

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 15, 2022
Final Minutes

Present: Jen Taylor, Bethany Rose, Stephen Sullivan, Julie Martel, members; Dan Hayes, Chair; Jackie Mendonsa, Principal; Corrina Wcislo, Director of Student Support Services; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance & Operations; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Public Guests

A. Meeting Called to Order by Dan at 7:10 P.M.

B. Public Hearings: None.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Dan reviewed upcoming events and related meetings.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

Accounts Payable	3027	6/27/2022	\$22,862.74
	3001	7/1/2022	\$2,466.24
	3002	7/26/2022	\$15,500.31
	3003	8/9/2022	\$2,160.04
	3004	8/23/2022	\$19,434.07
	3005	9/6/2022	\$14,118.73

Payroll	301	7/11/2022	\$87,860.66
	302	7/25/2022	\$70,904.76
	303	8/8/2022	\$69,545.01
	304	8/22/2022	\$64,023.21
	305	9/5/2022	\$78,435.16

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE WARRANTS AS SUBMITTED. DAN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

E. Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2022:

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2022. STEVE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Capital Projects/Building Process - Discussion:

Dan said that we've had an air quality assessment done by a state employee; thankfully, no mold was found, but we'll be getting a list of recommendations to improve the air flow and thus overall air quality throughout the building (moving trees and shrubs away from the building, new gutter systems, etc.). This comes at just the right time as we start to look at our overall capital planning needs.

Steve didn't have an update to share; he's on the new Buildings Committee, which will meet soon. Susie Mosher added that there's another attempt underway to get state funding for the project, although this is not likely. Caitlin has been following all these processes.

Jackie said it's been a busy capital projects summer, with repairs/updates to the heating system, as well as two meetings with our legislators and MSBA at which we tried to get information from them about why we keep being denied funding because the life of the roof keeps getting extended for a year every year we apply. The parking lot is a bit of a disaster as well, heading towards a safety concern. The Town Highway Department came to do some paving and touching up, which helps. Our maintainers are doing a fantastic job of making the inside of the school sparkle, but the outside really needs an overhaul (which we'll have to wait on until the roof is fixed).

2. Discussion of School Choice Funds:

Jackie emphasized that she doesn't want us to become reliant on School Choice funds; we only want to use these monies for transitory needs and to pay for additional programming like Nature's Classroom. Jennifer added she's very happy that Shutesbury has this attitude toward School Choice; it should pay for added things, not become part of our regular budget.

3. Proposed School Committee Meeting Schedule FY23 - Discussion and Vote:

Jennifer reminded everyone that before the pandemic, SSC discussed meeting less often. She reminded them of a proposed schedule change that would drop several monthly meetings (October and May). Dan said he's comfortable with this new schedule; if we have a need, we can always schedule a meeting and post it.

BETHANY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SSC. JULIE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

4. Surveillance - Continue Discussion:

SSC reviewed changes to surveillance systems made at comparable schools. We've also found several firms that would be able to install cameras on the outside of the building.

Dan called on a member of the public who had a question: How will the Principal or SSC handle a situation where parents adamantly don't want their children filmed? Dan said we'd handle protocols in place to make sure privacy is addressed; the technology now also has a lot of options that can help us there. Also, Dan reflected that "surveillance" perhaps wasn't the best term to use for this conversation (we're really talking about monitoring who approaches the building).

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. Application for Regional Efficiencies - Discussion:

Jennifer reminded SSC that we've been engaged in a process of finding efficiencies across the Union. This has multiple goals of reducing costs and improving quality. There's funding available for regional school districts and municipalities to study potential efficiencies. We could partner with an organization to do this study and apply for another grant to pay for the study, but one of the U#28 Towns would have to apply on behalf of the whole Union (Leverett and Wendell aren't eligible to do this). Julie pointed out that each School has its own traditions and ways of doing things that might not be that efficient, but are supported in our communities. If we do such a study and get a list of areas where we could find efficiencies, what happens then? Jennifer said that JSC would be the place where representatives would vote to implement any of them. She also said Central Office will make arrangements for SC members from the constituent Towns to meet and discuss going forward.

2. Math Interventionist - Discussion and Possible Vote:

Jackie proposed increasing the hours a Math Interventionist could work (at a cost of \$18,000), which would greatly help the SES students in need in this area. She requested that SSC approve the use of School Choice funds to make this happen.

DAN MOVED TO APPROVE FUNDING THE INCREASE IN THE MATH INTERVENTIONIST POSITION OUT OF SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDS, UP TO \$20,000. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

3. Home School Applications - Discussion and Vote:

Jennifer explained that she and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction crafted a rubric to be used to evaluate Home School applications; the one application before the committee met or exceeded this rubric, so Jennifer endorses its approval.

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HOME SCHOOL APPLICATION. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

H. Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Jennifer reported that we had Opening Day this year in person, which was very exciting! We did it outside under a tent at EES. We also did our district-wide civil rights training together and shared our strategic vision for the upcoming year. We have a lot of great professional development coming up this year as well as training around equity supported by the CES.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

Caitlin presented on how to read Expenditure Reports. She went on to praise SES staff for their overwhelming volunteer spirit after she put out a call for the Wellness Committee.

Jen Taylor joined the meeting and Dan invited everyone to introduce themselves.

3. Principal's Report:

Jackie reported that we had a really awesome opening of school; the students are just *the best!* It's felt more normal, and there's a light and fun vibe in the building now. Open House was wonderful. Nature's Classroom has also been a wonderful experience for everyone involved (shout-out to the teachers who stay overnight!). We've welcomed three new fabulous teachers as well.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that we've started meetings. He doesn't have an update on fundraising for the track project. He offered an apology to SSC for talking up an online math program at Amherst for a couple of years that the staff had actually abandoned because of its poor quality. So far, so good for the new school year.

5. Union #28 Report, including Budget & Personnel: No report.

6. CES Report: No report.

I. Policy Review:

Final Vote On:

- AC – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- ACAB – Sexual Harrassment
- JICK – Student Harassment Policy

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY AC – NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY INCLUDING HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY ACAB – SEXUAL HARRASSMENT. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JICK – STUDENT HARASSMENT POLICY AS AMENDED. BETHANY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – September 19, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.
- Budget and Personnel Committee – October 17, 2022
- Future agenda items –

K. Adjournment at 8:27