

Community Survey: Performance of the Superintendent









1. I am a

		Response Percent	Response Count
Parent of current Shrewsbury Public Schools student(s)		91.9%	649
Current Shrewsbury Public Schools student		2.5%	18
Community member (not a current parent or student)		5.5%	39
answered question			706
skipped question			-1







2. Please rate the superintendent's level of commitment to the well being of students.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		0.7%	5
Poor		1.6%	11
Adequate		4.7%	33
Good		13.0%	91
Excellent		77.5%	543
Not sure/not enough information		2.6%	18
answered question			701
skipped question			4







3. Please rate the superintendent's commitment to high standards and expectations for student success.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		0.6%	4
Poor		2.1%	15
Adequate		5.0%	35
Good		15.0%	105
Excellent		74.1%	519
Not sure/not enough information		3.1%	22
answered question			700
skipped question			5



4. Please rate the superintendent's leadership in ensuring that our schools are doing a high quality job of educating students.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		0.9%	6
Poor		3.6%	25
Adequate		5.2%	36
Good		16.3%	114
Excellent		71.5%	500
Not sure/not enough information		2.6%	18
answered question			699
skipped question			6






5. Please rate the superintendent's management of budget resources.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		3.6%	25
Poor		3.3%	23
Adequate		6.8%	48
Good		21.8%	153
Excellent		56.6%	397
Not sure/not enough information		8.0%	56
answered question			702
skipped question			3







6. Please rate the superintendent's management of the operations of the school district.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		1.4%	10
Poor		2.9%	20
Adequate		6.3%	44
Good		19.0%	133
Excellent		62.5%	437
Not sure/not enough information		7.9%	55
answered question			699
skipped question			6







7. Please rate the superintendent's visibility in the schools and community.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		1.1%	8
Poor		1.6%	11
Adequate		8.1%	57
Good		16.5%	116
Excellent		66.0%	463
Not sure/not enough information		6.6%	46
answered question			701
skipped question			4







8. Please rate the superintendent's communication of important issues affecting the schools.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		0.9%	6
Poor		1.9%	13
Adequate		6.2%	43
Good		10.4%	73
Excellent		79.0%	552
Not sure/not enough information		1.7%	12
answered question			699
skipped question			6

9. Please rate the superintendent's effectiveness at advocating for the needs of the schools.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		1.0%	7
Poor		3.0%	21
Adequate		4.6%	32
Good		13.3%	93
Excellent		75.3%	526
Not sure/not enough information		2.9%	20
		answered question	699
		skipped question	6

10. Please rate the superintendent's overall performance.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very poor		0.9%	6
Poor		3.1%	22
Adequate		6.7%	47
Good		13.9%	97
Excellent		73.1%	512
Not sure/not enough information		2.3%	16
		answered question	700
		skipped question	5

11. Comments:

	Response Count
	252
answered question	252
skipped question	453

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Comments begin on p. 8.

Q11. Comments:

