

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Jan 5, 2016, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Gary Hirshfield, Weezie Houle, Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis and Jim Walton **Members Absent:** none **Visitors:** Becky Torres, School Committee, Kate Finder, Steve Sullivan, Dan Hayes, Fred Steinberg, Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent of Union 28, Aaron Osborne, Director of Finance Union 28, Jackie Mendonsa, Principal Shutesbury Elementary

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. School Committee: Presentation of Shutesbury Elementary School Budget Union 28 Budget.
 - a. Reviewed the Shutesbury Elementary School Budget drivers.
 - b. Need to increase clerical staff due to increased data reporting to the state.
 - c. Teacher Salaries: Increased expense line due to Steps and COLA, and loss of Grants.
 - d. Loss of the Community Partnership grant
 - e. Teacher Aide Salaries: Increased due to loss of grant funding, staff move, steps and COLA
 - f. Teacher Specialists: loss of the Kindergarten grant
 - g. Other misc. increases
 - h. The school will need to have the boiler replaced and the playground updated. Will apply to Capital Planning for these. The school secretary has applied for funds from CPC to have a 1/8 mile track installed for the school and community in the southwest, upper field.
 - i. Enrollment has been decreasing. Current enrollment is 131 including preschool.
 - j. Both the union and the school administrators are all looking at many ways of saving money by sharing amongst the union schools.
 - k. Breakfast program is very popular.
 - l. The roof is leaking in various places. The Buildings Committee has it on their agenda.
3. Regionalization Assessment Discussion:
 - a. Reviewed comparison of assessments
 - b. Steve Sullivan, Gary Hirshfield, Becky Torres, George Arvanitis, April Stein and Jeff Lacey have been appointed to the (Winter) Regional Assessment Negotiating Team.
 - c. Discussion regarding the team's negotiating goals and minimal acceptable options.
4. Regionalization
 - a. Michael DiChiara gave us a historical summary of the Regional Assessment Working Group.
 - b. Discussion on many aspects of Regionalization.
5. Meeting adjourned 10:00pm
6. Next Meetings:
 - a. January 19, 2016, 7pm – Financial Dept. Heads, Assessors, 7:15pm
 - b. February 9, 2016, 7pm – Amherst Regional Budget Planning, 7:15pm
 - c. February 23, 2016, 7pm – Capital Planning, 7:15pm; Tax Collector, 7:45pm
 - d. March 8, 2016, 7pm – Personnel Board, 7:15pm
 - e. March 22, 2016, 7pm – No Dept. scheduled
 - f. April 5, 2016, 7pm – Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - g. April 19, 2016, 7pm – Town Meeting prep
 - h. May 7, 2016, 9am (Annual Town Meeting)