

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Present: Dr. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Erin Canzano, School Committee member, and Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources, were not in attendance at the meeting.

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Dr. Magee at 7:03 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Palitsch noted that SCAPE (Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education) is hosting, and State Representative Hannah Kane is sponsoring, a presentation by Dr. Ruth Potee on Thursday, November 16th at 7pm in the Shrewsbury High School auditorium. Dr. Potee will address adolescent brain development and its impact on teen risk taking, including alcohol and substance abuse.

Dr. Magee noted that a new episode of School Talk is available online or at SETV Channel 29/329 HD for Educational Access. The topic is the Shrewsbury Athletic Fields Turf Project.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer noted that Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) recent ThoughtExchange survey enjoyed strong participation by staff and students, and he thanked respondents for sharing their thoughts about SPS and potential strategic priorities for the district for the next five years. He

also congratulated Calvin Coolidge School students on conducting a successful fundraiser which raised approximately \$900 for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Superintendent's Awards for Academic Excellence: Presentation

Every year the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents requests that each superintendent, on its behalf, recognize outstanding members of the senior class in each district's high school. Due to the size of the district, Dr. Sawyer is allowed to present the award to two students, and he selected Ahana Mukhopadhyay and Albert Xu as this year's recipients. Dr. Sawyer provided highlights of each student's achievements, and invited them to make remarks. Ms. Mukhopadhyay and Mr. Xu, in turn, thanked family members and school personnel who have supported them throughout their educational careers at SPS. The students were then invited up to be recognized the Committee and presented with award certificates.

B. Athletics: Annual Report

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) and Mr. Jason Costa, Director of Athletics, gave a report on Athletics for 2016-17 that included information on programming, unified sports, participation by season and sport, successes (including State Finalists in Football and State Champions in Ice Hockey), collegiate participants, support groups (giving thanks to SHS Boosters Association and Friends of Shrewsbury Crew), budget, student leadership, athletic medical services, and future considerations (expanding programs at high school and middle level, new uniforms, and improving facilities).

In response to clarifying questions from the Committee, they advised that as participation has increased, consideration is being given to how to manage more players, make cuts, and potentially combine or reconfigure teams. Regarding uniforms, they noted they are changed out on a regular cycle with support from Boosters, and added that in some larger school districts, not all varsity players dress for games. Mr. Costa advised that budgeting an additional \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year for uniforms would be a great help to the program. Mr. Collins added that the appropriated budget provide 51% of the Athletics budget, fees provide 45%, and the balance is comprised of gate receipts.

C. Concussions: Annual Report

Ms. Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing, and Mr. Walter Hildebrand, Athletic Trainer, Shrewsbury Public Schools, gave an annual report on concussions that included an overview, statistics, a breakdown by sport, historical data by sport (noting that the overall number of concussions dropped significantly over the past two years, with only 11 reported for SHS athletes in 2016-17), information on prevention efforts, and a description of the Transitions Program at SHS that provides extra support to students with concussions as they transition back to the classroom.

In response to questions from the Committee, they advised that the decrease in SHS athlete concussions might be related to increased awareness and education, prevention efforts, and strength and conditioning exercises. They also discussed sharing successful techniques with other districts, out of school concussions, and issues around the potential for concussions to be underreported. Dr. Sawyer noted that Mr. Hildebrand is now an employee of SPS and thanked the Committee for their budget support for the position.

D. Nursing: Annual Report; Nurse Substitute Rate: Vote

Ms. Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing, presented an annual report to the Committee on the Department of Nursing that included an overview of the department, data on nurse visits (63,677 student visits; 1,184 staff visits), and nurse/student ratios. When comparing SPS nurse/student ratios to MA DPH ratios, Ms. Freeman advised that SPS ratio was below the recommended level at SHS, Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools, and Floral Street School. She went on to provide updates on Tourniquet, CPR, and AED training; stock epinephrine (noting 80% of families opted not to send their own supply that year); Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screening; and the upcoming SCAPE presentation on brain development and teen risk taking. Ms. Freeman and Dr. Sawyer both offered thanks to an anonymous SPS donor for providing funding for training and emergency supplies that paid for staff to receive training at no cost to themselves.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Freeman addressed student visits to the nurse for mental or emotional health issues; Naloxone usage (one instance so far), dosage issues, and replacement cycle; and the savings to families resulting from the stock epinephrine program.

Next, Ms. Freeman addressed the substitute nurse compensation rates at SPS, noting that the current rates of \$20/hr for day-to-day substitutes and \$30/hr for long term substitutes are insufficient for recruitment and retention of quality staff. She noted that the rate had not been adjusted for ten years, and that we are losing nurses to nearby communities that offer higher rates.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to increase the rate of pay for substitute nurses to \$30/hour for daily substitute nurses and to a maximum of \$40/hour, depending on experience, for long-term substitute nurses.

E. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Report on Site Selection Process & Discussion

Mike Pagano and Sean Brennan, representatives of the Architect (Lamoureux Pagano Associates) and Paul Queeney, representative of the Owner's Project Manager (PMA Consultants) provided an update on the site selection process of the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project. Mr. Queeney gave an overview of the MSBA process and the project task

schedule. Mr. Pagano noted that the choice of a K-Grade 4 grade configuration and the pending site selection will drive the design of the building. He advised that the existing site must be evaluated, but added that they are seeking a waiver of that requirement due to significant deficiencies at the existing site. Mr. Brennan noted that the list of desired sites to be studied for a potential new Beal School was narrowed from 31, to six, to three - Allen Farm (also known as Centech North), Camp Winnegan, and Glavin Center - and added that they vary in terms of ownership, use designation(s), and potential state legislation that might be required.

The Committee advised that there were pros and cons for all three sites and acknowledged the importance of location in the decision-making process. They asked clarifying questions about the presence of bedrock at Camp Winnegan and about the ability for students to walk to and from school at all three sites, and Dr. Sawyer advised that there was the potential for some walkability from local neighborhoods at all three.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. Revised Policy on Rental & Use of School Facilities: Second Reading & Vote; Rental Rates for Future SHS Synthetic Turf Stadium Field: Vote

Policy 851 was recommended for updating to reflect the future rentals of the synthetic turf field. A first reading of the changes was held at the School Committee meeting on October 25, 2017, and Mr. Palitsch advised that no feedback had been received from the community since the first reading. Separately, a schedule of rental fees for the synthetic turf field was also presented to the Committee for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Revised Policy 851 on Rental & Use of School Facilities.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the rates in the Synthetic Turf Field Rental Rates chart found in the materials provided.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Status: Report

Mr. Collins provided an update on the status of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, which is reported in 19 categories. Noting that the district is 30% of the way through the fiscal year (17% through the school year), he characterized the budget as stable and noted two highlights: there are currently 97 students budgeted and billed for at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School; there are fewer out of district special education placements and changes in placements than were budgeted for.

Dr. Magee noted that Circuit Breaker funding is volatile, phased off by one year, and pays for out of district special education fees at rates that are set by the state.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes of the School Committee meeting on October 25, 2017 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Athletics Annual Report
2. Athletics Slide Presentation
3. Concussions Annual Report
4. Concussions Slide Presentation
5. Nursing Annual Report
6. Nursing Slide Presentation
7. Memo re: Substitute Nurse Rate
8. Beal Site Selection Report Slides
9. SC Policy 851 Revision Draft - Philosophy of After-Hours Use
10. Rental Rates for Future SHS Synthetic Turf Stadium Field Document
11. FY2018 Budget Status Report
12. Set(s) of Minutes Referenced Above