

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, May 19, 2016
FINAL Minutes**

Present: Dan Hayes, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Katie Fiander, Steve Sullivan, members; Fred Steinberg, Chair; Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Public Guests

A. Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 P.M.

B. Reorganization of the Committee

DAN MOVED TO NOMINATE FRED FOR CHAIR. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO NOMINATE KATIE FOR SECRETARY. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

FRED MOVED TO NOMINATE DAN AND LAUREN FOR U#28 REPRESENTATIVES. DAN SECONDED LAUREN. STEVE SECONDED DAN. UNANIMOUS.

FRED MOVED TO NOMINATE DAN FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO U#28 BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO NOMINATE ALL OTHER SSC MEMBERS AS ALTERNATES TO U#28 BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO NOMINATE STEVE FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO AMHERST REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

FRED MOVED TO NOMINATE LAUREN AND KATIE FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE. DAN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

FRED MOVED TO NOMINATE ALL OTHER SSC MEMBERS AS ALTERNATES TO POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE. DAN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO NOMINATE STEVE FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CAPITAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

FRED MOVED TO NOMINATE DAN FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar

D. Warrants and Gifts

#5009: \$2,941.06

#3027: \$14,459.57

Fred read a letter from DEP to SSC about the proposed track, requesting that SES show that its construction will not adversely affect local water sources.

E Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2016.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF April 14, 2016. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Public Comments and Announcements

Debbie Lee presented on the wifi infrastructure study done last year. The federal program that supports our service is shifting, pulling back on phone support but increasing wifi support in schools, although what we're losing for phones is not equal to what we're gaining for wifi. We currently receive 60% reimbursement through this program. It's necessary to upgrade the wifi system in the school; the current setup is closer to a home system than one suitable for the usage the school is experiencing now (more and more students research online, for example). We've already reviewed technologies and vendors as well as reached out to other schools. Aaron added that this dovetails with the U#28 IT plan. It would be possible to set up guest access on the new system, including for limited time periods.

Polly Wagner presented on the proposed new Math curriculum. The last couple of years have seen new standards that our curriculum needs to be aligned to (there are two sets of standards: content and practice). The curriculum process this year was more inclusive, inviting teacher input. The shift in content standards sometimes necessitated interpolating material from higher grades. We are already aligned to practice standards, but we need to align to content standards. During the curriculum review, teachers looked at Everyday Math, the curriculum used in Leverett and Amherst, and saw that while it aligns to content standards, it doesn't include practice standards at all. The teachers decided to continue using Investigations, the current curriculum, but to switch to the latest edition, which is aligned to the new standards. They've also had a conversation with an Amherst math teacher to get input on their decision; it seems to be well in alignment with what goes on at ARHS, but not as much with what happens at ARMS. The language-oriented approach to mathematics in the IMP mathematics curriculum has been causing problems for students with language-related IEPs. Teachers are learning how to elasticize their math goals/problems to create low thresholds through which anyone can enter a problem, but a ceiling as high as a student can handle depending on individual ability. Jennifer noted that it's great our practice standards are already aligned to federal standards as well as to ARHS.

Dan recognized SES students and staff for a wonderful Spaghetti Dinner and silent auction; it's nice to see the tradition continued and the community supporting it. He did receive a concerned call from a Shutesbury resident about mowing the lawn on a Sunday and passed it on to Jackie. The incident was a once-a-year, contracted general cleanup of grounds rather than overtime; upon learning this, the resident was relieved.

Katie noted another public concern that came up at the Spaghetti Dinner: tables had to be rearranged due to significant leaking from the roof. Fred said that Shutesbury Buildings Committee Chair Bob Groves has been informed of this.

Nancy Birtwell noted that people have complained how loud the outdoor PA system is.