1	Joe is a dedicated professional and cares very deeply about Shrewsbury, the teachers and the students and he shows that in every action/communication/interaction with parents, students and others. We are blessed to have him as our Superintendent	Jun 16, 2014 4:25 PM
2	Community visibility is very high but visibility at the high school is not good. Leadership management of people and operations at the high school level lacks attention. Communication about curriculum and curriculum issues is terrible but advocating for school needs to be supported financially by the town is top notch.	Jun 16, 2014 2:44 PM
3	The Superintendent has created a very communicative and open culture. I appreciate his transparency in all aspects of Operations - budget, issues affecting the children, town issues, etc.	Jun 16, 2014 1:59 PM
4	disappointed that our high school dropped in ratings. I enrolled my son in St. John's as a result.	Jun 16, 2014 11:14 AM
5	Would like to see more enthusiasm and new ideas. Seems like same old leadership (as in previous superintendent) to me.	Jun 16, 2014 10:42 AM
6	He has done a great job !! He needs all of the support from the Town Management to keep the school system above the standards. This town needs the schools to be enriched as well as the police and fire services.	Jun 16, 2014 9:33 AM
7	I have a hard time differentiating the contributions of the individual school administration and the superintendent. He was also a school Principal at Floral Street school when my daughter was there, and it was well run. So I would say that I am very happy with the schools, teachers and administration (superintendent included).	Jun 16, 2014 9:13 AM
8	Thank you for advocating for more funds for our schools.	Jun 16, 2014 8:56 AM
9	Thank you Dr. Sawyer for all that you do for our schools & students. I am grateful for all of your advocacy, communication & efforts. I also have appreciated your thoughtfulness in your work & your taking responsibility for the schools and you actions, even when they have not been popular.	Jun 16, 2014 6:59 AM
10	Please do not dismiss this survey because of EXCELLENTS across the board...I scored the answers as such because that is precisely what Dr.Sawyer deserves for his effective, thorough and superior performance as the leader of our school system here in Shrewsbury.	Jun 16, 2014 6:24 AM
11	Not all students and parents are treated equally and fairly by the school administrators.	Jun 15, 2014 10:35 PM
12	This is in regards to the budget, Please pass on to Sped Director to stop cutting corners to cuts costs on the backs of the special education students. Staff at times is doing the bare minimum, they are not offering solutions, additional resources, or trying to find the best way to reach a student etc, It is apparent that the sped department is pushing parents to accept programs that are created just to save costs but not to benefit the student with FAPE. Please remind them treat the parents and the special education students professionally and to give special education students what they have in their IEPs and deserve to receive.	Jun 15, 2014 10:04 PM

Q11. Comments:

In general the number of parents that I have personally met that have had to hire an advocate/attorney has grown exponentially demonstrates services are cut, not being performed and the quality of special education is in a downward spiral. I hope to see immediate changes come this school year. Thank you for reading. Please know the communication on the potential student threat at the middle school in our opinion was not handled in the best manner. All parents should of been notified of the situation ASAP.

13	Thanks for being an advocate!	Jun 15, 2014 9:21 PM
14	Dr Sawyer does a great job. He is very visible boh during the school day as well as at extracurricular acivities after school. It amazes me how Dr Sawyer knows the names of so many current and past sudents. He is a leader in the community.	Jun 15, 2014 7:22 PM
15	We have been more than pleased with Dr. Sawyer's performance since he began as superintendent. We constantly see him at different events in the community. He communicates well and made a strong campaign for this year's budget process/override need. This year there was an incident at Sherwood and Dr. Sawyer's response was outstanding as expected. It is also obvious that he is excellent at his job because his staff and faculty continue to work above and beyond. That comes from strong leadership-a top/down affect. We hope he plans to stay in his role for many more years.	Jun 15, 2014 6:05 PM
16	Dr. Sawyer has been an advocate for all children in Shrewsbury. He is very open and honest with his leadership. Anytime I have emailed Dr. Sawyer he has responded very quickly and professionally. Although I might not always agree with all decisions I respect his authority. He researches and presents data for all his decisions and welcomes input. I want to thank him for a job well done!	Jun 15, 2014 1:02 PM
17	I am in 7th grade. From what I can tell, I think he is doing a good job. When I see him he always says hello. I think he cares a lot about the schools and kids. I just don't know much about the actual job stuff that he does (budget, communication).	Jun 15, 2014 11:48 AM
18	Awesome	Jun 15, 2014 11:08 AM
19	The Communication from superintendent office to individual parents like me is really excellent. Especially during inclement weather. I really appreciate the effort of the superintendent office in taking care of our children.	Jun 15, 2014 8:21 AM
20	Whatever the cost DO NOT let Sawyer ever leave.	Jun 15, 2014 7:51 AM
21	I was completely impressed with Dr. Sawyers performance during the override campaign. I am thankful for his efforts to maintain our high standards in our school system. Our children are truly benefiting from his leadership. Thank you.	Jun 14, 2014 11:41 PM
22	We are very proud and fortunate to have Dr. Sawyer as our superintendent who put shrewsbury students' benefits as his top priority, who engages in the welfare of shrewsbury students, parents and it's whole community.	Jun 14, 2014 10:58 PM
23	Too great a percentage of the school's energy and resources go to the children with IEP's, leaving the vast majority of students either fending for themselves or	Jun 14, 2014 10:20 PM

Q11. Comments:

being content with a "3." As one teacher put it, our child, who is bright and capable of 4's with some guidance and encouragement was "not even on their radar" since he was getting 3's. In addition, the whole district's scores are artificially inflated by the naturally very, very bright kids who live in town and score highly because of their own hard work and/or innate abilities, not because of the Shrewsbury school system. Lastly, I am tired of the school system crying poor mouth, with teachers who dress like college students and proudly where their "FAIR CONTRACT" pins in class, telling their students to make sure their parents vote for the prop 2 ½ override. With the override's passage, the town will now be throwing more good money after bad.

