



**School Committee
Meeting**

**April 9, 2014
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
April 9, 2014 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room



<u>Items</u>	<u>Suggested time allotments</u>
I. Public Participation	7:00 – 7:10
II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports	
III. Superintendent's Report	
IV. Time Scheduled Appointments	
A. SHS State Champion Athletes: Recognition	7:10 – 7:25
B. State Sen. Michael O. Moore: Discussion of state issues	7:25 – 7:45
V. Curriculum	
A. Mathematics curriculum alignment: Report	7:45 – 8:30
VI. Policy	
VII. Budget	
A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Discussion & Possible Revision	8:30 – 8:40
B. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget: Update	8:40 – 8:50
VIII. Old Business	
IX. New Business	
X. Approval of Minutes	8:50 – 8:55
XI. Executive Session	8:55 – 9:15
XII. Information Enclosures	
XIII. Adjournment	9:15

Next meeting: April 30, 2014



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE



ITEM NO: I. **Public Participation**

MEETING DATE: 4/9/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

ITEM NO: II. **Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson of the School Committee, and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson
Mr. John Samia, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Jason Palitsch, Secretary
Ms. Erin Canzano, Committee Member
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Committee Member

ITEM NO: III. **Superintendent's Report**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE



ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointment** MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**
A. SHS State Champion Athletes: Recognition

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee honor the Shrewsbury High School winter season state champions, track athlete Domonique Hall and the boys hockey team?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Domonique Hall won the indoor track Division 1 state championship in the 300 meter dash for the second year in a row, setting a meet record of 39.69 seconds.
2. Athletic Director Mr. Jason Costa and head indoor track coach Nick DiPilato will join Domonique in providing details of her accomplishments.
3. The SHS Hockey team captured the Division III State Championship on March 16, 2014. They are also the Quinn Conference Champions and the Auburn Tournament Champions. This team has the best record in school's history 21-2-1.
4. Athletic Director Mr. Jason Costa, head coach Stephen Turnblom; assistant coaches, Nathan Lavner, Richard Grant, Joe Joubert, Todd Cooksey; and team captain, David Belbin will be present to provide details of their accomplishments and answer questions from the Committee.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee honor these students and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School
Mr. Jason Costa, Director of Athletics
Mr. Nick DiPilato, Indoor Track Head Coach
Mr. Stephen Turnblom, Hockey Head Coach



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointment** MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**
B. State Sen. Michael O. Moore: Discussion of state issues

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a presentation by Senator Michael Moore regarding the status of state funding for public education and other state level issues?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Senator Michael Moore will discuss developments at the state level related to the school finance and other issues that affect public education.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

A. Mathematics Curriculum Alignment: Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report on the district's work to align the K-8 mathematics curriculum with the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. In 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Education adopted an updated curriculum framework for mathematics.
2. Due to resource constraints, the district has not yet aligned its K-8 curriculum to match the updated framework. This year, some teachers in each of these grades have been piloting an updated curriculum using updated materials.
3. The educators listed below will present information regarding the pilot and the district's plans for full implementation.
4. Please see the enclosed memorandum from Ms. Banios for more information.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Amy Clouter, Principal, Coolidge School

Dr. Ann Jones, Principal, Oak Middle School

Ms. Jean-Marie Johnson, Mathematics Department Director

Ms. Jennifer Dufault, Grade 8 Math teacher, Oak Middle School

Ms. Melissa McCann, Advanced Math Coach, Sherwood Middle School



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Mary Beth Banios
Assistant Superintendent

To: School Committee
Re: Shrewsbury Math Implementation
Date: April 4, 2014

Rationale for Adoption of New Core Math Resources in Grades K-8

In 2004 the Massachusetts Board of Education introduced state frameworks and standards for the teaching of mathematics in public schools across the Commonwealth. In response to this, Shrewsbury revised its math curriculum to align with the new standards and invested in two math programs, *Everyday Mathematics* for grades K-6 and *Connected Math Program 2* for grades 7-8, in order to ensure teachers and students had textbooks and curriculum materials that were appropriate for implementing the updated curriculum. This decision served our students well, with every grade tested (3-8) reaching at least the top 11% ranking in the state, with many grades reaching top 10%, 5%, and even 1% rankings in different years. There is also no question that our students' elementary and middle school math instruction has prepared them well for success in high school, where students have excelled in a variety of ways, including very strong Advanced Placement results and many student acceptances into top college and university programs in mathematics and engineering.

Nine years later, these Massachusetts Math Frameworks were updated to reflect the changing needs of students who will enter career and college in rapidly changing global environment. In response to these new standards, Shrewsbury is once again responding by revising its math curriculum and purchasing new core materials that support the updated frameworks. These frameworks make changes to the sequence, level of rigor, and expected levels of mastery that are required in our K-12 math curriculum. Last year all students in Massachusetts started being assessed on the 2011 standards on MCAS.

What is Being Recommended as New Core Math Resources?

K-5 Math in Focus (Singapore Math)

6-8 Connected Math Program (CMP3)

It is important to clarify that the Shrewsbury Public School district is not adopting a new math *program*, but rather is aligning its curriculum with the new 2011

Massachusetts Math Frameworks and needs to purchase core resources that match that alignment.

During the past summer our 6-8 math educators researched this issue, and they agreed that the updated version of their current resource, *Connected Math Program 3* (CMP3), would align with the new standards. Our K-5 pilot teachers, principals, and instructional coaches determined that our current K-5 math program, *Everyday Mathematics*, was significantly out of alignment with the new standards and there was a need to adopt different math materials.

The K-5 group of pilot teachers, principals, and coaches participated in two days of presentations from publishers of math resources aligned with the 2011 standards. After these presentations, there was a clear consensus that *Math in Focus* best met the instructional needs of our students. Two pilot teachers per grade level have been using these materials to teach their students over the course of the 2013-2014 school year. These pilot teachers, along with principals and coaches, have been studying how these resources are best utilized and have been identifying how to ensure the most effective ways to transition from the 2004 math standards to the 2011 standards. This group is also scheduled to visit the Tri-Town Union (Boxford, Topsfield, and Middleton) on April 15 to learn from a district that is in its second year of adoption of the *Math in Focus* materials. Our year long pilot of the *Math in Focus* materials gives us confidence that utilizing these materials is the best way to help our students meet the new learning demands articulated in the 2011 Massachusetts Math Frameworks. Principals and pilot teachers report that the new program represents a more rigorous approach to ensuring that students both learn key foundational math skills and knowledge and learn to apply these skills and knowledge to solving complex problems.

When Will the Purchase and Adoption of these New Materials Take Place?

Our plan is to shift all K-8 math instruction to align with the 2011 standards and begin utilizing the new core materials in Grades K-8 next year (2014-2015). In order to do this, a significant investment is required to purchase the materials. Currently, we are finalizing negotiations with the vendors for the *Math in Focus* and *CMP3* materials, and we will provide an update on expected cost at your meeting on April 9. The leadership team is in full agreement that it is critical to be aligned with the state standards from day one of the 2014-2015 school year, which will require a decision to allot funding in the Fiscal Year 2015 to be made as soon as possible. We are also working to determine whether some costs of implementing this plan could be allocated to the current year's budget, such as professional development and some initial teacher resource purchases.

When Will Teachers Receive Professional Development on the 2011 Math Standards and the New Core Math Materials?

Our plan is to provide initial training for K-8 math educators this spring during the April 15th and May 12th Early Release Days and the full Professional Development Day on June 6th. The district will also be supporting three different math graduate courses over the summer designed to support teachers' math content knowledge development. Training and support for K-8 math teachers will continue during the professional development time scheduled for the 2014-15 school year.

How Does the Transition to the 2011 Standards Impact the SHS Math Program?

The administration and teacher leaders from Oak Middle School have been meeting with the SHS Math Department Director, Jean-Marie Johnson, to ensure that the middle level math program positions students in the strongest possible way to enter SHS math courses. Under the leadership of Ms. Johnson, the SHS math department has already made significant shifts in its curriculum that reflect the demands of the 2011 Massachusetts Math Frameworks. Members of the SHS math department will be engaged in work this summer to continue curriculum updates in response to the curriculum changes occurring at Oak Middle School. This collaboration will result in a more rigorous program for middle and high school students alike.



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: VI. Policy

MEETING DATE: 4/9/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VII. Budget**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Discussion & Possible Revision

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee discuss the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget recommendation and possibly revise its recommendation?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. If updated information regarding Fiscal Year 2015 is available, the School Committee may wish to discuss implications for its current recommendation.
2. If warranted, the School Committee may wish to adjust its recommendation.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee discuss the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget recommendation and possibly revise its recommendation.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Liam T. Hurley, Director of Business Services
Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VII. Budget**
B. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget: Update

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear an update on the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. From time to time, the administration provides an update regarding the status of the current fiscal year's budget.
2. Mr. Hurley will provide an update broken down by various budget categories under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear an update on the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: IX. **New Business**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **X.** **Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on March 19, 2014?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The minutes will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on March 19, 2014.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson
Mr. Jason Palitsch, Secretary



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations where discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

That the School Committee discuss the information presented and take such action as it deems to be in best interests of Shrewsbury Public Schools.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee enter into executive session.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **XII. Information Enclosures**
ITEM NO: **XIII. Adjournment**

MEETING DATE: **4/9/14**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION: