

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 15, 2025
FINAL Minutes

Present: Nate Longcope, Leah Jack, Katrina Catalano, Members; Jeremy Mailloux, Chair; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance & Operations; Anne Magill, Principal; Shannon White-Cleveland, Superintendent; Public Guests.

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

B. Welcome New Members:

a. Reorganization of the Committee - Discussion and Vote: Jeremy welcomed Katrina Catalano, our new member. SSC and administrators introduced themselves. Jeremy also explained how subcommittees work. Jeremy read out the committee position descriptions and invited nominations. SSC members discussed their interests and ability to serve in different capacities. Jeremy noted the requirement that U#28 JSC reps needing to serve on the Budget & Personnel Subcommittee.

NATE MOVED TO NOMINATE JEREMY FOR CHAIR. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE HIMSELF FOR VICE CHAIR. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE LEAH TO THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE NATE AND KATRINA TO THE U#28 JOINT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE ANNA TO THE AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE HIMSELF AS ALTERNATE TO THE AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE LEAH FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO NOMINATE NATE TO THE U#28 BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

JEREMY MOVED TO NOMINATE LEAH TO SIGN WARRANTS. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

C. Public Hearings: None.

D. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Jeremy asked to have Anne give the Principal's Report early. SSC assented.

Anne reported that enrollment is the same and the PTO is holding a staff appreciation lunch coming up. Students are doing a car wash or vacuum for staff as a gesture of appreciation as well. MCAS science testing is done, and we had PD on reunification. We've had two local authors do readings and workshops with our students too. The students had a great time. Enrichment clubs are starting up: martial arts, pickleball, and drama. Kids are having a blast. The next session of Moose on the Move walking club is starting. There's an All School musical on the 29th, followed by string and band concerts. Feel free to join us, and thanks for your continued support!

A member of the SEA plans to attend each SSC meeting to take notes and communicate with their members.

Nate went over upcoming meetings, including Town Meeting and JSC. He plans to have an updated perpetual calendar for next year.

E. Warrants and Gifts:

○ **Accounts Payable**

| | | |
|------|-----------|-------------|
| 3022 | 4/29/2025 | \$45,965.64 |
| 3023 | 5/13/2025 | \$4,307.97 |

○ **Payroll**

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
| 322 | 4/29/2025 | \$89,994.66 |
| 323 | 5/12/2025 | \$89,761.29 |

Gifts: None.

Grants: None.

F. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2025:

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2025. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

G. Unfinished Business / Updates:

- 1. Capital Projects/Building Process –Update: No update. Nate is waiting to hear about meeting schedules.

H. New Business / Discussion Items:

- 1. Inviting SEA members to SSC meetings:

SSC supports having SEA members and parents attend our meetings so that they can see our deliberations and build relationships with us. The union is also part of our community, after all. Jeremy wants to improve the negotiation process for next time, and knowing who people are ahead of time can help with that. Nate noted that while negotiations were drawn out, we were still the first school in the Union to complete and sign our contract. It was good faith all around. We should be proud of what we accomplished. We're in really good shape compared to other schools, and it was distressing to hear that the teachers were worried. Having SEA members at our meetings can help keep lines of communication open.

Susie Mosher, Fin Com, noted this is a common problem for the Town across all departments. Part of it has to do with how the website is organized and people's understanding of where to find things. She encouraged use of Town Announce, which can be used by people connected to a Town committee. Shannon added that SES's contract was on a different cycle, and we managed to settle the contract without going a year without, in addition to a leadership change. It might have been laborious, but we accomplished something good in the end. Nate spoke about not seeing himself as Management, but as a parent and a community member; state training on negotiations positions SC members as Management rather than advocates for kids and parents, which is how Nate sees his role.

SSC encourages SEA members to attend as members of the public. Shannon reminded SSC that members of the public can only speak about items on that meeting's agenda.

I. Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Shannon reported the last day of school is June 18. She wanted to address teacher angst: there are some restructuring conversations going on within the school, but we have no planned layoffs, just some private conversations going on about staff roles for next year. Both Central Office and Leadership Team have set up their summer meetings / retreats to start planning out what next year's collaboration looks like. All schools have budget recommendations to be presented at Town Meeting (EES and LES budgets have passed). Shannon will be presenting evidence for her evaluation at the next JSC meeting.

Legislative updates: May 6 is the MASC-sponsored Day on the Hill. They've outlined their priorities for the year, which closely aligns with the priorities identified by MASS as well as some from MTA. There's agreement around some items among stakeholders, including shoring up financing for rural schools and supporting SCs in Superintendent search processes. There are a lot of such vacancies across the state. The DOE is asking school districts to sign a letter reaffirming we'll follow non-discrimination processes in our programs. DESE sent a response on our behalf, and we've not been advised that local districts should sign a compliance letter. Chapter 70 funds are up several billion, increasing funds per students. Legislative leaders have made clear MA's priority is to continue funding school lunches. We only have about half of the Rural Aid we're asking for and need. There are some amendments filed to increase aid to small districts like ours through mechanisms like Out-of-District reimbursements. We're looking for more equity and leveling the field. Legislative news is changing fast.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

a. Expenditure Report: Caitlin said this year's budget was very tight, so she and Anne are monitoring closely. We've had a change in student population that have impacted our budget. Looks like we'll be able to come in at the end of the year without asking the Town for additional funds. She met with Food Service Directors this week to respond to a DESE review. We're looking at making sure SES is up to requirements without having to be under review. We've learned a lot from this process, and applying this learning will help our operations as well as prepare us for a review in the future. The MSBA plan for our boiler isn't suitable for our infrastructure or budget (it would be a lot more expensive than the Town doing it ourselves), so replacing that will be our next big item to address after the parking lots.

3. Principal's Report:

See Perpetual Calendar above.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report: None.

5. Joint Supervisory Committee Report, including Budget & Personnel: None.

- Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 19, 2025

6. CES Report: None.

I. Policy Review:

First Read for Deletion:

KHC – Notice of Distribution Policy

First Read On:

KE – Public Complaints
KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities
KHA – Public Solicitations in the Schools
AA – School District Legal Status
KF – Community Use of School Facilities

Second Read, First Vote On:

ADC – Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties
BBBC – School Committee Member Resignation
BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting

Final Vote:

JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students
JLCB – Immunization of Students
KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools

Shannon noted that due to a clerical error, these policies are actually on the First Read stage and will not be voted on at this meeting:

BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties
BBBC – School Committee Member Resignation
BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting

LEAH MOVED TO DELETE POLICY KHC – NOTICE OF DISTRIBUTION POLICY. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO MOVE POLICY ADC – TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES PROHIBITED FOR A FINAL VOTE TO NEXT MEETING. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JKAA – PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JL CB – IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY KCD – PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Budget & Personnel Committee – TBD
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Shutesbury Town Meeting – May 31, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- Future agenda items:

Leah suggested showing the redline versions of edited policies to help SSC members (using Track Changes) after First Read. Shannon will ask Robyn about setting this up.

K. Adjournment at 8:33

LEAH MOVED TO ADJOURN. NATE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYE.