

**UNION #28 JOINT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present:** Carl Seppala, Amy Palmer, Bethany Seeger, Johanna Bartlett, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Fred Steinberg, Carla Halpern, Erik Semb, Melissa Burke, Tara Acker; Dan Hayes, Chair; Prudence Marsh, Director of Student Support Services; Stephen Cass, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, JSC members shared their admiration for and memories of Dick Baldwin, praising his humor, warmth, intelligence, sense of community service, artistic and musical abilities, and his gift of being able to respectfully disagree with others. He will be greatly missed. SRS is honoring him at one of their Community Sings this fall.

Jennifer read the poem “Ringling” by Naomi Shihab Nye that both reflects the work they've done on the Leadership Team and reminded her of Dick Baldwin and all he brought to SRS.

**1. Meeting Called to Order by Dan at 7:00 P.M.**

**2. Public Hearings: None.**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from May 15, 2017**

**CARLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2017. FRED SECONDED. UNANIMOUS. (TWO ABSTENTIONS.)**

**4. Budget & Personnel Committee – Update: None.**

**5. Director of Finance and Operations Report**

Stephen reported that he made an appearance in a recent Boston *Globe* article about a scandal at the district he most recently worked in; he was not party to the scandal, and rather stood up for himself during it, and left the district as a result. As for the budget, it's going to be tight. Oil prices have been good this year so far.

JSC thanked Stephen for his service this past year.

**6. Superintendent Evaluation**

Jennifer presented her artifacts as well as the standards and rubric for the Superintendent Evaluation. Her four goals were 1) Implementation of Universal Design for Learning; 2) Creating a Strategic Plan for U#28; 3) Creating Adult Communities Within the Schools; 4) Participate in Massachusetts Rural School Districts Lobbying Activities.

Supporting Goal 1, she attended a conference on Universal Design for Learning along with Prudy, worked with the Leadership Team to create a plan for implementing UDL, led Professional Development centered on UDL with peer feedback, and conducted walkthroughs

with the Principal at each school. She and Prudy will present their research at a statewide conference this summer.

Supporting Goal 2, she, the Principals and Prudy spent many strategy sessions creating this plan, guided by our objectives, values and mission and aided by various organizational tools. This plan will guide work in the union over the next 3-5 years.

Supporting Goal 3, she and the Leadership Team worked with Chip Wood to build relational trust and develop listening skills.

Supporting Goal 4, she participated in the Mass Rural Schools Initiative consisting of Superintendents from rural districts throughout Central and Western Massachusetts who advocate for their schools.

Jennifer went on to explain how her activities and those of the Leadership Team aligned with the standards in the evaluation rubric. She relies heavily on feedback from the Leadership Team, meeting with them twice a month; one meeting each month was devoted to issues the Team brought forward.

She concluded with a quotation from Parker Palmer and a poem by Marge Piercy.

Dan asked Jennifer about how individual schools fit into UDL; she responded that U#28 has guiding principles for UDL, and that each school reviewed what they currently do to implement UDL. This helped them focus on areas that need improvement, and also allowed the schools to compare what they do in order to find commonalities that could be refined into the guiding principles. Dan invited JSC members to examine her artifacts at their leisure.

## **7. Superintendent Goals**

## **8. News/Updates from Each School and Union #28**

Wendell / New Salem: Carla reported that new members have joined SRSC. We just had our Spring Spectacular Concert, and the Talent Show is coming up soon, including a marching band of older kids. Three SRS students participated in the Special Olympics. Recent field trip have included the Turners Falls fish ladder as well as art museums locally and in Boston. SRS Student Council chose to have all students wear the same gender-neutral color for the the Food-A-Thon. Some sexist elements of the school dress code have been removed. The Rabbit Run was also a great success.

Leverett: Bethany and Tara reported that LES had their Colonial Day recently; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade took a field trip to Old Deerfield Village. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade put on a play that they wrote; Jennifer reported that it was marvelous and a lot of fun. The Kindergarteners presented papers on their favorite desserts. Field Day is coming up.

Shutesbury: Fred and Lauren reported that students put on a play they'd written as an after-school activity. Second Grade has been making marble runs, while the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade dressed up as heroes in a living statue event.

Erving: Erik reported that ESC has several new members, and EES put on its School Play recently, which was wonderful. He went to NYC with the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders; one site they visited was the 9/11 Memorial, and they saw *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in the theater. All in all, a wonderful trip.

**9. Future Items to Discuss**

a. Next Meeting Date: TBD

**10. Executive Session to Conduct Strategy Sessions in Preparation to Conduct Contract Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel.**

Dan consulted with Johanna and Jennifer, then noted that it was not necessary to enter Executive Session.

**11. Adjournment: 7:12 P.M.**

**CARLA MOVED TO ADJOURN. ERIK SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.**