24	I think we should be able to rate the teachers and principals in our schools as well as the superintendent.	Jun 14, 2014 8:22 PM
25	Thank You, Dr. Sawyer. I am very excited to know that my child will have 24 students vs. 30 in his class next year. manage the money wisely!	Jun 14, 2014 5:41 PM
26	I think the budget was the only thing holding him back. I look forward to what he can do with our schools and for our students armed with appropriate funding. He is not the typical, entrenched public school bureaucrat. He is forward thinking and flexible. I think he does a great job.	Jun 14, 2014 5:21 PM
27	Wish he was more visible in schools, but I understand that he has a lot on his plate.	Jun 14, 2014 4:11 PM
28	Recent Shrewsbury town people voted for raising the taxes. Superintendent have the responsibility to improve the quality of the education to all and show good academic results for students. It is too early to comment now on Superintendant. Good luck. All the best.	Jun 14, 2014 3:26 PM
29	Dr. Sawyer is an outstanding leader for Shrewsbury Public Schools. It is his careful management of resources, clear communication style, his visibility at community and school events and his unwavering support and advocacy for the well-being and needs of all Shrewsbury students that have helped our community to pass the over-ride. We are fortunate to have him as our Superintendent and we could not be prouder of his efforts and leadership.	Jun 14, 2014 1:42 PM
30	Thank you	Jun 14, 2014 1:09 PM
31	We are lucky to have Dr. Sawyer as our Superintendent.	Jun 14, 2014 12:50 PM
32	I like what Dr. Sawyer has done overall. I am just unsure about the budget situation, and what role Dr. Sawyer plays in that with the presence of the teacher's union. I am very concerned that the long term financial viability of school funding has not been figured out. I hope that his role can be to promote long term thinking and change in the town, so that we are not asked to do tax overrides on an annual basis, and not just dealing with the budget on a year for year basis.	Jun 14, 2014 12:34 PM
33	Joe Sawyer is a top rate Superintendant. We are lucky to have him. He's smart, enthusiastic and a great communicator. Hope he stays in our district for a long time.	Jun 14, 2014 12:30 PM

Q11. Comments:

