

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

Present: Dr. B. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Mr. John Samia, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Director of Business Services, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources, Shrewsbury Public Schools

The meeting was convened at 7:01 PM by Dr. B. Dale Magee

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

None

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked people for attending the annual MOVE program event. He said that the MOVE program provides SHS students, who plan to enter the workforce directly after graduation, with excellent training and skills in the hospitality industry. Dr. Sawyer thanked the teachers and staff members who are part of this program for their great work and contributions.

Dr. Sawyer shared information about the rebate prizes that will be offered to families that register for the 2015-2016 school year by the registration deadline. He thanked the entire Shrewsbury district office team for the good work with the bus registration process.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Student Advisory Committee: Report

The Student Advisory Committee members presented their fourth and final report to the School Committee for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Canzano, School Committee member and liaison with the Student Advisory Committee thanked the students for the great work. The students shared updates on SHS electronics, class offerings and events. Dr. Magee asked the students to comment on the use of technology at SHS. Students responded and said that although the transition from using Google to Schoology has had some challenges, overall the new technology initiatives at SHS have been working well. Dr. Sawyer acknowledged the good work of the administration team for adding new classes for next year and mentioned the mathematical modeling course as an example.

B. Senator Michael O. Moore: State Update

Senator Michael Moore presented a report to the School Committee regarding the status of state funding for public education and other state level issues. He discussed the developments at the state level related to the school finance and other issues that affect public education. Senator Moore discussed the governor's budget and the Chapter 70 funding. He told the School Committee that he will work hard to get some funding back into the kindergarten grant program. Senator Moore said that a bill will be coming up for the universal free funding kindergarten access. He told the School Committee that he has recommended to the Ways and Means Committee that the funding allocated per student be \$100. Senator Moore said the funding per student will likely be \$50. He said that he has requested full funding for circuit breaker. The School Committee and Dr. Sawyer told Senator Moore that they believe that not raising the cap for charter school funding would be positive. Dr. Sawyer said that he cannot emphasize enough how important Circuit Breaker is to the schools. He said he looks forward to Senator Moore's support in trying to get the Chapter 70 funding in line with the real costs. The School Committee thanked Senator Moore for attending the meeting and sharing the state news and updates.

V. Curriculum

A. Digital Curriculum Resources: Report

Ms. Banios presented a report to the School Committee on the digital curriculum resources. She shared information regarding current and future uses of digital resources and how this approach is benefiting students and educators, from an educational perspective as well as from a cost efficiency perspective. She discussed how the one to one program will both cut costs and add educational value. Ms. Banios shared examples of how students' learning opportunities are being advanced in a fiscally responsible way. She said that under the new model students can take things home use this technology for learning opportunities and homework assignments. Ms. Banios shared some examples of digital curriculum resources. She said that the learning opportunities that we are able to provide to students through digital curriculum resources create much more engaging learning opportunities. Ms. Banios emphasized that the goal is to develop critical thinkers and that the goal is to use technology when it enhances students' learning experiences. Committee members commented on the use of digital curriculum resources being a great model for critical thinking and that the Shrewsbury district is using available technology to enhance the students' learning experiences. Committee members questioned if Shrewsbury's initiatives in this education area are being shared with other school districts. Ms. Banios said at the middle school level the Shrewsbury district is receiving lots of requests and inquiries. Dr. Sawyer mentioned that Ms. Banios and Dr. Jones received great feedback when they presented at a recent conference on educational technology. Additionally, he believes the use of digital curriculum resources is a great example of how we are providing educational value for students and doing this for less cost.

VI. Policy

A. District Goals 2015-2017: Vote

Dr. Sawyer said the general feedback he has received about the proposed Shrewsbury district goals for 2015-2017 has been positive. He said he has been told that the district goals are broad enough that individual schools within the district will have room for innovation. Dr. Sawyer told School Committee members that he has no language changes and recommended that the Shrewsbury district goals for 2015-2017 be adopted.

Dr. Magee requested a motion to vote to approve the District Goals for 2015-2017. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the District Goals for 2015-2017.

VII. Budget

A. Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Discussion

Dr. Sawyer asked School Committee members if they wanted to provide any feedback and guidance regarding priorities in advance of making an updated budget recommendation later this month. Ms. Canzano said she thinks it is important to prioritize the professional and staff positions that would add an extra \$300,000 to the budget. Ms. Fryc commented that it is important to continue to look at the shifting costs in the school budget. Mr. Samia said he thinks there are many ways to use the revolving account budgets and he would like to learn more about these options and agreed that it is important to keep being innovative when exploring ways for shifting and moving costs. Dr. Magee said it is important to protect our innovation technology investment so programs can continue to evolve. Dr. Sawyer told the School Committee that their input and the discussion were very helpful and he will work to develop a revised budget recommendation to put in front of the School Committee before the upcoming Shrewsbury Finance Committee and Town Meetings.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

A. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations: Vote

Dr. Sawyer discussed the qualifications and professional background of Patrick C. Collins, candidate for the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations position. He and School Committee members were very positive about Mr. Collins professional experience and the interview process.

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to vote to appoint the Superintendent's recommendation (Patrick C. Collins) as the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Patrick C. Collins as the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operation.

Mr. Collins addressed the School Committee and discussed his enthusiasm about returning to the district and assuming the exciting and challenging new role as the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

X. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Magee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for March 25, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, the School Committee members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for March 25, 2015.

XI. Executive Session

A. Potential discussion of collective bargaining negotiations with cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining negotiations with cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, on a roll call vote: Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining negotiations with cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association.

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for April 8, 2015. On a motion by XX, seconded by XX, the School Committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:XX PM.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Student Advisory Committee: Report
- 2) Digital Curriculum Resources: Report and Slide Presentation
- 3) Draft of District Goals 2015-2017: Summary Report
- 4) Recommendation to Appoint Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations: Memo
- 5) Minutes for the March 25, 2015 School Committee Meeting