

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, November 19, 2015**  
**FINAL Minutes**

**Present: Dan Hayes, Katie Fiander, Fred Steinberg, Steve Sullivan, members; Sean Woodard-McNiff, Chair; Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Public Guests**

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

**B. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar**

**C. Warrants and Gifts**

Food Service: \$3,218.85

**D. Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2015**

Jennifer offered one emendation to the minutes.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2015 AS EMENDED. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**E. Public Comments and Announcements**

Dan thanked the committee for sending him to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Conference on the Cape – it was very inspiring, especially the last forum, consisting of local students who presented complex perspectives on the issues facing schools today. Sean said SSC can rotate the member who attends each year.

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

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

**H. Policy Review**

Final vote on:  
IJL – Library Material Selection and Review

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IJL – LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION AND REVIEW. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**I. Reports**

**1. Principal's Report**

Jennifer reported on Jackie's behalf. SES was awarded a \$5,000 STARS grant to support an artist-in-residence program; two artists specializing in storytelling through dance will work with students this year. There will soon be a performance focused on science.

SES received PARCC scores from Spring 2015; the school is lower than the state average in math but higher in ELA. However, it appears that elementary school math scores are lower across the state on PARCC. Sean noted that some PARCC sections moved similarly across the state, and Jennifer added that the paper-and-pencil PARCC was a very different test than the electronic MCAS. Both Sean and

Jennifer commented on slips in alignment between elementary and middle-school curricula in several subject areas.

## 2. Superintendent's Report

Jennifer reported that she presented her four goals for the year to JSC, which they approved: effective entry and direction setting; maintaining momentum during leadership transition; participation in the statewide Superintendent Induction Program; and fair and effective teacher evaluation. Progress is being made along all four goals. Dan commented that reports from all four schools are positive so far, and that the presentation of these goals at JSC was very impressive. Jennifer added that the timeline for evaluation is fairly tight; the mid-year assessment is in January and the summative evaluation is in April. Sean noted that it's always possible to extend goals into the next year; it's important to look at the big picture.

She went on to note that the Board of DESE approved Mitchell Chester's recommendation to develop a new test for deployment in 2017; until then, schools will be held harmless for test results (meaning their level cannot decrease during this period).

Finally, Jennifer has done two school visits and observations, and recently the Leadership Team visited one school. She has also opened a Twitter account to promote school events - @supt\_u28. She has also started doing round tables to get feedback from staff.

## 3. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report

Steve reported that SES hosted a forum on regionalization last night and about 28 people showed up. He had to read the PowerPoint presentation to everyone though he did not care to. Another issue on the regional committee's agenda is the 10-Year Capital Plan; the auditorium is scheduled for much-needed upgrades, and the auditorium seats are due to be replaced. Steve was also appointed to the Budget and Personnel Subcommittee.

As for the assessment method, Shutesbury's share has increased 4.3% under the current method; it would drop 12% under the statutory method, and the 5-year rolling average method, which would provide the most predictability for all towns, would drop the share 11.2%. Sean wondered whether voting for one method or another impacts the bottom line; Steve answered no – rather, it's a question of how the budget responsibility is divided among the towns. However, adopting one method over another might mean that all towns can't pay equally, which might affect the budget through cuts to programs.

Sean asked about the next step for the regionalization proposal; Steve said the next vote is in January, and a supermajority vote is required to move it forward.

Dan wondered whether anyone is concerned about low morale among Amherst staff due to the culture created by the Superintendent. Sean commented that it's intimidating for teachers to meet with school committee members because of the leapfrogging of the leadership structure. Sean thanked Steve for his work on the regional committee; it's a great deal of complex work.

Dan said that MASC did a statewide study of charter schools and found a number of interesting trends; he will forward the report to SSC.

## 4. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Aaron said that the school is well within budget at this point and even has money left over from the summer program. It's still early in the year, so the real trends aren't usually visible at this point, but he's

confident things are being managed well at the school. He commented that the Food Services Director job is very intense in terms of reporting, and that there might be easier ways to run the services in the schools; for example, it's harder to measure and report nutritional information when cooking from scratch, which the schools want to move more and more towards. To support this, he's started a Google Doc sharing recipes with nutritional information included. He went on to say that it's important to connect with Secretaries and Food Services Directors, who are more isolated in their work than the teachers; he's looking at ways that information can be shared among the four schools to provide more support for these positions, although we haven't decided on a specific direction yet. Some schools have responded to this by increasing the Food Services Director hours to deal with the reporting. Finally, Aaron consulted with Jackie on the boiler system at SES to try to make a decision about whether to overhaul or outright replace the system.

Steve wondered how much the Food Services Directors are working versus how much they're getting paid; Aaron said that two hours have been added per day, totaling eight now. When you look at the amount of data that schools have to put out, mainly in response to unfunded mandates, now versus ten years ago, it's enormous. Sean added that we let the Director access the Overtime Budget last year, before we built the extra time in.

#### 5. Union #28 Report – including Budget and Personnel

See Superintendent's Report above.

#### 6. CES Report

Dan reported that CES is holding a forum soon to gather information from parents and children about the impact of standardized testing on their school experience.

### **J. Future Business**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – December 17, 2015 at 6 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – December 17, 2015 at 7 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – TBD
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – TBD
- Future agenda items

### **K. Adjournment**

**DAN MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A LEGAL MATTER, NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION. FRED SECONDED. ALL VOICE VOTES AYE. UNANIMOUS.**

### **L. Adjournment**