34	Good job overall. Thank you	Jun 14, 2014 11:02 AM
35	The superintendent should come in to school more and allow students to anonymously voice their opinions on what is going on at school and the issues they believe need to be solved. Us students need to have a voice in what we are being educated on and how we want the money given to the schools to be used because after all, they are OUR schools, not the adult's schools.	Jun 14, 2014 10:27 AM
36	I think that the school system is reactive not proactive. It seems that EVERY year we have a fire drill with money. If we really need the money why doesn't the town manager support it in the yearly budget? I think that the teachers raises are too much!!!! Why they receive 4% every year when the economy is only growing at less than 2%. Why are we not negotiating better? We used to have a school system to be proud of, now it just average. We need some real leadership to correct the problem and stop the run around.	Jun 14, 2014 9:37 AM
37	My son just graduated this year. I have know Dr. Sawyer as a Principal, Assistant Principal, and Superintendent, and feel Dr. Sawyer has done a very good job. I am an educator in another (smaller) school system, and I can say as a professional, he does a great job. Shrewsbury is a very large school system but Dr. Sawyer (Joe) makes everyone feel like they are his primary concern or only concern. He listens and acts on what you say, if possible. As an educator and a parent that is a comforting feeling. We are very lucky to have Dr. Joe Sawyer as our Superintendent. [REDACTED] Name omitted	Jun 14, 2014 8:59 AM
38	Shrewsbury is still not the best school district in MA but one of good ones. The objective remains to make it number one.	Jun 14, 2014 8:57 AM
39	I believe that the proposed budget was just that...a 'proposed budget'. I have already witnessed a retroactive pay raise given to certain employees at the June 11, 2014. While this pay raise was minimal per person (1,000\$). It was voted in unanimously by the school committee. I am concerned that the decision to do this was made prior to the override and not included in the proposed budget that helped the override pass. I watched several town meetings. I do not recall a retro active payraise in any discussions. Furthermore, an IT position was added that could be easily outsourced at a better rate. I believe that some of the positions added are very necessary. However, 'middle of the road' student is still not receiving the what they need to succeed. If you are struggling in math or ELA there is help. If you excel in those areas there is also extra instruction. However, the student that is just getting by is still in the same situation that they were before the override. I am parent of three. All in the school system and all in the same situation that they were last year.	Jun 14, 2014 8:54 AM
40	Our community is beyond fortunate to have Dr. Sawyer as our Superintendent ... To say that Dr. Sawyer is an outstanding leader and Superintendent, is an understatement... His commitment to education in the Shrewsbury Public Schools is notable and superb... As a family, we can't say enough, as to how proud and impressed we are with his performance and his role in our school system. Even with the bar set at an Olympian height, Dr. Sawyer's impeccable professionalism, dedication, leadership skills, and stamina to do and perform such an amazingly challenging job in such tough economic times, exceeds all expectations.... Dr Sawyer deserves tremendous respect, gratitude and appreciation from our community, for his intense passion and commitment to his	Jun 14, 2014 8:38 AM

Q11. Comments:

flawless service to our school system, which greatly contributes to our communities ability to thrive... We commend and applaud this amazing mans professional leadership and contribution. We grade him a 5.0, AAA +++... He's earned it and then some...

41	Administrators and the Superintendent are oblivious to the fact that some veteran teachers at the HS are disrespectful to students. They are sometimes harassing, mean and downright rude, behind closed doors of course. Student and parent grievances are taken lightly and the school ALWAYS sides with the staff member. That makes every student in the schools vulnerable to mistreatment by staff. Students should be evaluating teachers and administrators should show them the respect to listen to them. They see the "real" teachers. Shame on SPS.	Jun 14, 2014 8:12 AM
42	The inconsistency of promoting Shrewsbury as an excellent education town and the reality of the overcrowding classrooms which leads to a deficiency in education quality. I haven't seen the benefit in my daughter's education and am not willing to encourage anyone to move into Shrewsbury for the public school education experience. (Sadly, that is why we moved here 10 years ago.)	Jun 14, 2014 7:34 AM
43	Keep up the good work for our schools	Jun 14, 2014 12:28 AM
44	I hope Dr. Sawyer will continue to serve our community as a Superintendent of Schools for years to come. We are lucky to have him.	Jun 13, 2014 11:20 PM
45	You GO Joe! Thank you for your fantastic dedication managing your fiduciary responsibilities, overseeing budget resources with an eagle eye and all of the other time-consuming jobs you undertake with the heart of a lion! . . .You GO Joe! And BTW, take a couple of weeks off, will ya!	Jun 13, 2014 11:06 PM
46	Dr Sawyer has done an outstanding job for the Shrewsbury School District ! His leadership, dedication and relentless analysis of our school budget issues and his concerns for our children's quality of education were instrumental in getting the, way over due, prop 2/1 vote approved by the Towns voters. He is very visible in the community, approachable by both students and parents, strong leader and voice in our community. We all should be very grateful having Dr Sawyer as our Superintendent of Shrewsbury Schools.	Jun 13, 2014 10:53 PM
47	Thank you for your strong advocacy in ensuring the passage of the override! Your leadership sent a clear message to our community regarding the importance of supporting our students.	Jun 13, 2014 10:12 PM
48	The town of Shrewsbury is fortunate to have such a fabulous superintendent!!!	Jun 13, 2014 10:11 PM
49	I have only one comment. During snow storm days, I wish that the "no school" announcements be made as early as possible, whenever there is a sufficient weather forecast regarding the storm. Currently, we seem to have these announcements made available on the early mornings. To enable us to plan and be prepared bit advance, I wish that the announcements be available by the night before, if possible. Once again, thank you for your commitment to serve the community. Greatly appreciated!	Jun 13, 2014 10:10 PM
50	I commend Dr. Sawyer for his candid approach to Shrewsbury's financial needs	Jun 13, 2014 10:03 PM

Q11. Comments:

as it pertained to our school system. I believe it made everyone listen and act. I am thankful for his approach - in my busy life, he made me stop and realize my responsibilities as a member of our community.

51	We are extremely impressed with Dr. Sawyer. He is a real asset to Shrewsbury schools. You can tell he really cares. He has a passion for his job and you can see it in his involvement. Wonderful!!	Jun 13, 2014 9:45 PM
52	I feel you are doing an excellent job and want to say thank you for all you do and have done for our schools.	Jun 13, 2014 9:29 PM
53	Thank you for all of your hard work. We look forward to seeing schools achieving high standard with the pass of override in the next year and beyond.	Jun 13, 2014 9:28 PM
54	Thank you for your effective leadership. You are a great asset to our community. I hope the district hires some good people this year, especially instructional coaches as we transition to a more challenging curriculum.	Jun 13, 2014 9:16 PM
55	Dr. Sawyer has done a lot for the children of this town despite extremely constraining federal mandates. I wish there was some way for a unified voice to turn around and challenge the state and federal governments' continuous "bullying", for lack of a better word, that constantly keeps educators scrambling and working harder and harder with fewer and fewer resources. I worry that it is reaching a critical point, with many teachers simply tapped out and unable to meet individual student needs. Hopefully, with the additional funds provided by the override, the tension will ease up in town for the time being. Simply put, Dr. Sawyer continuously performs professionally and responds personally while trying to navigate a politically difficult educational landscape.	Jun 13, 2014 9:08 PM
56	More concerned on marketing self rather than working on students progress	Jun 13, 2014 9:05 PM
57	The superintendent of the Oak Middle school has not been responsive to students' needs. She has been ignoring parents' concerns.	Jun 13, 2014 8:48 PM
58	Thank you for a job well done!	Jun 13, 2014 8:30 PM
59	Very pleased with Mr Sawyer's efforts in open communications.	Jun 13, 2014 8:25 PM
60	Some teacher should no longer be teaching in the school system ! But know one listens to parents with concerns or issues ! Unless you are on of the special kids who is a favorite ! The way things are done is so sickening bit it will never change	Jun 13, 2014 8:19 PM
61	No complaints, Joe is doing a fabulous job and has put forth Herculean strength and restraint in dealing with scarce resource and dealing with a certain element in town.	Jun 13, 2014 8:13 PM
62	In my opinion he really cares and that's what matters!!!!	Jun 13, 2014 8:10 PM
63	He is committed to excellency of our schools & very prompt on informing the public on important issues that matter to us. We would like to thank you for the excellent service you give to our schools.	Jun 13, 2014 7:45 PM
64	I've never seen or met the superintendent. I also feel that cultural and religious	Jun 13, 2014 7:42 PM

Q11. Comments:

diversity is not celebrate enough in the school district keeping in mind the visible and very present differences apparent in Shrewsbury.

65	Hello. Overall, our children have been very supported in the Shrews. public schools. However, my husband and I were quite disappointed in the roll-out of the PARCC testing. We were quite disappointed that the needs of the individual students (those randomly forced to participate) were sacrificed for the 'overall good' of the testing process. Our son missed six hours of class instruction due to the PARCC testing, which was a hardship for him. I spoke to the assistant superintendent about this but to no avail. We were surprised that the Shrewsbury Public Schools orchestrated this so poorly. Please rethink this strategy if there is to be future testing involving a select population of students. Thank you.	Jun 13, 2014 7:36 PM
66	Dr. Sawyer has been an excellent superintendent, dedicated to maximizing student success, even in very financially stressful times. He communicates well with parents and is a visible presence at community events. His commitment to the Shrewsbury schools is evidenced not only by his track record, but also by the fact that his children are all students in the Shrewsbury Public Schools.	Jun 13, 2014 7:34 PM
67	Dr. Sawyer has helped the SPS navigate tricky budgetary times and helped the community keep its focus on what really matters- the education and well-being of our students. It's a thankless job. I'm sure he hears thousands of complaints for every one thank you for the job he does. He should know that his thoughtfulness of each issue/complaint and leadership are greatly appreciated.	Jun 13, 2014 7:20 PM
68	lack of trust and truthfulness; too many times Dr. Sawyer has shaded the truth and misled the community / lack of accountability; Dr. Sawyer never takes responsibility for the negative or challenges; his lack of ability and leadership consistently has him use the budget as the sole reason things fail rather than any poor choices and short-mindedness; he does take full credit for any positive outcomes; he is disrespectful and dismissive with those that disagree with his agenda this is a toxic disservice to our community's democracy	Jun 13, 2014 7:17 PM
69	I see Dr Sawyer all over town at events. He is living up to his potential as our Superintendent and thensome. He's a keeper.	Jun 13, 2014 7:17 PM
70	I wish the superintendent would do more with the bus contract. Specifically that all bus drivers transporting Shrewsbury students would have their CORI checks available to the parents of the children they are driving. It was recently brought to my attention that at least two bus drivers have current criminal records.	Jun 13, 2014 7:13 PM
71	Dr. Joe Sawyer has been one of the best things to happen to Shrewsbury Public Schools. As a family with 5 kids in the public school system, I am confident in his leadership And invested in supporting him along the way. Thank you for all of your hard work!	Jun 13, 2014 7:00 PM
72	As new residents of shrewsbury (2 years) with a 3rd grader at Paton and a 6th grader at Sherwood we are so impressed by the communication, commitment and care that Superintendent Joe Sawyer provides to the students and faculty of the Shrewsbury School System. I am not an educator but if I was I would be confident in having Dr. Sawyer as our advocate. Thank you Dr. Sawyer for your candidness and passion for making sure our children receive the best education	Jun 13, 2014 7:00 PM


Q11. Comments:

possible.

73	Poor budget manager. He needed to raise taxes to meet bare minimum standards and let the schools fail to meet classroom standards for class size. He continues to give raise and layoff teachers, that is his management philosophy, sooner or later this would get him in trouble and it did. He will no doubt continue this management decision and will indeed be in trouble again in the future.	Jun 13, 2014 6:58 PM
74	Excellent job. However, you were wrong to criticize that women for bringing up the obvious conflict of interest of your assistant regarding the standardized test. And you were wrong that she should have gone to you first before going public. That would have been a waste of time. I was surprised and disappointed by your response given the really exceptional job you have done.	Jun 13, 2014 6:58 PM
75	I appreciate our superintendent's all efforts.	Jun 13, 2014 6:38 PM
76	We are very fortunate to have Dr. Sawyer for our schools. He's done a great job.	Jun 13, 2014 6:36 PM
77	I feel that Dr Sawyer is deeply committed to our children's education.	Jun 13, 2014 6:34 PM
78	Shrewsbury is fortunate to claim a schools superintendent of Dr. Sawyer's caliber. He's a tireless advocate for the needs of the schools, he's articulate and intellectual, visible in the community and just a great role model for the kids.	Jun 13, 2014 6:25 PM
79	The superintendent needs to manage resources better. I did vote for the override because I don't want to see our children suffer, I do feel that this is just one of many shortfalls to come in the future. Shrewsbury has fees related to everything school related... Buses, sports, iPads - which I feel is a giant waste of money on middle school children, and numerous others. Learn to use the money wisely not on exorbitant school buildings and iPads.	Jun 13, 2014 6:20 PM
80	Felt the genuine attention he paid to the class size issues and the relevant arguments he made were critical in the recent YES win in the election. Thank you, Dr. Sawyer. We are lucky to have public servants like you.	Jun 13, 2014 6:18 PM
81	Joe Sawyer is extremely committed to his job and responsibilities. We, as parents, are totally worry free with him as the superintendent. With the override passing, we are very certain that the Shrewsbury school district is only going to become better:)	Jun 13, 2014 6:16 PM
82	Very disappointed with the accessibility of Dr. Sawyer. We were going through a difficult time with the school earlier this year. We called the superintendent's office to try and arrange a meeting with Dr. Sawyer. When we were asked for details on the reason for the meeting, we explained it was private. At that point, we we were told, it would be several weeks before he would be available and most likely through phone only. I do understand how busy he can be but it was very disappointing to hear. At this point it has been over 3 weeks and we have still not been called back.	Jun 13, 2014 6:05 PM
83	1. Teachers, books and buildings. These are the priorities. I find that each year, class sizes are getting bigger and books get older and more out of date. With	Jun 13, 2014 6:05 PM

