strep, and a stomach bug. We've had up to a 20% absence rate. We disinfected incessantly and had the kids wash their hands, but it's clear people were sending their kids in sick, so we had to call parents and have them pick them up, etc. Teachers have been home sick too. Things are finally getting a little better now.

Our second burner in the hot water heater was installed just fine. The Whalemobile came last week, and it was *awesome*. The kids absolutely loved it; they were just in awe the whole time. The teachers loved it too. We're also in the final stages of searching for a School Psychologist. MCAS is upon us, fully computerized now, and Debbie Lee does a fantastic job getting the kids ready for it. Enrollment is up by one (a Kindergartener). We're getting several School Choice applications from Warwick as well since they're closing their school.

3. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: Steve reported that the RSC approved four new classes, including a Chinese literature and culture class. We're actually getting some students from PVCICS in high school now. Other classes are Music Production II (using Garage Band), Environmental Studies with a social justice focus, Engineering Materials and Manufacturing Process (which is really just the old middle-school class with CAD added in). We signed a statement of interest for the middle school roof (25 years old; we're looking at including skylights and/or PV), and we've switched bus companies. Amherst is pushing for electric buses now, but RSC thinks it's too much money to make the change right now. The region is not accepting Choice students this year because they're pretty much at capacity from the rising 6th Graders. We also discussed the proposal to move 6th Grade into the Middle School, which would happen in Fall 2022 if it happens at all. Dan commented on the ongoing struggle at Amherst Middle School. The search for a Principal is on again.

On the question of the Regional Assessment, some progress seems to have been made by UMass paying more in PILOT funds. We don't know if Leverett will accept it. Dan said we need to make an MOU to clarify what we're all agreeing to.

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

5. CES Report: Dan reported that we had another presentation on vaping. Katie noted that Amherst seems to be ignoring the problem.

I. Policy Review:

First Reading on:

JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

DGA – Authorized Signatures
CH – Policy Implementation
CHD – Administration in Policy Absence

Second Reading, First Vote on:

JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
JFF – Student Activities Account
BEDG – Minutes

Final Vote on:

DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
BGE – Policy Dissemination
BGF – Suspension and Repeal of Policies
BHC – School Committee-Staff Communications

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JFABE – EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JFABF – EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JFF – STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEDG – MINUTES. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY DI – FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BGE – POLICY DISSEMINATION. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BGF – SUSPENSION AND REPEAL OF POLICIES. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

KATIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BHC – SCHOOL COMMITTEE-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Dan thanked Policy Committee members for their tireless and superlative efforts.

KATIE MOVED TO DESIGNATE STEVE AS THE OFFICIAL SIGNER OF WARRANTS. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, March 19, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory Policy Committee – Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. Swift River School
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Swift River School
- Budget and Personnel Committee – None
- Future agenda items – Calendar for next academic year; contracts.

K. Adjournment at 7:44 P.M.

KATIE MOVED TO ADJOURN. JEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.