

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014

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 7:00 PM by Dr. B. Dale Magee

Dr. Magee mentioned that Mr. Ted Coghlin passed away last week. He said Mr. Coghlin was a major force in the Shrewsbury community and his good deeds will continue because of all that he inspired in others. Dr. Magee extended condolences to the Coghlin family and requested that a moment of silence be taken at the School Committee Meeting to remember Mr. Coghlin.

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

None

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated students and faculty in the schools' performing arts departments on outstanding performances.

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the Oak and Sherwood teams on their accomplishments competing in the Lego Robotic competition.

Dr. Sawyer shared that the Shrewsbury Music Association will be holding a fundraiser to support the performing arts on Friday, January 30th from 7:00-11:00 pm. He said that additional information can be found on the website: www.myssma.com

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Technology Use in Shrewsbury Classrooms: Report

The following administrators, teachers and students shared a presentation on technology use in Shrewsbury classrooms that illustrated examples of how technology is being used to enhance learning at Sherwood Middle School, Oak Middle School, and Shrewsbury High School: Mr. Todd Bazydlo,

Principal, Shrewsbury High School; Ms. Shawna Powers, Director of Instructional Technology; Ms. Amy Prior, Math Teacher, Shrewsbury High School; Ms. Jose Schroen, Math Teacher, Shrewsbury High School; Ms. Laura Macchi, Grade 6 ELA/SS Teacher, Sherwood Middle School; Madame Heather Leger, Language Teacher, Sherwood Middle School; Ms. Maura Egan, Grade 8 ELA Teacher, Oak Middle School; Sherwood students - Michelle Muchnik, Sarah Lanoue, Tim Refolo, Gaurav Jaisingh, Saanvi Sood and Katrina Martocci; Oak students: Lucy Anderson, Emily Walz, Allie Sanborn and Heena Qureshi; and Sherwood students.

Ms. Canzano asked students participating in the presentation about what helps them learn better and faster. Students responded and said the Notability technology tool has been very helpful. Ms. Fryc asked presenter Ms. Macchi if she felt as a teacher that the use of iPads helps her work with students. Ms. Macchi said the technology tool is very helpful with enabling her to spend more time working with students. Mr. Palitsch asked presenter Ms. Leger if the use of technology was helping the students get more proficient at pronunciation and she said the technology has helped with pronunciation and listening skills. Dr. Magee asked Ms. Leger where the textbook for the class now falls in the equation of teaching the students. Ms. Leger responded and said the textbook is primarily used to help her plan what educational topics need to be covered.

Ms. Banios shared examples of some of the free technologies and the benefits provided by great quality tools at no costs. Ms. Canzano asked the 8th grade ELA teacher, Ms. Egan, and her students about what their experiences were like working as a team to create a final project. The presenters said the use of multiple technology tools including Noodle Tools and Blendspace helped them do an excellent job of creating a project that looked very professional. Mr. Bazydlo, SHS math teacher Amy Prior, and SHS science/math teacher Jose Schroen shared details about the SHS perspective related to the uses of educational technologies and examples of how iPad technology is being piloted in math and science classes. Ms. Banios said there have been good collaboration between the Shrewsbury schools at all grade levels. Teachers presenting shared that surveys have been conducted and the vast majority of SHS students have access to the Internet and technology tools at home. Dr. Sawyer thanked all the administrators, teachers and students for presenting and said the access to technology amplifies the learning experience for the Shrewsbury students.

B. Technology 1:1 Device Program: Update & Recommendations for FY16

Mr. Bazydlo and fellow presenters shared the vision for SHS technology and educating students. He and the presenters shared how they came to the recommendation for the iPads as the device for the SHS Technology 1:1 Device Program. Dr. Magee asked the presenters where the faculty stands in terms of changes and adopting the new 1:1 Device Program. Mr. Bazydlo said that part of the SHS vision will be to create a student tech team and have a media technology instructor to help and support the teachers and faculty members learning technology. Mr. Bazydlo said he is confident in our faculty and staff and their enthusiasm for learning. He said he believes Shrewsbury will be one of the largest 1:1 full deployments of school technology in the state.

Ms. Banios and Mr. L'Heureux shared details about the leasing and purchasing options related to the recommendation being made regarding the technology initiative. Ms. Banios said that based on the review the recommendation is for the district to move to a district-owned device program that would

enable all 5-12th graders to use their iPad at home without a fee. She discussed how the district would handle some of the transition issues. School Committee members shared that they are excited about this proposal and that the opportunity for families to move away from the fees is positive. Ms. Banios shared that the iPads are holding their value for a longer period than was planned. Dr. Sawyer and Ms. Banios said the durability and functionality of the iPad device has been extremely reliable.

Dr. Magee said the School Committee will have a vote for the recommendations coming up at the next meeting on January 7, 2015. Dr. Sawyer said notes and slides would be posted on the website and that community members would be invited to provide feedback to the School Committee or the Administration before January 7th.

Ms. Banios shared with School Committee members that, barring any objections from the Committee, the district intended to begin a learning management system pilot, using the program Schoology. She explained that because money from the curriculum budget is able to be shifted this initiative is budget neutral.

V. Curriculum

None

VI. Policy

None

VII. Budget

None

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Report

Dr. Sawyer shared that the Assabet Valley Collaborative annual report for 2013-2014 has been published and this is a public document. He said there is a lot of information available and is available on the Assabet Collaborative website. Dr. Sawyer said he thinks one of the interesting things to note are the ways that member districts save on various programs as a collaborative group. He pointed out one typographical error on the Shrewsbury part of the report (on page 20: state bid costs for school supplies should have been \$17,361 (missing a 7 in the number).

X. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Magee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meetings for November 19 and December 3 and the December 10, 2014 School Committee Workshop. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meetings for November 19 and December 3 and the December 10, 2014 School Committee Workshop.

XI. Executive Session

None

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for December 17, 2014. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Recommendations for Adjustments to the SPS Technology Implementation Plan: Report
- 2) Technology: Vision for SHS: Report
- 3) Transitioning to District-Owned Personal Electronic Devices: Report
- 4) Financing the Continuation and Expansion of the Digital Conversion: Report
- 5) Recommendation for a Learning Management System Adoption: Report
- 6) Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report 2014