Q11. Comments:

the new override, I want our school district to focus on class room size first. The knee jerk reaction is to cut a teacher. Next year, when we start our cuts again, don't look for a teacher to cut and instead seek all other avenues first and be able to explain why there are no other avenues. I will vote for an override ever year rather than have class room sizes increased. 2. I am disappointed by the response to parent who made the accusation regarding the PARCC stipend and stating that the parent who made the accusation was somehow inappropriate. I don't know the parent or the PARCC program so I consider myself objective. I think it should be investigated as it seems wrong to accept a \$2500 stipend if you are the person recommending the new program. If the stipend was really for reimbursement of expenses, then were the expenses also submitted to the school system for reimbursement? Did expenses reach \$2500? This really needs to be investigated and the practice of a stipend stopped as "bad practice". Was the "stipend" supposed to pay for a better standard of living, such as great steak dinners and expensive resorts? We need more disclosure on this issue.

84	I wish in some of these categories that there were an option higher than "Excellent." Dr. Sawyer is incredible in his dedication to the students and the district. He seems to know all of the students and their parents by name, as I've never seen him falter in public, and he even inquires about past students who have left the district. I can't imagine a more committed leader for our schools, and I'm so very grateful to have him in our district, as well as in our community.	Jun 13, 2014 6:00 PM
85	Dr. Sawyer is an excellent administrator. He sets a great example for all as an educator and also a parent. He is very well respected and seems to have a great working relationship with the other town employees/officials.	Jun 13, 2014 5:59 PM
86	More programs can be included which can help working parents so that they can be at peace knowing thier kids are safe at school . Summer programs also can be increased so that many parents can take the advantage of it as already the school has the infrastructure and the schools can raise funds which can be used for school for the music and sports for students.	Jun 13, 2014 5:58 PM
87	Joe Sawyer seems like a great superintendent . I love that he has his own children in SPS	Jun 13, 2014 5:54 PM
88	So, I'm going to comment here although I'm not quite sure this is the correct forum. I'm assuming Dr. Sawyer's reach include those students attending schools within the district as well as those in out of district placement. While I'm aware of his focus on maintaining an excellent educational experience for those students in attending public school in Shrewsbury I hear very little emphasis on children in out of district placement, except when people complain about how much is spent on out of district schooling. While I am appreciative of the town supporting my son's out of district education, I'm a bit dismayed at how these student's progress is managed, the lack of outreach from the school department to truly make an effort to include out of district children to make them feel part of the community and to offer them the same opportunities to experience the full spectrum of what education is all about. There is so much more that could be done that would enhance the success of out of district placements and improve the return on investment that Shrewsbury spends on it. Respectfully, 	Jun 13, 2014 5:53 PM
89	Disappointed to see you are recommending PARCCs. Despite the Feds push for <i>Name/address omitted</i>	Jun 13, 2014 5:52 PM

Q11. Comments:

the new testing I believe we should be questioning the need for this, the common core, and even the now outdated MCAS. We hold our students and educators to high standard in Shrewsbury. Following a national education bandwagon will reduce us to average, it does not put us on a path to continue to excel. We voted, almost unanimously, to put money into our education with the override. To push PARCCS without allowing citizens to respond, or vote, without due time on educating ourselves about it is a step backwards to what we just accomplished.

