

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2017**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present: Katie Fiander, Dan Hayes, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Steve Sullivan, members; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Bruce Turner, Incipient Director of Finance and Operations; Stephen Cass, Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent; Public Guests**

**A. Meeting Called to Order by Jennifer at 7:01 P.M.**

**B. Reorganization of the Committee**

**DAN NOMINATED FRED FOR CHAIR. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN NOMINATED KATIE FOR VICE-CHAIR / SECRETARY. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN NOMINATED STEVE FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMHERST REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**KATIE NOMINATED DAN, LAUREN, AND FRED FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO UNION #28. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**KATIE NOMINATED STEVE AND KATIE FOR ALTERNATES TO UNION #28. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN NOMINATED KATIE AND LAUREN TO THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN NOMINATED LAUREN TO UNION #28 BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN NOMINATED ALL OTHER SSC MEMBERS FOR ALTERNATES TO UNION #28 BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**KATIE NOMINATED DAN FOR COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**C. Public Comments and Announcements**

Dan praised the awesome, delicious, and fun Spaghetti Dinner. Jackie thanked Steve for his help during this.

Katie noted that several families brought up concerns about Art Night prices; she reminded them that they get their own children's artwork afterward for free. Jackie asked Katie to send parents with concerns to her in the future.

**D. Director of Finance and Operations Report**

Stephen reported that we've gone over FY 16-17 expenses in great detail; we're looking good because expenses have been down this year. A good fuel rate and lower nursing expenses have contributed to this. Jackie drew SSC's attention to \$7,000 for the Library to update the collection as well as \$2,000 for planting trees in order to provide a better buffer around a children's play area. We're leaning towards a Chromebook cart with an integrated printer, along with a few additional iPads. We plan to replace paper towel dispensers in some restrooms with air dryers, although we'll keep smaller paper options for students with noise issues.

We have an expensive out-of-district placement right now that we'll be moving some funds around to support so that we can maximize flexibility in using our Circuit Breaker funds next year.

Stephen provided an overview of other large drivers, including the Early Childhood grant disappearing over the next few years and a chunk of Circuit Breaker funds we need to use right now.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE JACKIE'S PURCHASING OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, TREES, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

Stephen thanked SSC for helping make the budget work.

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

**F. Warrants and Gifts:**

Jackie said we have a gift of box tops totaling \$100.60.

**DAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF BOX TOPS. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**G. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2017.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2017. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS. (STEVE ABSTAINED.)**

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

**I. New Business / Discussion Items:**

1. School Choice – Vote: Jackie proposed to accept School Choice in Grade 2 next year, and to possibly extend it to Kindergarten, depending on numbers, as well as to Pre-K, but only on the condition that School Choice families pay full tuition for the Preschool program. We don't want to accept School Choice students above Grade 3 unless they're siblings of already-accepted students, and we don't want to accept students for class sizes of 18 or more. She added that she proposes all this reluctantly; it is not SES's first choice to turn to School Choice funds to support its program, but the town demographics are starting to become challenging. Jackie is also undertaking a comprehensive review of the budget in order to find as many ways to be smarter about spending as possible.

Jennifer and Dan praised Jackie for her efforts; it is certainly a challenging time for small rural schools. U#28 is looking at ways to consolidate expenses; Dan noted that a lot of schools participate in bulk-buying programs in order to bring prices down. Several SSC members identified the lack of broadband in Shutesbury as a central issue in the town's declining demographics.

**DAN MOVED TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL CHOICE NEXT YEAR UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET BY THE PRINCIPAL. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

2. Foundation Budget – Recommendations – Discussion: Dan reminded SSC of the petition brought forth by MASC in support of a bill that would revise the Foundation Budget to treat poorer and rural districts more justly. A commission that has been reviewing the Foundation Budget recently put forward its recommendations as Senate bill S.223 that needs support in order to pass. School committees are throwing their support behind the MASC petition and Dan invited SSC to join them. He read the text of the MASC petition aloud.

**DAN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE PETITION PUT FORWARD BY MASC. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

#### **J. Policy Review**

Final Vote on:

1. IGA – Curriculum Development
2. BDFA – School Councils
3. BDFA-E-1 – School Improvement Plan
4. BDFA-E-2 – Submission and Approval of School Improvement Plan
5. IHBG-R – Home Schooling

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IGA – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDFA – SCHOOL COUNCILS. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDFA-E-1 – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDFA-E-2 – SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IHBG-R – HOME SCHOOLING. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

#### **K. Reports**

##### 1. Principal's Report

Jackie reported that the MCAS is over except for Grade 5 Science. It was shorter overall this year as well as more developmentally appropriate than tests in prior years. Electronic testing went pretty well, with several students commenting that they liked it better. There have been lots of recent SES events, including the Arts and Book Nights, the Spaghetti Dinner, instrumental concerts, and installation of the track. There are a *lot* of events that go on in May and June, so stay tuned through the school newsletter. We've hired a music teacher for next year and are in the final stage of the Kindergarten teacher search; we've had some amazing candidates. Jennifer praised Jackie for her leadership during this search. We still have to fill the School Psychologist and School Nurse positions, both of which have had extremely limited applicant pools. Our floor and sidewalk repairs are going through, having been approved at Town Meeting. Our leaky roof is a continual thorn in our side, however.

Jackie proposes that dismissal on the last day of school take place at 11 a.m.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE AN 11 A.M. DISMISSAL TIME ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

##### 2. Superintendent's Report

Jennifer reported that DESE sent out information regarding the MCAS STEM standards; next year will be an overlap between previous standards and the new set, while the following year will be strictly the new standards. DESE is also reviewing school standards because we'll have a new test to get used to.

U#28 will be hiring for a position coordinating the strategic opportunities for our schools. Only two U#28 budgets still need to be passed at Town Meetings in June. We had our final session with Chip Woods, which was a representation of what each of us was bringing to our leadership; there was singing, instrumental music, storytelling, and art.

3. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that ARSC dumped the company that mishandled the Superintendent search, and the current Interim Superintendent has accepted another year's appointment. He's been hiring some key positions. Dan noted that instead of hiring a company, CES worked with a consultant to carry out a successful leadership search. ARSC also reworked the Superintendent Evaluation process to smooth it out; each town's feedback will be distinctive going forward, allowing the Superintendent to see where improvements might be made for each. Dan suggested that ARSC review the contract before hiring the next Superintendent; Steve said they've already done that. ARSC also hired a Food Director that everyone's very happy with; he comes from Chicopee, which is the model for in-school food service in the area. Lauren and Dan thanked Steve for his service and advocacy on ARSC.

4. Union #28 Report – including Budget and Personnel:

Lauren reported that Bruce Turner was officially hired as our next Director of Finance and Operations. Dan added that we'll be entering into contract negotiations with the Superintendent. There's a new electronic tool to collect feedback for the Superintendent Evaluation as well as the Superintendent Goals. This should streamline the evaluation process.

5. CES Report:

Dan reported that CES is reviewing some of its programs that are struggling financially; one solution might be to centralize clerical tasks so that specialists in these programs can spend more of their time providing services rather than doing paperwork. Mt. Tom Academy is now slightly revenue positive and offers a stronger program than it did before.

**K. Future Business**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, June 15, 2017, 6:30 P.M.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, June 15, 2017, 7 P.M.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – Monday, May 15, 2017 6:00 P.M. SRS
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, May 15, 2017 7:00 P.M. SRS

**L. Executive Session:**

**DAN MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION, NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AFTER. LAUREN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**