

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 16, 2017
Final Minutes

Present: Katie Fiander, Steve Sullivan, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, members; Fred Steinberg, Chair; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance and Operations; Public Guests

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

B. Public Comments and Announcements:

Dan thanked SSC for financing his attendance at the MASC Conference; it was very inspiring and illuminating. He was able to attend workshops related to social justice and charter schools. He learned that there are areas where public and charter schools can work together to change legislation unfavorable to us all.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar

D. Warrants and Gifts: None.

E. Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2017.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2017. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates: None.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. School Improvement Plan: No further discussion.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

H. Policy Review:

Final Vote on:

JLCEA – Life Threatening Allergy Policy

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JLCEA – LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

First Reading on:

BDD – School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
BEDA – Notification of School Committee Meetings
BEDB – Agenda Development Process and Format
BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

SSC thinks these policies look good; they've just had some language changes to bring them up to date.

I. Reports

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report

Bruce reported that he's working on budgets now. He's solicited a \$7,000 proposal for the SES roof that includes stripping and sealing work to clear out vegetation and prevent leaks. He'll forward pictures of the unprotected areas. Dan noted we need to have a conversation with the Town and the Highway Department to determine who's going to remove snow from the school roof this winter.

Seeing that SSC has been invited to a Selectboard/Fin Com meeting in January, Bruce said we should get together a preliminary budget in December.

2. Principal's Report: Unable to attend, Jackie distributed her report to SSC prior to the meeting.

3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer was out sick and had no report to forward.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve was unable to attend the last meeting. However, Fred VanDerbeck was able to report that a Four-Town meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2, at which a regional assessment plan will be presented.

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

Lauren reported that while JSC did not have a quorum, there was much discussion about the budget and the Superintendent Evaluation tool, since only six responses came in this last round. The B&P SubCommittee presented on several items to the full JSC. Bruce distributed draft budgets to SSC for illustration. The Leadership Team supports adding a full-time position for the Union, a Data and Evaluation Specialist who would be responsible for looking at data and using it to inform instruction and policy. JSC expressed reservations about adding this position now because of the cost and asked Jennifer to look into alternatives. Other proposed line item changes include increasing the salary of the Director of Student Support Services to bring it into line with regional ranges, increasing conference monies, adding a miscellaneous line for unanticipated expenses incurred at the Central Offices, increased stipends for leadership development within the union, and replenishing money in the C&C line to make up for level funding in its state grant this year. Bruce drew the committee's attention to the very preliminary breakdown of the U#28 budget responsibility by constituent town. Lauren expressed concern about approving a 5.27% increase in the Director of Student Support Services line when we can't get anywhere near that for our teachers. It's also difficult to get a sense of what this means when we don't have a clear idea of our own budgets yet. Dan said we should be looking into sharing as many services as we can with neighboring districts.

6. CES Report:

Dan reported that there was no quorum at the last meeting, but lots of interesting things are happening. CES just had a successful audit and is looking at opportunities for moving or expanding with an eye toward long-term sustainability. Mt. Tom Academy is now sustainable, and CES is applying the same plan to other areas of service to ensure that it will continue to be able to provide services.

K. Future Business

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 p.m. Central Office
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Wednesday, January 10, 2018 7:00 p.m. Leverett Elementary

- Future agenda items – impact of the expansion of the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, budget

L. Adjournment at 7:45

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS