

UNION #28 JOINT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, May 15, 2017
Final Minutes

Present: Johanna Bartlett, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Fred Steinberg, Sarah Dolven, Dick Baldwin, Carla Halpern, Renee Tela; Dan Hayes, Chair; Prudence Marsh, Director of Student Support Services; Bruce Turner, Incipient Director of Finance and Operations; Stephen Cass, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Jennifer Haggerty, Superintendent.

1. Meeting Called to Order by Dan at 7:07 P.M.

2. Public Hearings:

Carla plugged the scenic and challenging Rabbit Run taking place this Saturday, May 20, at 10 A.M. at the New Salem Common.

3. Approval of the Minutes from March 20, 2017

DICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2017. SARAH SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

4. Budget & Personnel Committee – Update

Dan reported that the B&P Committee has put forward a unanimous recommendation for our new Director of Finance and Operations, Bruce Turner, as well as a unanimous recommendation for the negotiated contract with him. Bruce introduced himself to JSC: he hails from a farming family here in Western Mass and has worked in municipal and school finance for several decades. He is a Selectboard member in his town as well, giving him a well rounded perspective on the issues facing both schools and their towns' governments, and has a particular interest in capital planning and green infrastructure.

Dan also thanked Stephen for stepping in when we needed him and for serving the Union so well.

LAUREN MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE B&P COMMITTEE REGARDING THE HIRING OF BRUCE TURNER AS OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS. DICK SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.

5. Central Office Renovations – Update from Erving Town Meeting

Renee reported that Erving isn't sure what sort of position they'll be hiring at this point, whether a full-time or part-time janitor, or something else. Jennifer thanked Renee for spearheading talks between U#28 and Erving on this issue.

6. Director of Finance and Operations Contract / Salary

See #4 above.

7. Superintendent Evaluation – Continue Discussion on Process

Jennifer reported that Suzor IT has turned the Superintendent Evaluation rubric and goals into Google Forms that JSC members can access and complete online. This digitization of the feedback process should help increase the quality of responses and ease participation. JSC members can fill out the forms by June.

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

Wendell / New Salem: Carla reported that SRS just had its Mother's Day Run as well as a Pancake Run postponed from May 1st, all for 100 Mile Club. Johanna said that students had visits from a poet as well as Enchanted Circle Theater. Carla said we no longer qualify for free meals across the board, by two or three students, but SRS will continue to provide free meals for qualifying families.

Leverett: Sarah said that LES undertook a collaborative field trip with SES recently, the one to UMass, where students went to both labs and the field to check out fish, perform dissections on other animals, and learn more about biology. She praised the collaborative nature of the trip. She also reported that the mother of a former LES student, an illustrator and children's book author, visited recently and did readings as well as a hike around the trails with students. Margot Lacey conducted the staff Taking Stock process, a reflective professional development event. Town Meeting went unusually well for LES, considering previous years; LES alumni provided free child care for Meeting attendees.

Shutesbury: Lauren reported that SES just had its Arts Night at which students gave a music performance and showed off their visual art. Last Friday was the Spaghetti Dinner, which raised money for the 6th Grade Field Trip. 6th Grade took a field trip to UMass since they've been communicating with scientists there. Fred added that a lot of SES alumni came back to help; Lauren explained it's a tradition for 7th Graders to handle tickets, etc. Dan said that students will soon present their annual portfolios.

Erving: Renee reported on EES 100 Mile Club activities recently; one included ice cream. The school play *The Ugly Duckling* was adorable. The 5th Grade is soon to have its Science Fair. Students made and delivered bag lunches as part of a very successful fundraiser.

9. Future Items to Discuss

a. Finance Update:

Stephen updated JSC on the U#28 budget. We're right on budget as of now. There are some important changes coming up, including alterations to per-hour and yearly salaries for staff as well as IT upgrades. Jennifer said we're a year ahead of our IT update schedule. Jennifer thanked Stephen for his diligence over every penny. Three school budgets have passed with minimal drama. For a couple of schools, oil contracts are settled for next year. Some copier contracts have come up as well with more favorable pricing. There are a lot of different moving parts in most of the school budgets, including the statewide Early Childhood Education grants,

so there's a good deal of work to be done shifting funds around to stabilize budgets.

b. Superintendent's Updates

Jennifer reported that there are some proposed changes from Commissioner Mitchell Chester that would allow him to suspend, limit, or revoke a teacher's license based on his own judgment. Also, bill S.223 has been filed that would update the Foundation Formula by giving more money to districts with high numbers of English language learners, increase SPED funding, and establish improved employee health insurance plans. This bill represents some progress on numerous issues. Dan added that MASC supports this bill. Jennifer continued by reporting that Massachusetts is joining seven other states in a two-year initiative focused on social-emotional learning in early education.

She concluded by noting that she and Prudy will be presenting to the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents on the results of their study on incorporating universal design principles into curriculum planning. Prudy added that they recently submitted an application for a grant that would fund teachers in reviewing learning standards in several subjects.

c. Next Meeting Date: TBD

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

JOHANNA MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION TO CONDUCT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AFTERWARD. CARLA SECONDED. ALL VOICE VOTES AYE.

11. Adjournment