

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 18, 2018
Final Minutes

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

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

B. Public Comments and Announcements: None.

I. Director of Finance and Operations Report (moved up in agenda):

1. FY19 Budget – Update: Bruce reported that the accelerated repair program has opened up its process and we're applying for help to fix the roof problem. The meeting with the Selectboard went very well; SSC concurred. There haven't been any changes to the Budget since that meeting. The Selectboard didn't seem surprised by the budget and are waiting to hear back from other Town departments. Steve noted that the Capital Planning Committee will invite Bruce to its next meeting. Dan asked whether there were any red flags in the expenditure report; Bruce hasn't noticed any outliers.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.

D. Warrants and Gifts: None.

E. Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2017.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2017. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Charter School Letter – Discussion: Dan said the decision has already been made, so the proposed letter is no longer pertinent. We should think more about being proactive on such issues in the future, however.

G. New Business / Discussion Items: None.

H. Policy Review:

First Reading on:

BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties
BEE - Procedures for Conducting Public Hearings

Second Reading, First Vote on:

BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

FRED MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEDH – PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. DAN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Final Vote on:

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

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDD – SCHOOL COMMITTEE-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEDA – NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEDB – AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND FORMAT AS EMENDED. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Fred offered one emendation to BEDB: change “citizen” to “community member.”

Second and Final Vote to Delete:

JLCH – Life Threatening Allergy Policy

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JLCH – LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

First Vote to Delete:

CB – District Superintendent of Schools
CBD – Superintendent's Contract
CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY CB – DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY CBD – SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO DELETE POLICY CBI – EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

I. Reports

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report: moved to after Public Comments and Announcements.

2. Principal's Report: Unable to attend, Jackie distributed her report to SSC prior to the meeting. There have been four Snow Days, so the last day of school will be June 20. MCBA events are coming up. Work is being done to update the science curriculum to conform to new state standards. We are continuing to remove carpets to replace with tile. In Personnel, the new 5th Grade instructor has transitioned smoothly. There is a continuing Out-of-District Placement that requires us to provide transportation.

Dan wondered whether there isn't a better process for infrastructure improvements at school: where would be the most efficient place to get estimates from? Steve observed that the price tag of the project probably changes that determination; Jennifer added that we go to different people with different expertise depending on the project. Dan continued: couldn't Capital Planning get those estimates in

order to simplify the process of determining capital needs? This is a big reason Steve now attends Capital Planning Committee meetings. Dan suggested the Town committee could keep the list of all capital planning projects; the Principal would submit requests, and the committee could update estimates when it's time to take on particular projects.

3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer reported that the LOOK Act was signed into law on Nov. 22, 2017. This Act provides more flexibility to towns in meeting the needs of ELLs. DESE anticipate Circuit Breaker reimbursement will be at 65% this year due to a lack of clarity on federal funds available to Massachusetts as a result of recent political decisions. Some people are writing to our representatives advocating for increased funds since this is such an expensive issue for towns. Finally, a long-term study is following the academic progress of Preschool students from across the state; one school in our Union is participating through the ECE route, and individual families in Shutesbury are participating through the home participation option.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that there has been one meeting since the last SSC meeting. We'll be talking about the budget and preparing for the Four-Town Meeting coming up. We also had a presentation from CPAC (a parent advisory group) that was excellent. They have numerous meetings and trainings throughout the year. The presentation was on a survey conducted last year among parents and teachers. We also received the Superintendent's Goals for evaluation; there are six of them, several of which focus on improving communication and feedback streams among stakeholders in the district. There will be no hiring this year, unfortunately. Steve wanted to thank the Superintendent and Principals for coming up to hang out in the Library and meet with parents at SES. It's important that we have these opportunities to learn about what's going on down the hill. Jennifer also commended Prudy for her efforts to facilitate communication among our three districts. Dan praised CPAC for changing its bylaws to accommodate an interested parent as well as creating communities for people of color. Overall, the last RSC meeting was excellent.

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

Lauren reported that JSC talked a lot about the Union #28 Budget and voted to approve it. We were also able to hear Jennifer present her Goals for the year. JSC also approved a floating holiday for the salaried Central Office staff. We're still looking for a tool to tally responses on the Superintendent Evaluation as well as collect more. Steve observed that each Town should be required to do its own, since each Town has its own little quirks the Superintendent needs to attend to. JSC is trying to understand how to improve the return rate. Dan suggested electric shocks, while Steve and Fred favor cookies. Fred added that many questions don't seem relevant to individual committee members. Lauren agreed that it's a dense document, but it's important to improve this process for our as well as the Superintendent's sake. Dan said individual school committees can review the document together, but it's still the individual members' responsibility to fill it out and return it. Finally, JSC has entered into contract negotiations with Jennifer.

6. CES Report: No report.

K. Future Business

The next Shutesbury Policy Committee has been moved back a week due to a scheduling conflict for Jennifer.

Steve commented that it's important for the Principals and Superintendent to come up the hill and communicate with students, presenting their schools in order to advocate for SES students to stay in the public and regional system. There's a lot of advertising that comes from charter schools and not much that

comes from public schools. Dan commented on how regional vocational schools handle scheduling for students.

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, February 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, February 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – Monday, March 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Shutesbury
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, March 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Shutesbury
- Future agenda items –

L. Adjournment at 8:02