

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 20, 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Stephen Sullivan, members; Dan Hayes, Chair; Bruce Turner, Director of Finance & Operations; Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent; Public Guests

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

B. Public Hearings: None.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Dan noted that

D. Warrants and Gifts:

#322 5/3/21 \$68,715.69
#323 5/17/21 \$67,960.93
#324 6/1/21 \$71,636.85
#3024 4/20/21 \$43,336.97
#3025 5/4/21 \$20,416.29
#3026 5/17/21 \$10,846.75

E. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2021:

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

1. Capital Projects (heat, roof, sliders, etc.) - Information / Updates:

Bruce said there's a proposal on the agenda for Town Meeting to fund the heat system at SES. No update on the sliders yet. Susie Mosher reported that the Capital Planning Committee approved \$200K for updating the heating system and controls, to come out of Stabilization, while funds to fix the roof is proposed to come out of Free Cash, so that all this work can be done this summer.

G. New Business / Discussion Items:

1. MSBA Statement of Interest - Vote:

Bruce said he needs a vote of approval from SSC to reapply to the MSBA for funds to fix the roof and the boiler.

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY. STEVEN SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

2. Recovery Preschool/School Choice Funds: Discussion and Possible Vote:

Jennifer explained that the Recovery Plan will be funded by a combination of grants and budgetary assignments. A big part of this plan is the Preschool program, which has not been able to run for nearly 14 months. Our Pre-K students are in desperate need of socialization and foundations for academic success. We're asking SSC to approve the use of School Choice funds to run an extra Recovery Preschool program for one year, including the hiring of staff to support it. This is not a request to use Choice funds to permanently support Preschool, but a one-time expenditure.

Lauren commented that the needs of these students are exceptional, and she supports this proposal as a result. Steven agreed; we need to get this cohort started. Susie asked how much this might cost; Bruce said in the \$60K to \$80K range. We have ample funds in the Choice account now to support this. The academic and social-emotional intervention support staff would be partly grant funded.

**LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR THE RECOVERY PLAN. STEVE SECONDED.
UNANIMOUS.**

H. Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Jennifer reported that U#28 has hired two Adjustment Counselors to address the social-emotional needs of students across all four schools (two schools per Counselor); this is grant funded. One of the Counselors is U#28 staff, and the other is coming in from outside the district. Prudence Marsh, our beloved colleague, is retiring this summer, and we've hired a new Director of Student Support Services.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

Bruce reported that he and Matt have talked about the portable AC unit in the server room; it's not that great, so we're discussing installing a mini-split there, and also in another place in the building where it gets considerably hot. The budget looks great; it looks like we might be returning some money to the Town.

3. Principal's Report:

Jennifer reported on behalf of Jackie. Her report was mainly the details of the Recovery Plan. She also conducted a survey of SES staff regarding COVID concerns going into school this fall. She noted that our mask policy takes precedence over the updated state guidelines; she recommends that we keep it in place for the 18 days that remain in the school year. We've been really safe and come really far. SSC members supported this recommendation but will add this item to the next meeting agenda so that changes to the policy can be discussed and voted on.

Jennifer noted that two staff members are retiring or moving on; she thanked them for their service to SES and said they'll be missed.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Steve reported that RSC voted to apply to MSBA for the middle school roof. Graduation will be at Look Park, but school administration hasn't heard back about increasing the number of participants allowed. Steve said that SES would not be sending their 6th Graders to the middle school, which has been proposed regionally, scheduled for fall of 2022.

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

Jennifer reported that she presented progress on her goals at the last meeting, and also discussed how to pursue further shared efficiencies across the Union.

6. CES Report:

Dan reported that they held a vote for the next Director of Educational Services. The process stripped out all information that could indicate personal characteristics such as race, gender, etc. Fourteen individuals were advanced, of which twelve were interviewed. The pool was great, and one of our three finalists withdrew, leaving two. The final interview occurred last night and the position was offered to an outside candidate. Both our finalists were excellent candidates, and the final decision was very difficult to make.

I. Policy Review:

Final Vote On:

- EBC – Emergency Plans
- EDCB – Emergency Closing of School Procedure
- EEAEC – Student Conduct on School Buses
- FA – Facilities Development Goals

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EBC – EMERGENCY PLANS. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EDCB – EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL PROCEDURE. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY EEAEC – STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LAUREN MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY FA – FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS. STEVE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – TBD
- Budget and Personnel Committee – October 2021
- Future agenda items –

K. Executive Session to Discuss Strategy With Respect to Collective Bargaining or Litigation 7:50:

DAN MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION, TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AFTERWARD. STEVE SECONDED. VOICE VOTES ALL AYES. UNANIMOUS.

L. Adjournment