Fred noted that both SSC and Jackie have received mandatory copies of a list of school-aged children in Shutesbury.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Substitute Wages: Our rates are pretty much in the ballpark for schools in the area, but we're inconveniently located, making us less competitive for substitute teachers. Consequently, we do experience difficulties getting substitute teachers as well as nurses. Perhaps we could agree to a standard rate at the U#28 level? Aaron noted that other U#28 schools have the same concerns about sub rates. SSC will bring the issue to JSC to hear what the other schools think. Aaron will also look at the data and think about a proposed rate.
2. Franklin County Regional Sheltering Agreement: This is about using the school in an emergency (generator, kitchen, etc.). SSC had no objection to the Agreement on the face of it, but wanted to know

more details such as who would make the authorization, etc. SSC will invite the relevant individuals to the next meeting to seek clarification.

H. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Robocalls:

I. Policy Review

Second Reading, First Vote on:

1. DI-A – Food Service Accounts Policy
2. JLCG – Head Lice Policy
3. GBED – Smoking and Tobacco Use on School Property by Staff Members

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY DI-A – FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNTS POLICY. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JLCG – HEAD LICE POLICY. KAITE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY GBED – SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY BY STAFF MEMBERS. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

First Reading on:

1. JH – Absences and Excuses

Vote to Delete:

1. JKF – Discipline of Students Eligible for Special Education Needs

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JKF – DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Reports

1. Principal's Report

Jennifer reported on behalf of Jackie. The last day of school will be June 21. There was recently a strings concert where students demonstrated their skills; the band concert will happen on May 25. Andrea Darby has submitted a letter of intent to retire effective June 30; we have posted for a Special Education Teacher. Jackie is thinking of advertising the School Choice seats in June.

2. Superintendent's Report

Jennifer reported that the final Professional Development collaboration day occurred recently; we sent out a survey to teachers asking them about the Union-wide PLC work. Kudos to all teachers for all their engaged and hard work over the year. There is a current opportunity to give feedback to DESE regarding the state Level system; Dan asked that this be advertised in the *Road Town News* to encourage parents to participate and make our voices heard. The day that standardized testing started, DESE sent out an email informing schools that they will *not* be held harmless if the participation rate drops below 90%; consequently, several U#28 schools will drop from Level 1 or 2 to Level 3 for this sole reason.

At the last JSC meeting, MASC Field Director Dorothy Presser led the committee in a workshop on communication and protocol-setting. It became quite clear that U#28 school committees do not suffer from many of the issues that seem to beset committees in other towns.

3. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that the committee spent two hours in executive session with little to show for it other than extending the Director of Finance's contract. Not much happened apart from this. Steve has received a number of emails from Shutesbury parents expressing complaints about ARMS. GCC and LSSE were supposed to take over space in ARMS; there was an issue with the GCC overlap that has been resolved, but there are still problems with LSSE taking away space from several teachers. Shutesbury residents are also assessed a \$10 across the board for registering at LSSE, but now that we're helping to pay for the school, could this fee be waived? Steve is waiting for a response. He is also sitting on the Food Visioning Committee and welcomes comments / concerns about ARMHS food services.

4. Director of Finance and Operations Report:

Aaron reported that we are up for an EOS food service grant; visitors from EOS were amazed at how our food services work across the Union, at how much scratch cooking happens at the schools, the qualitative focus of the service, etc. Out of 500 schools across the state, U#28 has two schools whose food directors are professional chefs.

He went on to say that U#28 is working with the towns to centralize warrants in order to make Central Office the focus of calls about late payments, etc., instead of the towns. Aaron is also looking to set up a consistent bidding process for vendors across the Union, perhaps through CES. Dan noted that CES uses electronic signing of warrants, and Aaron said he'd love to do that as well for U#28 schools.

Budget transfer: Aaron recommended that SSC approve exceeding certain line items in order to pay for the network upgrade; there are surpluses in several lines that can be used to offset this cost.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE EXCEEDING LINE ITEM BUDGETS IN TEACHER SPECIALISTS – REGULAR ED, TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, AND TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE/SUPPLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACQUIRING NEW MATH CURRICULUM STANDARDS. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – June 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – June 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – TBD

K. Adjournment: 9:06

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.