

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MONDAY June 17, 2013
FINAL Minutes

Present: Emily Bloch, Michael DeChiara, Mare Fox, Dan Hayes, Sean Woodard-McNiff; Joan Wickman, Superintendent; Michael Kociela, Union 28 Director of Finance and Operations; Bob Mahler, Principal; Nancy Birtwell, teacher

A. The meeting was called to order by Michael at 7:01PM.

B. Review of Agenda. No changes made.

C. Warrants

Voucher 3030 for \$26,321.89, Voucher 3031 for \$8,221.19, and Food Service Warrant 100937 for \$876.75 were signed this evening.

D. Approval of Minutes

DAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2013 AS AMENDED, EMILY SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED.

E. No public comments

F. New Business / Discussion items

- School Improvement Plan. In July, Bob does an end-of-year summary. Next meeting it will be ready. Our SIPs occur in the fall.
- Summer meeting schedule. Can we have one summer meeting and split the difference? The School Committee will skip July, and meet on the fourth Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 PM. The Committee is hoping David Dann will be back to take minutes for that meeting.
- Review of Principal Transition. Maureen Ryan observed a couple of sixth grade portfolio presentations. She also ran in the Lake Wyola Road Race. She may be coming to graduation. July 1 is her first day. Bob's ten day carry over starts on July 1. They will work on handbook, kindergarten grant, and he will take her to meet relevant people at Town Hall (police, fire, town administrator, etc.).

G. Unfinished Business

- FY13 Budget Adjustments. Bob identified some new items for use out of this year's surplus. \$20,024 in funds was spent. Curricula for reading and math, writing, nurse's tools, water table, musical instruments. Circuit Breaker \$12,299 will be the reimbursement.

DAN MOVED TO TRANSFER FROM INSTRUCTION(\$25,620) AND FIXED CHARGES (2,500), TO STUDENT SERVICES (\$7,050), PLANT & OPERATIONS

(\$18,320), AND PROGRAMS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS (\$2,750). MARE SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED, NONE OPPOSED.

- Update on Interim Superintendent process. Today was the deadline for applications. The applications are going to Scott Bastarache U28 Chair. Applications will be sent out to the U28 committee in time for the meeting on June 26.

H. Policy Review

Second Reading, First Vote on:

JRA-R Student Records: Confidentiality and Access to Student Information. Mare went through the policy and removed what was unnecessary, given the policy is written for K-12 schools. She questioned discussion items about legal vs. physical custody provisions in the policy, which are confusing and conflicting from other school policies. There is a concern that this policy is outdated. Check with attorney under retainer Fred Dupere to see if this policy must be followed, or what our options are. Joan will check with Fred. Do we have to adhere to this policy, or can we change it?

Final vote on:

BDG -- Attorney For School District

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATTORNEY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY, EMILY SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED, NONE OPPOSED.

I. Reports

Principal's Report

- Beloved Art teacher B.Z. Reilly announced her retirement as of October 11, 2013.
- Learning Commons Annual Report: June 2013 by Library Teacher Heather Lobenstine. The Learning Commons has become a research center. Children are learning about research starting in second grade, and Bob reports an upgrade in their interest and output. Kindergarteners are also doing research.
- Questions for Bob: From Sean, re: lunch and preschool money programs. Sean has seen streamlined and easy tuition and cafeteria payment systems in Amherst and other districts. Can we also have an automated system? Bob says he has been looking at ways to streamline the payment program. Proposal for purchasing through PowerSchool. It only took one week to implement the system in another district. Would there be an advantage to U28 purchasing on behalf of all the schools in the Union? Mike reports we would have to go through a fiscal agent. Shutesbury puts together its Capital Fund in the fall, which would be the time to consider it.

Superintendent's Report

- Joan reports that she attended a Superintendents' Meeting on June 6. Greenfield is no longer doing virtual school; the state is taking it on. Now tuition will be more similar to charter school level funding, not a \$5,000 choice tuition. DESE is overseeing.
- Mare: Asks about Shutesbury's role on RSDPB. What are our responsibilities to Shutesbury's SC when we are on various subcommittees, including RSDPB, and also

other subcommittees? Dan suggests asking Executive Director Glenn Koocher of Massachusetts Association of School Committees these questions.

RSDPB

- Michael: Board met Saturday. They went through a draft of a regional agreement. Education, governance, finance subcommittees. Ginny Tate is the attorney helping with the regional agreement. Discussion about different provisions. They started with the “easy” points. It’s not the final draft regional agreement. None of the finance or governance points got into the regional agreement. Another version is coming out on July 18. Fred reports: They decided to vote yes on various items, but once the document is complete, there will be a final vote. Things can change in the meantime. Gini will do a draft with the changes by July 3.

Amherst-Pelham Representative Report

- The SC does not have a representative on the Regional School Committee. As such, Michael asked Debbie Westmoreland to send him meeting information and any documents that could be helpful information for the SC to have.
- June 25 Retreat for the Amherst Regional School Committee is at Amherst College.

Union 28 Report

Budget and Personnel. Emily reported that the B&P determined the process for interviewing Superintendent candidates on June 26. The hiring process for a SPED Director continues. There are three candidates. There will be a Skype interview of a candidate from South Dakota. People present at the interview will include Superintendent Candidates Bob Mahler and Sheila Hunter, Anne Ross, Deb Gerry, and Scott Bastarache.

CES Report

Advertising for the Executive Director position. Will be hiring a consultant to oversee hiring process for retiring current Director.

Future Business

Next meeting: August 22.

J. Executive Session

DAN MOTIONED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO COMPLY WITH, OR ACT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ANY GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW OR FEDERAL GRANT-IN-AIDE REQUIREMENTS. EMILY SECONDED.

9:00pm meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Emily Bloch