

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2018**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present: Katie Fiander, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Dan Hayes, members; Fred Steinberg, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; 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:**

Dan reported that the CES Social Justice and Equity Conference was wonderful: great speakers, enlightening people, fantastic attendance. He thanked Jennifer for her efforts advocating for rural school districts. Finally, he was at the ribbon-cutting for the Berkshire Academy, which was also wonderful. In particular, he praised the Lieutenant Governor, who is a huge education advocate.

**C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar**

**D. Warrants and Gifts:**

Jackie was happy to report we received \$155.20 in box top money.

**E. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2018.**

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2018. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**F. Unfinished Business / Updates:**

1. FY19 Budget – Vote: Bruce noted the largest budget drivers are salaries and an out-of-district placement.

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

**G. New Business / Discussion Items:**

1. Academic Calendar 2018-1-2019 – Vote: Jennifer reviewed the calendar. The first day of school is August 29, with the Spring Curriculum Day moved back to May.

**DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2018-2019. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

2. Superintendent Evaluation: Dan noted this evaluation is coming up and that JSC appreciates its members' full and thoughtful participation in this essential process.

3. School Committee Meeting Schedule: Jennifer reported that after a conversation with a member from another school committee, she has proposed a new meeting schedule that reduces the frequency of local school committees to September, November, January, February, March or April, May, and possibly June. The JSC would meet quarterly in October, January, March, and June. Fewer meetings might allow for increased participation. Jennifer will revise this schedule and bring it back to the next meeting.

## H. Reports:

1. Director of Finance and Operations Report: Bruce reported that he submitted the Statement of Intent on the roof repair. He thanked SSC for passing the budget; they thanked him for his work on it.

2. Principal's Report: Jackie reported there have been seven Snow Days, so the last day of school is Monday, June 25. We're hoping next week's nor'easter won't happen! We've only had four full weeks of school since December, which is rough on both kids and teachers. The MCBA Books in Action Party was super fun; the kids did a great job, and the staff work hard to support them. The PTO is doing a STEM night for the first time here; it'll focus on engineering and be based on the Three Little Pigs. Parent-teacher conferences are coming up soon, and we're looking at possible ways to transition to the new state Science Standards, possibly with a web solution called Mystery Science. We're beginning testing; only Grade 3 is using paper, while everyone else has transitioned to the computer per state mandate. Shout-out to Debbie Lee for helping us through this. We're hosting the next Professional Development day, and in terms of Capital Planning, the floors are getting passed through; some will get tile, but the Music Room will be carpeted. To our surprise, they're thinking of pushing the new playground through as well. Installation and new equipment will cost \$78,000 and the Town has to handle removal. We currently have postings out for a .8 position Arts teacher and a Title I Reading Specialist. We'll likely be interviewing in early April. Lauren commented that she liked a web-based science curriculum because it gets updated regularly. Jackie responded that teachers seem to be really responding to it, and kids like it as well. It might have to be supplemented with more non-fiction text.

3. Superintendent's Report: Jennifer reported that on Monday, Rep. Whipps came to Central Office to meet with Principals to discuss a number of challenges we face. It was good to connect with her, and good to hear a variety of voices on these issues. Finally, she spoke about the complicated nature of calling a Snow Day for the Union, which is geographically diverse and feeds into three different school systems. She explained some of the factors that go into her 4-5 A.M. decision; if we're pretty sure about conditions the day before, we'll cancel in advance, but sometimes we can't, and if she's not completely reassured by the road crews, she'll make the call. Shout-out to the Principals for being up with her on these occasions. It's a difficult process, but we try our best!

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: Not present to report.

SSC discussed the Amherst vote on going exclusively with Smith Vocational School, which failed. This puts a \$25,000 hole in their budget, but they're not going to worry about that at present.

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

Jennifer noted we're meeting next Monday, March 19, at 7:00 P.M. The Budget & Personnel SubCommittee meets at 6:30.

6. CES Report: None.

## I. Policy Review:

Second Reading, First Vote on:

DGA – Authorized Signatures

**FRED MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY DGA – AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES. KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

Final Vote on:

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

**FRED MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BBA – SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES.  
LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**FRED MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BEE – PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING PUBLIC  
HEARINGS AS EMENDED. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

Jackie astounded SSC by reciting all 50 states in alphabetical order in under 30 seconds, one special talent among the many shared by SES staff on a recent episode of Mike with a Mike.

**J. Future Business**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, April 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – Monday, March 19, 2018, 6:30 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 –

**K. Adjournment at 8:00 P.M.**

**FRED MOVED TO ADJOURN. LAUREN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS**