

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 16, 2025
Final Minutes

Present: Nate Longcope, Anna Heard, Leah Jack members; Jeremy Mailloux, Chair; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance & Operations; Anne Magill, Principal; Public Guests.

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

B. Public Hearings: None.

C. Review of Agenda and Perpetual Calendar:

Jeremy noted January events: We're meeting with the Fin Com. The next Four Town meeting is Feb 8.

D. Warrants and Gifts:

Accounts Payable:

3013	12/24/2024	\$36,996.52
3014	1/7/2024	\$34,472.16

Payroll:

313	12/24/2024	\$93,684.93
314	1/7/2025	\$95,831.03

Gifts: None.

Grants:

Rural Aid

- \$76,550.13

Caitlin noted that two additional townships qualified for Rural Aid this year, slightly lowering the total we're receiving.

ANNA MOVED TO ACCEPT ADJUSTED RURAL AID AS PRESENTED. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

E. Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024:

ANNA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2024. NATE SECONDED. PASSES (ONE ABSTENTION).

F. Unfinished Business / Updates:

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

Nate updated SSC. The air exchange system needs antifreeze to the tune of \$6K, the tractor for snow plowing needs replacement (\$30K), and an outdoor learning pavilion would run several thousand depending on size and style. Nate has a good lead for building this. Anna recalled some complications related to permitting for a volunteer to build this in the past for free. Susie Mosher, Fin Com, said that was her son, and the issue was that the funding was for community projects and not for school-exclusive ones. Might be possible to build something elsewhere and bring it in. Nate said a prefab pavilion is \$4K before labor. Sidewalk and parking lot patching/repair was done in 2017, and we need to do some of that as well. Looks to start around \$75K. The buses are also driving a little onto the grass, so we need to figure that part out as well. Susie suggested looking at the CPA minutes to see what they cited as an issue for the pavilion. Nate will investigate. Last, there are walkie-talkies (used for After School) that need replacing. Susie advised Nate on Capital Planning meeting schedule and process. She suggested we reach out to the Fire Department to see if they have old walkie-talkies they could donate; Jeremy will reach out to them.

2. PTO/School Committee Outreach – Update:

Jeremy reviewed upcoming PTO events: Feb 1 Community Skate at the Mullins Center, Feb 12 Fun Hub fundraiser, Mar 14 Bingo for Books (tentative), Mar 22 an event at Quarters in Hadley. SSC members are welcome to attend and meet with families at any of these events (Anna pointed out some of them are more conducive to conversations than others).

G. New Business / Discussion Items: None.

H. Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report:

Anne reported on Shannon's behalf. An advisory group is meeting monthly to review the Collins Center efficiency report to see what we can implement. The Power School security breach has impacted U#28. The extent of the breach is still being investigated, and Power School should offer support to affected families and staff, but the worst data in the breach is of a kind U#28 does not store in Power School (SS numbers, medical data). We have a family workshop on concerning behaviors with Dr. Stuart Ablon on Feb 27, with dinner and childcare provided, at SRS. Dr. Ablon will be remote, and we're excited to have him.. Legislative updates include pledges from Legislature leaders to tackle educational reform, including reviewing the funding formula to provide more support to small, rural schools.

2. Director of Finance and Operations:

Caitlin said we locked in a good price for heating oil next year through Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. Frontline Absence Management is a system we're going forward with to manage our substitutes and staff absences. They've been great to work with. We'll be replacing an archaic paper-based system here.

FY26 Shutesbury Elementary School Draft Budget - Discussion and Vote on Adoption of Preliminary Budget: Caitlin reported that the budget has increased a little, to 5.03%, because of shifts in how some money gets accounted for. Susie and Caitlin reviewed the state of several sources of grant funding, given

the imminent change in administration and the uncertainty in federal support it presents. Caitlin said we've been informed we might not qualify for Title I funds next year; this is based on Town income level. Anna said there's a chance that changes in state formulae could affect the state aid we'll receive (probably positively), but when would that happen? Not until next year at the earliest. Caitlin said moving grants out of the budget is beneficial because we can see exactly what's funded by which grants. We need to be able to avoid problems in the general operating budget when grants decline. Susie praised Caitlin for her budget educating help this year as well as the data visualizations showing the relative size of revenue sources. The pie graph could also be altered next year to show state aid and grant sources.

ANNA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY FY26 BUDGET AS PRESENTED. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

3. Principal's Report:

Anne said we have a walking program, Moose on the Move, with weekly goals. Students and staff participate and students pay a small fee for tracking equipment and track maintenance. She requested that SSC set up a revolving fund to take care of this (it's a very small amount in a separate line item).

ANNA MOVED TO CREATE A NEW LINE ITEM REVOLVING FUND FOR MOOSE ON THE MOVE. LEAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

Anne went on to report that the Student Council wanted to bring some enrichment clubs to school, including Pickle Ball for Beginners, Spanish Club, and Sewing Club. We're getting ready for MCAS season, spending a lot of time working on writing skills and encouraging caregivers to help students write as much as possible. Nate asked about a Talent Show? Yes, Student Council is running that. There was a contest for student designs incorporating a moose. We've got comedians, singers, musicians, even magic acts. We're encouraging all kids to try out and participate.

4. Amherst-Pelham Representative's Report:

Anna reported that the budget discussions continue. The way Town budget allocations have played out over the last few cycles, we need such a huge increase this time that all the Towns would have contributed far more than we can afford. So we have a system that caps increases for Towns at 4%, but this hampers the allocation distribution that's needed. We're trying to rework it with the original intent of the allocation system. We're in the midst of a Middle School Principal search; interviews are next week. The RSC is also going to review and update its mission statement.

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

Leah reported that the efficiency advisory group has started its work but is not ready to share any items yet. There's a new program in Erving serving children with special needs that just got set up; it serves three students and provides them with the opportunity for peer interaction as well as tailored support. She reported SES happenings at JSC.

6. CES Report: None.

I. Policy Review:

First Read:

JICFA-E – Hazing
JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited
JICFB – Bullying Prevention

First Reading and Vote on Deletion:

JICJ – Possession and Use of Mobile Electronic Signaling Devices at School
JLCEA – Life Threatening Allergy Policy
JLCG – Head Lice Policy

Final Vote On:

ACAB – Sex-Based Harassment/Discrimination (Title IX)
IGA/IGD – Curriculum Development
JIC – Student Discipline
JICFB – Bullying Prevention

ANNA MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JICJ – POSSESSION AND USE OF MOBILE ELECTRONIC SIGNALING DEVICES AT SCHOOL. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

ANNA MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JLCEA – LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

ANNA MOVED TO DELETE POLICY JLCG – HEAD LICE POLICY. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY ACAB – SEX-BASED HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION (TITLE IX). NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY IGA/IGD – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JIC – STUDENT DISCIPLINE AS EMENDED. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

LEAH MOVED TO APPROVE POLICY JICFB – BULLYING PREVENTION. NATE SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

J. Executive Session: Not necessary.

K. Future Business:

- Shutesbury Policy Committee – Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
- Shutesbury School Committee – Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

- Budget & Personnel Committee – TBD
- Union #28 Joint Supervisory – Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Future agenda items –

L. Adjournment at 8:09

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