

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 15, 2018
FINAL Minutes

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

A. Meeting Called to Order by Fred at 7:02 P.M.

B. Public Comments and Announcements:

Fred noted that Lisa Sanders expressed interest in running for SSC.

Dan recognized the latest school shooting and thanked SES teachers for their efforts to keep our kids safe.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Dan suggested putting the Superintendent Evaluation on the next agenda; it's coming up soon.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

#3020: \$50,412.79

E. Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2018.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2018. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates: None.

G. New Business / Discussion Items: None.

H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report:

FY19 Budget – Vote: Bruce distributed the draft FY19 Budget to SSC; nothing has changed since the last month, and this version was the one offered to the Selectboard.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY19 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,038,085 WITH A GROSS TOTAL OF \$2,228,678. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Roof Repair: Bruce distributed a statement of interest form for SES roof repair/replacement that requires approval; once approved, the process of applying for a state infrastructure grant can begin.

DAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY TO THE MSBA FOR A GRANT TO REPAIR/REPLACE THE ROOF OF SES. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

2. Principal's Report: Jackie reported that this is the first week we haven't had some kind of delay in a while. Jeff Mack, a children's author, came to present to SES this week; he was wonderful. The PTO is rolling along with plenty of ideas, including a STEM night coming up this spring. Conferences are coming up at the end of March/early April. The new state Science Standards will require some adjustments in our curriculum in order to prepare for the standardized test. We practiced an organic

lockdown drill this week, which involved the 6th Grade teacher initiating the drill in their classroom and testing how long it took for a switch to be flipped in the Office that released all magnetic stoppers for doors so they could close and lock. Officer Carmichael and a number of other officers were in attendance; many officers attend drills at multiple schools in order to get a sense of their layout. Another drill will be scheduled in the spring, probably around lunch or recess time; this one will be focused more on teaching rather than a training drill.

Jackie is still attending the Principal Advisory Committees; there is some interesting classification going on in terms of what constitutes “Western Mass.” The thinking and awareness is very different out east due in part to the huge school districts there, and not much awareness about the circumstances of rural schools, so it’s productive to share these perspectives. Dan asked about emergency bags with supplies in the office to be used in case of a lockdown; Jackie will look into that.

3. Superintendent's Report: Not present to report.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that RSC met on Tuesday and had a presentation on the budget, which keeps changing as information comes in from the state. The current budget is over \$31 million and the Four Towns are still trying to decide on an assessment method. RSC will vote on the budget at its March 7 meeting. The Culinary Arts program is being phased out at ARHS, and the Preschool and Child Development classes are being cut. The budget reduction has dropped from \$1.8 to \$1.1 million, leading to a restoration of a number of threatened positions. We’re losing the option of sending students to Franklin Tech unless there’s a program there we don’t have at Smith Voc. The Meet-the-Principals meetings are going well; 22 families showed up to the Leverett meeting and were pleasantly surprised to learn that ARMS only has 440 or so students, and that the arts programs at both schools are strong.

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

Dan reported that contract negotiations are going on with the Superintendent.

6. CES Report:

Dan reported that CES met and reviewed the budget. CES has also reorganized to create efficiencies throughout the organization and is looking at how to improve Out-Of-District placements to offer cost savings to districts, as well as at a couple of educational programs they oversee. A presentation on vaping was very eye opening, and CES is asking Amherst to put together an informational video on the issue that can be shared to raise awareness among teachers. CES has also helped north Berkshire County create efficiencies in offering support services to students. Jackie noted that the Physical Therapy CES employee that works with the PTO is phenomenal. CES is also looking at opportunities to expand.

I. Policy Review:

First Reading on:

DGA – Authorized Signatures

Second Reading, First Vote on:

BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties

BEE – Procedures for Conducting Public Hearings

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BBA – SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEE – PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS AS EMENDED. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

On BEE, Fred noted that “citizens” should have been amended to “members of the public.”

Final Vote on:

BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

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

On BEDH, Fred noted that “citizens” should have been amended to “members of the public.”

Second and Final 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. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

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

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

K. Future Business

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, March 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
- Shutesbury Town Meeting – Saturday, May 5, 2018 9:00 a.m.
- Future agenda items –

L. Adjournment at 7:49

DAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS