

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2015
FINAL Minutes**

Present: Dan Hayes, Katie Fiander, Fred Steinberg, Steve Sullivan, members; Sean Woodard-McNiff, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Matthew Galman, Accountant; Bob Mahler, Superintendent; Public Guests

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

B. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar

Dan distributed an updated version of the perpetual calendar. The Review of Expenditure Report (item I4) was moved ahead in the agenda to F1.

C. Warrants and Gifts: None.

D. Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2015

No emendations.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2015. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

E. Public Comments and Announcements

Dan requested that, should there be continuing concerns with the after-school program, they be brought to the attention of the committee. Jackie said she would discuss the issue tonight.

F. New Business / Discussion Items

1. FY15 Budget Transfers and Review of Expenditure Report

Matthew reported that there looks to be a budget surplus of \$7,800 at the end of the year, owing to circuit-breaker extraordinary relief on the order of \$41,000. Line-item deficits occurred in energy and school programs, but there are surpluses in other items that will make up for these.

FRED MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$9,000 FROM ADMINISTRATION AND \$44,681 FROM INSTRUCTION TO PLANT & OPERATIONS (\$27,000) AND OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS (\$26,681). SEAN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.



Dan asked whether there were any plans for the surplus; Jackie responded that the school was in dire need of technology updates, particularly for teachers. However, she is equally aware that the town has given money to the school for other things already. Dan asked if there is a SES wish list; Jackie said yes. Going forward, there need to be docu-cams and laptops in classrooms, and the school will be requesting a laptop cart in the budget for the following year. Bob suggested a separate technology account for ongoing updates, since operating systems are constantly being superseded and becoming obsolete. The committee discussed the details of how to properly approve transfers of surpluses to a technology-related line item for the purchases Jackie referred to.

SEAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$5,200 FROM STUDENT SERVICES (LINE 77) TO INSTRUCTION (LINE 63) . KATIE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Dan said Jackie might contact CES about technology purchases. Sean noted that next year, it would behoove the committee to name specific line items in any motions to approve transfers. Bob, Jackie, and the committee thanked Matthew for his work this year.

2. SIP

Jackie reported that the SIP will be worked on this summer; there are a number of refinements staff came up with that need to be added, including updates to the PD feedback cycle, community engagement, and responding to behavioral issues. Jackie noted that the School Council has been a fantastic experience; the meetings were very productive and insightful, and as a new leader at the school, she got a lot out of it. The Council wants to do a presentation on its work at Open House.

3. Director of Finance and Operations Update

Dan reported that the committee narrowed the pool from 18 to 6 candidates. There are 3 returning for a second round of interviews.

G. Unfinished Business / Updates

Dan said that after the last meeting, he went to the Selectboard to offer to be a liaison between the Highway Department and the school.

H. Policy Review

Second Reading, First Vote on:
KJ – Advertising in Schools



SEAN MOVED TO ACCEPT POLICY KJ – ADVERTISING IN SCHOOLS AS WRITTEN.
DAN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

I. Reports

1. Principal's Report

Jackie reported that we lost one kindergartener. Looking ahead, there seems to be a pretty significant decline in students, necessitating the mixed Pre-K / K class next year. The combined 5/6 classroom will be split into their respective grades next year as well. Field Day was great! The new rubber flooring will be installed in July and August. Computers will be updated with a new lease. There is a new 5th Grade teacher coming in. A posting for a new After-School Director will go up for next year. This program is not supported by a line item, but is rather self-supporting, and the new Director will need to have the skills to ensure its success. Graduation Day is coming up, as is the last day of school.

Sean noted that he attended the 2nd Grade poem presentation and was immensely impressed with its energy, organization, and enthusiasm.

2. Superintendent's Report

Bob said the teachers at SES are doing a fabulous job. There is some bad news related to the budget, however: the state budget passed with a significant cut to the grant for early childhood education. The money is now competitive as well. Next school year, SES will start with a \$16,000 loss. On another note, Jennifer Haggerty has been putting in an incredible amount of work meeting with school committees and employees as well as sitting on the search committee for the new Director of Finance and Operations; she is not required to do any of this, as her contract starts July 1. Dan praised Bob's modeling of his job for Jennifer as well. Bob has also been working with staff to set up PD cycles; the PLC work will continue, with a focus on building administrative capacity to sustain this kind of PD well into the future. On a final note, there's a lot of pushback coming out against PARCC statewide; the SRS school committee will be having an open forum on this in the fall. Dan noted that Johanna Bartlett, of SRS SC, is spearheading the U28 response to PARCC. Years ago, CES used to have legislative breakfasts, where legislators would come to hear directly from those in the school communities on important issues. This might be worth bringing back.

3. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report

Steve reported that in AY 2016-2017, Amherst is changing from a trimester to a semester system. There have been three meetings on regionalization, with a push to hold a vote on June 23 on whether to continue with the process by sending the



proposal to an attorney to be worked on. Sean, Dan, Fred, and Katie all indicated their personal opposition to regionalization. Steve said that the committee struggled to find educational benefits to the proposal, and financial benefits are obscure. Committee members expressed their appreciation for the services provided by U28 and doubted they could be improved upon by a new region with Amherst. Bob noted that any agreement should first and foremost benefit the students.

4. Review of Expenditure Report (moved ahead in agenda – see above).

5. Union #28 Report – including Budget and Personnel

Bob said the B&P committee met to discuss the Director of Finance and Operations position.

7. CES Report: No report.

J. Future Business

1. Next Meeting: August 17
2. Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Tuesday, July 7, 2015 6:30 P.M. Erving ES

K. Adjournment at 8:31 P.M.

DAN MOVED ADJOURN. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

