

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, December 16, 2021**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present: Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Bethany Rose, Stephen Sullivan, Julie Martel, members; Dan Hayes, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance & Operations; Public Guests**

**A. Meeting Called to Order by Dan at 7:05 P.M.**

**B. Public Hearings: None.**

**C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.**

**D. Warrants and Gifts:**

**Payroll**

311	11/29/2021	\$82,758.07
312	12/13/2021	\$82,309.27

**Payables**

3012	11/30/2021	\$19,369.89
3013	12/13/2021	\$7,833.27

**STEVEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE WARRANTS. LAUREN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**E. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2021:**

**LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18. JULIE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**F. Unfinished Business / Updates:**

1. FY23 Draft Budget:

Bruce said we're meeting with the Select Board and FinCom next week to get their input. The School Committee has already weighed in on this budget. Dan worked out some details with Susie Mosher on the timeline for the budget and for the meetings with the Town committees next week.

**G. New Business / Discussion Items: None**

## **H. Reports:**

1. Superintendent's Report: No report.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

Bruce reported that the door should be installed over Christmas break; Jackie said nobody has spoken to her about having access to the building then. Steve said we have two or three quotes on installers, but no arrangements have been made to have it done, but he promises Jackie will be the first to know.

Bruce said this is his last meeting with SSC, and it's been wonderful working with people who are so dedicated to the students and to their community. SSC thanked Bruce for his service and asked for some financial information to be included in his presentation to the joint meeting next week.

3. Principal's Report:

Jackie reported that we have a challenging but delightful Preschool this year. In January, we'll be receiving a couple of students with special education needs, so we need to hire another para until the end of the year. She and the Leadership Team really wish to be able to do joint U#28 programming in the schools rather than develop our own individual programs.

We're all enjoying our time with the children, but everyone's ready for a break. Our 5th Grade teacher has applied for and won a science grant again, so a teacher from the Hitchcock Center will be coming to do several sessions with each class. We're having band and stringed instrument lessons again. Any students choosing a wind instrument are virtual, everyone else is in person. There are a lot of fun and awesome things happening in the classrooms. We're so lucky to have the teachers we do. She's going to take some pictures of the incredible artwork being done by our Art Teacher to decorate our hallways with cheer and love; the displays are phenomenal, our Rainbow Plaque is amazing, and we want to be able to share all of that with the community, who would otherwise be able to come in and see our building for themselves.

Steve asked how lunch is going now that we're inside: good, but the big kids miss being outside, so we'll try to get them out until the weather gets icky. The kids are really well trained with using their masks when they're not eating.

Dan asked about the impending TikTok "challenge" being promoted for tomorrow; what is the school doing about this? Jackie said they decided that it's not something that we necessarily need to worry about at SES, and that we have things well in hand with the very few students who might know what TikTok even is. After what happened in Michigan recently, we had a discussion about physical safety, and are not propping doors open any more for air circulation. We have a good security system and other safety measures in place.

Steve asked about the drop of the mask mandate in January; Jackie said she thinks many will still be wearing them by choice.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that the last meeting was pretty much housekeeping, in addition to approving the school calendar (starting August 25, ending June 22).

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

6. CES Report: No report.

Dan requested that Steve and Jackie get him the number of students we have at SES and Amherst schools for the Annual Report.

## **I. Policy Review:**

First Reading On:

IHBAA – Observation of Special Education Program  
JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities

Second Reading, First Vote On:

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

First Vote On Deletion of Policy:

IHAE – Physical Education  
JCA-1 – Students of Non-Resident Employee

Second and Final Vote On Deletion of Policy:

H – Negotiations

Dan amended GBEA.

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GBEA – STAFF ETHICS / CONFLICT OF INTEREST AS AMENDED. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GBEC – DRUG FREE WORKPLACE. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**LAUREN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY IHAE – NEGOTIATIONS. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**LAUREN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JCA-1 – NEGOTIATIONS. JULIE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**LAUREN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY H – NEGOTIATIONS. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

Jackie noted that we have significant needs to meet at SES for an increasing number of students that will require shifting how things work in the building, additional staff, and so forth. Dan said this need should be built into our normal budget. SES members discussed how to meet these needs going forward. Perhaps we'll have to build an additional staff person into the budget. Dan said we will find room in the budget for this need.

**J. Future Business:**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, January 20, 2022 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 7:57**