

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 18, 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Bethany Rose, Stephen Sullivan, Julie Martel, members; Dan Hayes, Chair; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance & Operations; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Public Guests

A. Meeting Called to Order by Bethany at 7:23 P.M.

B. Public Hearings: None.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

Payroll

309	11/1/2021	\$ 80,501.95
310	11/15/2021	\$ 85,032.91

Payables

3010	11/2/2021	\$20,803.50
3011	11/15/2021	\$22,257.65

E. Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2021:

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21. JULIE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Face Coverings - Discussion:

Steve said he was disappointed that at the last meeting, nobody mentioned the Board of Health wasn't involved in the decision to mask at recess in the first place. This is an important conversation to have now that things are getting colder, impacting outside play time. Dan apologized for a miscommunication about the BOH. He doesn't want to see students outdoors wearing masks, but we should try to keep as many people in school as possible, and worsening conditions in the are mean that we should continue to give Jackie the flexibility to make the call. Julie said she's pleased to see that children will remain masked

outdoors until after the holiday break (during which parents have the opportunity to get their children vaccinated). Dan thanked everyone for being patient; conditions are always changing.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Home School Application - discussion and vote:

STEVE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HOME SCHOOL APPLICATION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

2. FY23 Draft Budget:

Bruce presented on the major drivers of the FY23 Draft Budget (Gross Instruction is the biggest). Shutesbury's U28 proportional contribution is down somewhat this year. Jennifer reviewed reporting needs at the school as well as other summer work that the Principal is in charge of, and after looking at Principal positions around the region (all of which are full time, allowing for paid summer work), she is proposing that the U28 Principals all be made year-round positions, honoring the summer work they do now without pay. This works out to a 4% increase (~\$4K) for Shutesbury. To fund positions that address student learning loss and social-emotional support, we're using ESSER and Choice funds. The overall budget increase, after taking these into account, is \$55,545 (2.48%). We're predicting we'll have high needs in our Pre-K next year, so we're funding a para to address that. Jennifer emphasized that these needs are temporary, so we're not going to have these same positions permanently going forward. A lot of this is connected to the pandemic and the lack of being in school.

Dan asked how the proposed Principal salary compares with nearby districts. The lowest (an outlier) is \$88K, with a low end around \$90K and the high end \$132K. Most fall in the mid-\$90K. We would be in step with our region if we made the Principal positions year-round. Steve asked what the increase in working hours would be; Jennifer can get back with that. The Principal has been doing all the summer work, but not getting paid for it.

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY23 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,293,124, AN INCREASE OF \$55,545 (2.48%). JULIE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES FOUR AYES. (ONE ABSTENTION.) PASSES.

3. U28 FY23 Budget:

Bruce noted that the U28 FY23 Budget was approved at the last JSC meeting, and is reflected in the SES Budget.

H. Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Jennifer reported that we've finally emptied out every file cabinet at the old office. The records we need to go over are at her desk at SRS. But we're nearly done with the purging and organizing of our files and records. It's budget season! We're moving forward with a viable candidate in our Director of Finance and Operations Search. Pam is amazing helping in this process (despite mouse droppings and chewed documents, etc.).

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

Bruce said we've gotten some things fixed with the HVAC system. He met with some Town officials to discuss some engineering required to update the control system along the lines of \$16K, which the Town would like the school to help pay for. He's looking at several potential avenues to fund this. There are some other repairs and installations going on as well.

3. Principal's Report:

Jennifer shared items from Jackie's report. Students have gone through three rounds of testing (80% of children have gotten tested). SES completed virtual conferences very successfully; some parents requested that option for the future as well.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that there's a meeting on Saturday focused on the history of the Regional Assessment Method. He voted yes for allowing the Amherst 6th Graders into the Middle School (our vote didn't really matter much since Amherst reps outnumber reps from other regional districts). We could face an issue if Amherst allows Choice students in 6th Grade.

5. Union #28 Report, including Budget & Personnel:

Jennifer reported that the FY23 Budget was approved. We'll be talking about substitute rates at the next meeting in January.

6. CES Report:

Dan reported that we're looking at restructuring parts of what we do to redistribute workloads. Things just keep humming along otherwise.

7. MASC Conference Update/Report:

Dan appreciated SSC sending him there. It's a great opportunity to learn about what other committees are doing and to network. A shared theme seems to be trying to provide health-related services to students in school. A number of resolutions were approved.

I. Policy Review:

First Reading On:

GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest
GBEC – Drug Free Workplace

First Vote On Deletion of Policy:

H – Negotiations

LAUREN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY H – NEGOTIATIONS. BETHANY SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – January 10, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – TBD
- Future agenda items –

K. Adjournment at 8:28