

**SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, December 21, 2023**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present: Jen Taylor, Anna Heard, Jeremy Mailloux, Julie Martel, members; Bethany Rose, Chair; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance & Operations; Public Guests**

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

**B. Public Hearings: None.**

**C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar: None.**

**D. Warrants and Gifts:**

**Accounts Payable:**

3015	12/26/2023	\$40,818.20
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**Payroll:**

312	12/12/2023	\$85,831.97
313	12/26/2023	\$86,579.91

**Gifts: None.**

**Grants:**

Title I FC 305 - \$19,966  
Title IIA FC 140 - \$2,906  
Title IV FC 309 - \$10,000  
IDEA FC 240 - \$46,630  
EC IDEA FC 262 - \$2,556  
IDEA Part B FC 274 - \$6,148

**JULIE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GRANTS AS PRESENTED. JEREMY SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

Jen shared a letter of congratulations from the Governor about participation in the efficiencies survey.

**E. Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2023:**

Julie offered an emendation.

**JEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2023 AS EMENDED. JEREMY SECONDED. PASSES (ALL AYES, ONE ABSTENTION).**

**F. Unfinished Business / Updates:**

1. Capital Projects/Building Process - Discussion (Roof, Boilers, Kitchen Floor):

Jen shared that Steve Sullivan wrote a grant for the parking lot for FY 2026. She asked Steve to check in with Jackie to make sure everybody's on the same page. As far as trim goes, that's all happening this coming year.

2. Superintendent Search - Update:

Julie reported that at the last meeting, we worked on a question bank for candidates. We had a bit of a discussion wordsmithing the questions. The committee will continue to work on these. We have five applicants. We have a rubric ready to review these, and we're meeting (excitingly) on Dec. 26 to review.

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

1. School Improvement Plan - Review: No Report.

2. Resolution to Endorse Senate Bill No. 335 and 337 Relating to Special Education Funding Reimbursement - Vote:

Jeremy explained the intent of these bills. Shutesbury might not be getting a lot out of them this year, but they will significantly help rural schools statewide. They aim to improve funding for rural schools overall. Caitlin discussed some of the niceties of Circuit Breaker, which is a convoluted system for reimbursement that impacts rural districts disproportionately due to the distance from these schools to schools for students that must be placed out of district.

**ANNA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED. JEREMY SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

3. Resolution to Endorse Senate Bill No. 303 An Act Increasing the Commonwealth's Share of the Education Foundation Budget - Vote:

**ANNA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED. JEREMY SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**

**H. Reports:**

1. Superintendent's Report: No Report.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

FY25 Shutesbury Elementary School Draft Budget - Discussion: Caitlin has been filling in Accounts Payable temporarily. The budget has not changed since our last meeting. She invited questions from SSC and overviewed some drivers. She also described how positions formerly funded by ESSER grants would be moved into the regular budget. One unfilled position (a paraeducator) is in our budget right now. SSC discussed when they could meet with the Fin Com to discuss the budget.

3. Principal's Report: No Report.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Anna reported that there was an election a couple of weeks ago, so the new members will be installed on RSC. The track issue is front and center now. The current state of the track is that it's on a culvert surrounded by wetlands and doesn't drain correctly. They want to reorient the field to make it drain well and expand it to eight lanes to meet standards for competition hosting. The resolution funding a new track specifically mentioned an artificial turf, but sentiment has since changed against artificial, so the original resolution needs to be rescinded and a new one made that reappropriates the funds. The Superintendent has warned that if we don't get the language right, it could nullify the last debt authorization. That seems suspect as an assertion. Anna's concern is that costs have expanded dramatically since the first estimate; it's doubtful they could even redo the track as originally planned. It's a worry that we'll start redoing things, realize we don't have enough money, and then be scrambling to find the rest of the funding. It seems like there aren't enough positions filled in the district that people are spread thin, leaving to a lack of communication with parents about crucial personnel issues.

Jen added that the communication issue is very real, and the mold issue in the school is not being addressed. She's considering filing a public health complaint about it.

5. Union #28 Report, including Budget & Personnel:

Caitlin reported that the subcommittee at Erving looking at leaving U#28 has been suspended during the Superintendent search.

6. CES Report:

Jeremy will forward a report on CES proceedings. They're continuing to work on the same rural school issues, including the bills before SSC tonight.

**I. Policy Review:**

First Reading On:

- IMGA - Service Animals in Schools
- ECAF - Security Cameras in Schools
- ACAB - Sexual Harassment
- BBBE - Unexpired Term Fulfillment
- BGC - Policy Revision and Review

Second Reading, First Vote On:

- BDFB - School Councils
- EBCFA - Face Coverings
- AC-R - Nondiscrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation
- ACA - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex

Final Vote On:

BDFE-E - School Improvement Plans  
CHA/CHC - Development and Dissemination of Procedures

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDFE - SCHOOL COUNCILS. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY AC-R - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY INCLUDING HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY ACA - NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY BDFE-E - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**JULIE MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY CHA/CHC - DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF PROCEDURES. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**J. Executive Session:**

**JULIE MOVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW (CHAPTER 30A SECTION 21 (a)), TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION THEREAFTER. JEN SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.**

**K. Future Business:**

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, January 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – January 22, 2024
- Budget and Personnel Committee – TBD
- Future agenda items –

**L. Adjournment**