

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
THURSDAY April 25, 2013
FINAL Minutes

Present: Clif Read, Emily Bloch, Michael DeChiara, Dan Hayes, Mare Fox; Bob Mahler, Principal; Michael Kociela, Union 28 Director of Finance and Operations; Nancy Birtwell, teacher, Polly Wagner, math coach; Mary Lou Conca community.

A. The meeting was called to order by Clif at 7:08

B. Review of Agenda Clif acknowledged that some changes might occur because Joan Wickman will not be attending.

C. Warrants

Signed between school committee meetings were Payroll Warrants #322 for \$61,592.09 and #321 for \$62,298.33. Vendor Warrants # 3027 for \$18,094.51 and #3026 for \$25,870.59. Food Service Warrant #100935 was signed for \$2,072.59.

D. Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2013

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2013 AS AMENDED, MICHAEL SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED.

E. Public Comments and Announcements Michael thanked Clif for his years of volunteer service on the school committee.

F. New Business/Discussion Items

- Identification of School Choice Seats. Since Shutesbury has a strong tradition of not being a school choice community, Michael said he is strongly in favor of continuing that tradition. He added that communities who are school choice are addicted to the money and pit community against community.

DAN MOVED THAT SHUTESBURY NOT BE A SCHOOL CHOICE COMMUNITY, MICHAEL SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED.

- Pre-School Tuition. Bob's recommendation is to raise the tuition by \$5/day. Currently the rate is \$25/day. Raising the tuition by \$5/day increases the income side by \$14,000 a year. Currently the total pre-school budget is \$142,000. With grants and tuition there will still be a \$44,000 deficit. The tuition has not changed in 7-8 years. Bob said that over the years the school has built up a sizeable revolving fund. To balance the preschool budget the school will have to use some of that fund. Bob said that by having two preschool classrooms it allows the school to say yes to all children that wish to attend.

Emily stated that Wednesday early dismissal is still an issue for some parents. With a new principal coming on board the school committee will look into this issue.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE INCREASE OF THE PRESCHOOL TUITION BY \$5/DAY, MICHAEL SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED

MICHAEL MOVED THAT THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH THE IMPACT AND COST OF EXPANDING THE WEDNESDAY PRESCHOOL HOURS TO MATCH THAT OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL SCHEDULE, EMILY SECONDED. FIVE APPROVED.

EMILY MOVED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INVESTIGATE THE LOGISTICS AND FINANCES OF INCLUDING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, MICHAEL SECONDED. VOTE WAS 4-1.

The committee asked Bob to begin to have that discussion with all the various players and report his findings in May.

G. Unfinished Business/Updates

- Principal Search Process There was no official announcement.
- Open Meeting Law and Electronic Communications This agenda item was deferred for May meeting when Joan will be there.

H. Policy Review

First Reading on: BDG: Attorney for School District

The committee made a few changes and the second read will come back to the committee in May.

I. Reports

Principal's Report In addition to his written report that he gave to the committee, Bob said graduation is June 19th. Portfolio presentations will be June 9, 10, or 10,11. Jennifer Culbreth was teacher of month on radio 93.1. Members of the Safety Committee, with a State Police trooper, walked around the school and reviewed/discussed safety changes that have been implemented. A report is coming and will be presented to the Safety Committee May 20th at 8am.

School Committee will meet to hold its reorganizing meeting on Monday 13 at 7pm and its regular meeting will be on the 23rd.

Rhonda Cohen will be meeting with 5th and 6th grade parents to explain the math program.

Superintendent's Report no report

Regional School District Planning Board Report

Michael reported that the board will meet June 1 to review the first draft of the regional agreement. A second meeting is scheduled for June 15th, and if needed a third meeting either June 26 or 29th. Sub committees will continue to meet to do their work on various parts of the agreement. Web page has calendar of all the scheduled meetings. Michael said a lot of grunt work and meetings are taking place in a short period of time. Once the board has agreed to the various concepts in the regional agreement it will be sent to legal counsel for review.

Mare wanted to have the Superintendent find out what is Shutesbury's role on the RSDPB. What are the responsibilities of Shutesbury's representatives when they are on subcommittees? How and when are school committee members informed of the discussions? Mare would like to be informed. Michael said because of open meeting law, representatives can only hear from each other at school committee meetings. Mare wanted to know what happens between meetings. How do we get information when something comes out so there is enough time for discussion in Shutesbury?

Michael stated that the board is discussing how Shutesbury can be given a window of opportunity to join the new region. There will be a specific period by which the town can vote to join the new region without a vote by the other three towns. Once that period has expired all the towns must approve Shutesbury's participation and an amended agreement will have to be passed.

Mare stated that the contract extension to the superintendent caught her completely off guard. Why did she not know this was happening? Is that not Michael's responsibility? Michael said it would be discussed in Executive Session.

Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report

Dan told the committee he requested the region review their charges for space in the school. He hoped that they could relook at the policy for school related organizations. Michael said the board approved the budget for next year that was about \$28,000,000.

Union #28 Report

-Strategic Development Subcommittee no meeting

-Budget and Personnel The hiring committee interviewed 2 candidates to fill the Special Education position. There are still several more steps to complete the hiring process.

-Joint Supervisory no report

CES Report no report

J. Future Business

- Union#28 Joint Supervisory Meeting May 22, 2013 7:00pm Leverett
- Budget and Personnel Committee May 22, 2013 6:00pm Leverett

- Shutesbury School Committee May 13 and 23, 2013 7:00pm
- Shutesbury Town Meeting May 4, 2013

K. Executive Session

AT 9:05 CLIF MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES, DAN SECONDED. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. ROLL CALL VOTE, DECHIARA AYE, READ AYE, HAYES AYE, FOX AYE, BLOCH AYE.

**Respectfully submitted
David C. Dann**