

**School Committee Workshop
Shrewsbury High School
64 Holden Street
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

Wednesday August 26, 2015

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Mr. Jon Wensky; Dr. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Business Services; and Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations,.

The meeting was convened at 8:36 am by John Samia in the 2002 Conference room

Updates to the Committee

The Central Office team updated the committee on the status of their work during the summer and for the preparation for the start of school.

Melissa Maguire informed the committee about the hiring of a new Special Education director at Oak Middle School, and the hiring of 4 ELC coordinators and various support staff. A new Parent Advisory Committee has been formed under new leadership, and the Intensive programs at Sherwood Middle School and Beal Early Education Center were in good shape for the start of the new year. Melissa reminded the committee of the upcoming Coordinated Program Review that her department will be undergoing by the state, which takes place every six years.

Barb Malone informed the committee that all but one of the 38 educator positions had been filled. At the last minute, a finalist for a Severe Special Education position at Spring Street School had accepted a job in another district. Paraprofessional roles were still in the process of being filled as there was much demand and competition in the area for these individuals. This year, the district must establish that 100% of SPS staff has complied with the fingerprint mandate. This process, which requires extensive compliance with the state and federal protocol, continues to be a stress on this department.

Mary Beth Banios informed the committee that the Summer Institute for educators was very successful. She and the IT staff have been exploring Baseline Edge, the software for the Teacher Evaluation system, with good success. The new SPS website went live, with positive feedback, and she is working on the coordination of the upcoming year's Professional Development days. The implementation of the 1:1 iPad program in grades 9-12 will be closely monitored, along with the current iPad program in grades 5-8.

Patrick Collins informed the committee that the 2015 operating budget had fully utilized all of the monies appropriated to it and was now officially closed. The 2016 operating budget was in its infancy with a number of positive and negative variances that fell in the normal range. Patrick offered a new way to illustrate the budget status report, a draft document which he shared in his memo, and which received positive feedback. The 2017 budget development process would require a timeline, which he included in draft form in his memo, and which also received positive feedback. Also, he suggested submitting the 2017 budget to the Pathway Program, an independent review program that would offer

SPS constructive criticism and positive feedback about the ways in which it develops its budget. The committee supported this idea. Transportation and school safety were both areas of development; Mr. Collins is considering ideas to streamline the transportation process for next year, and PA systems and radios were updated and enhanced in a number of the schools this summer.

Charter Schools

Dr. Sawyer informed the committee about the submittal of a prospectus of a biotechnical charter school which is currently proposing Shrewsbury as its site for a school. After a lengthy discussion about the details of the proposed charter school, the timeline of the approval process, and the potential impact on the school system, the committee supported the superintendent in the drafting of a letter to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education that would outline the reasons why this prospectus should be denied. The primary concern is the redundancy and replication of the curriculum of the proposed charter school with that of Shrewsbury Public Schools. In addition to that concern is the significant concern of financial impact on the town of Shrewsbury due the current status of charter school funding.

Strategic Priorities

Dr. Sawyer reminded the committee that the Strategic Priorities would need to be reviewed in the upcoming year. The current of the priorities began in 2012 and will end in 2016. Dr. Sawyer proposed that the new priorities could extend from five to six years to include three cycles of the school improvement plans, which are now on an every two year cycle. A discussion occurred about how to measure and communicate these priorities, and how to incorporate them into meetings and media venues.

At 10:40 am, the Central Office team left, and the School Committee and Dr. Sawyer remained to discuss School Committee housekeeping matters.

Miscellaneous

John Samia discussed the appointment of the committee to various subcommittees or as liaisons to other committees. The committee assignments were as follows: Dale Magee and Sandy Fryc to the Calendar Subcommittee; Erin Canzano and John Samia to the Fiscal 2017 Guideline Subcommittee; Dale Magee and John Samia on the Fiscal Projection Subcommittee; Dale Magee on the School Wellness Advisory Committee; Erin Canzano and Jon Wensky on the Policy Subcommittee; John Samia and Sandy Fryc on the SEA Negotiation Subcommittee; Erin Canzano and Sandy Fryc on the Strategic Priorities Subcommittee; Jon Wensky on the Student Advisory Committee; and Sandy Fryc on the Master Plan Committee. There would possibly be the need for a Beal Building committee in 2016, but until that reaches fruition, no one was appointed. Dr. Sawyer asked the committee of its desire to receive paper books for meetings or to receive electronic books instead. After a discussion, the conclusion was that School Committee meeting books would be sent electronically. John Samia then led a discussion about School Committee protocol, and the steps to take to pursue interests outside the committee but that also have relevance to the work that it does. A discussion ensued about how to improve collaboration and communication.

Approval of Workshop Minutes

The Committee needed to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2015 workshop. The Committee made no edits or amendments to the minutes.

On a motion by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, the committee unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2015 workshop minutes.

Executive Session

On a motion made by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc at 11:25 am, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of the approval and release of executive session minutes. Roll call votes are as follows: Dr. Dale Magee, yes; Erin Canzano, yes; Jon Wensky, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; and John Samia, yes.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 am. Roll call votes are as follows: Dr. Dale Magee, yes; Erin Canzano, yes; Jon Wensky, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; and John Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin H. Canzano
Secretary

Documents referenced:

- 1) Memo from Dr. Sawyer re: Strategic Priorities & Assessment
- 2) Shrewsbury Public Schools Strategic Priorities: 2012-2016
- 3) Memo from Patrick Collins re: Finance and Operations Update
- 4) Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Finance and District Support summary, updated August 25, 2015
- 5) 2015-2016 School Committee Subcommittees