

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

Present: Dr. Dale Magee, 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; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.  
Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson, and Ms. Erin Canzano were not present 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 7:00 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

Shrewsbury resident Bryan Moss addressed the Committee about his concerns regarding the synthetic turf field slated to be installed at Shrewsbury High School. Mr. Moss expressed concerns related to information in the warranty for the infill product and speculated about the potential for negative impacts if the acrylic coating of the infill were to wear off. Mr. Moss suggested that the School Committee engage with the Toxic Use Reduction Institute at UMass-Lowell to discuss an organic grass turf field as an alternative to the synthetic turf field. When questioned, Mr. Moss noted he did not have written materials available but could provide them at a later time.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated:

- the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Speech & Debate team, who finished 2nd in the recent state speech tournament, and the following students who were individual state champions in various speech competition categories:

Sherraina Song - Prose Reading

Prisha Singh - Children's Literature

Ahana Mukhopadhyah - Radio Broadcasting

Will Stewich, Sophia Peng, Leah deHaemer, Megan German & Max Evers - Multiple Reading - the SHS Robotics team, who won the most prestigious award given by the FIRST Robotics organization, the Chairman's Award, at both the local and New England competitions. The award recognizes the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. He also wished good luck to the team at the World Championships happening in Detroit this week.

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

##### **A. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields: Vote to Accept Gifts**

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins acknowledged the generosity of AA Transportation, Westboro Toyota/Toyota Corporation, and an anonymous donor, and noted that bids for the turf field project would be opened on May 2, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a \$5,000 gift from AA Transportation, a \$5,000 gift from Westboro Toyota/Toyota Corporation, and a \$25,000 gift from an anonymous donor for the athletic field project at Shrewsbury High School.

##### **B. Beal Building Project Preferred Solution: Report & Discussion**

Katie Crockett and Sean Brennan, Lamoureux Pagano Associates, and Paul Queeney, PMA Consultants, gave the Committee an update on the Beal Building Project that provided detailed information on progress of the Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) phase including: costs associated with the Base Repair option (for benchmarking); photos, diagrams for multiple design schemes; cost comparisons for different construction delivery methodologies; and a site comparison summary for the Glavin Center and Allen Farm properties. The group noted that overall there were more opportunities to develop the Glavin site, and that there was no significant difference financially between the Glavin and Allen locations. Ms. Fryc, who is also a member of the Beal Building Committee (which would meet the following evening to vote on a preferred site and building configuration), requested feedback from the Committee, and Mr. Palitsch and Dr. Magee both expressed a preference for the Glavin site. Dr. Sawyer noted additionally that there was consensus among the educational team that the “L- shaped” option there - which has the cafeteria, gymnasium, and administrative offices on the same floor - works best from an educational program perspective.

#### **V. Curriculum**

**None.**

#### **VI. Policy**

##### **A. District Goals 2018-2020: Vote**

Dr. Magee advised that these goals, to be completed by the end of 2020, were presented at the April 11 meeting and posted for public review, and that no feedback had been received by the Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the District Goals for 2018-2020 as presented.

## **B. Regulation of Conduct of Teachers Policy Update: First Reading**

Mr. Palitsch, a member of the Policy Subcommittee with Ms. Canzano, noted that when recently approving an update to the harassment policy, Committee members suggested also reviewing policy that addresses potential staff to student harassment. He added that he and Ms. Canzano reviewed the policy draft being presented tonight. Dr. Sawyer advised that based on feedback from legal counsel, administration recommended updating existing policy relative to teacher conduct versus creating a specific staff to student policy, as it might be too narrow in scope. He went on to describe the seven elements of the updated policy and to highlight suggested changes from the existing policy #321. Dr. Magee noted that the new policy would be posted (with changes in red) for public review and comment, and would be voted on at a future meeting.

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2019 School Department Appropriated Budget: Vote**

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins provided a revised Superintendent's budget recommendation to the Committee in a report that included: budget goals; information on the evolution of the budget; adjustments made since launch of the budget; detailed information on recommended reductions by prioritized tiers (noting Tier 3 reductions were no longer required due to additional revenue allocated to the school department in the Town Manager's Revised Budget Plan); and future concerns including the ongoing structural funding deficit that threatens the quality of the educational program now and going forward.

Committee members expressed their appreciation to the Town Manager's office for additional funding, and shared their concerns regarding ongoing town-wide eroding budget trends and lacking capacity to meet the high expectations of the community.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend a Fiscal Year 2019 School Department Appropriated Budget of \$64,137,607 for Town Meeting approval.

## **VIII. Old Business**

**None.**

## **IX. New Business**

**None.**

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on April 11, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

## **XI. Executive Session**

### **A. For the Purpose of Reviewing & Approving Executive Session Minutes**

### **B. For the Purpose of Negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association**

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purposes of negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association and reviewing and approving executive session minutes, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and to reconvene to open session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Dr. Magee, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:26 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Dr. Magee, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Beal Project Options
2. Beal PSR Estimate
3. Beal Building Committee Slides 4-10-18
4. Beal PSR Slides
5. District Goals Report

6. Policy 321 Draft/Existing Policy 321
7. FY19 Budget Reduction Recommendation
8. FY19 Revised Budget Reduction Data
9. FY 19 Budget Reduction Recommendation Slides
10. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above