90	I am very pleased with leadership of Dr Sawyer.	Jun 13, 2014 5:52 PM
91	We hope he stays in our school system for a very long time.	Jun 13, 2014 5:48 PM
92	Poor fiscal management based upon aggressive and biased concepts of financial and staff management. Shrewsbury has plenty of fiscal resources available for their schools. All the Superintendent needs to do is put together a curriculum that is pertinent for what kids need to excel in the future. In other words, focus resources on STEM areas, and do away with the other extra classes that take financial resources -- drama, music, tv. These should be after school activities that require a fee to participate.	Jun 13, 2014 5:46 PM
93	He does not support teachers, as evidenced by the contract issues during the fall and winter. It was not necessary to string along the union except to use the teachers as a pawn in his efforts to communicate with the public. For shame!	Jun 13, 2014 5:44 PM
94	We are so fortunate to have Dr Sawyer as our Superintendent. We need to hold on to him as long as we can!	Jun 13, 2014 5:44 PM
95	Keep up the good work!	Jun 13, 2014 5:41 PM
96	There is concern that the superintendent is not aware of the low moral of the high school. The administration is taxed beyond what they can handle and the staff and teachers feel they are not making the right decisions in discipline and support.	Jun 13, 2014 5:41 PM
97	A new leader is needed. One who can take us out of the cellar and not blame it on money. Ive seen other towns do this with less funding.and turn out better statistics.	Jun 13, 2014 5:39 PM
98	Great job in expressing the importance of passing prop 2.5	Jun 13, 2014 5:37 PM
99	Pleasure of seeing this gentlemans career since my children started their education Have been impressed since day 1	Jun 13, 2014 5:36 PM
100	Dr. Sawyer and his staff have done a tremendous job under difficult circumstances. The Shrewsbury school system is fortunate to have him as its leader.	Jun 13, 2014 5:35 PM
101	We are very pleased with his leadership this year around the override. This has been a long time coming. I wish I knew more about his involvement in curriculum and other such issues.	Jun 13, 2014 5:32 PM
102	Is not open to criticism and feedback. Thinks he knows what is best for students and does not listen with an open mind. In this way can be condescending.	Jun 13, 2014 5:32 PM

Q11. Comments:

Favors some activities over others, for example, not all sports have the same level of commitment and resources than others. There are freshman teams for some sports but not all. Field maintenance is better for football than baseball and softball. School is frequently cancelled for inclement weather. Not a big fan of the current administration.

103	More attention is needed with monitoring Melissa Maguire. She is costing the taxpayers of Shrewsbury more money than needed.	Jun 13, 2014 5:30 PM
104	I have been pleased with Mr. Sawyer's handling of all school situations from weather, to last year post Sandy Hook, to running the operation in general. As a parent of kids in the school system, I will continue to count on Mr. Sawyer in part, but on the school committee and administrators even more as they have been presented with the requested override. I voted for it, happily and will save a memo asking for the vote with the timestamp. It is my expectations that these new funds will increase our children's scores and resources. It is also my expectation that these new funds are seen as not the norm. But an attempt to bring Shrewsbury back to tops in the district and state in regards to scores and performance. Another override within a few years for the same reasons will not be as well received. Thank you	Jun 13, 2014 4:36 PM
105	When Dr. Sawyer speaks about Shrewsbury's schools, his compassion is palpable. He celebrates our students' and teachers' successes with contagious enthusiasm and addresses our schools' challenges with candor and sincerity. We are very fortunate to have a leader who carries himself with such a high level of integrity. I cannot imagine our town rallying to pass the override so forcefully without a Superintendent and School Committee who are unified and committed to working for the best interest of our schools.	Jun 13, 2014 4:25 PM
106	Unfortunately the commencement speech focused on himself. Some decisions are made so "By the book" that a monkey could have handled a situation we had. Such as athletic suspensions.	Jun 13, 2014 4:17 PM
107	I am very thankful to have Joe as our superintendent. I greatly appreciate all of the time and effort he has dedicated to our district. Thank you	Jun 13, 2014 4:16 PM
108	I have lot of faith in our Superintendent Dr. Sawyer, he is very dedicated, diligent to our schools and students. I thank him for all he does!!	Jun 13, 2014 4:15 PM
109	Wish to see Dr. Sawyer engage parents and students in a more "down to earth" fashion. It's OK not to be "on" all the time. It's OK not to have all the answers. It lets the students know that adults too are always looking to improve their craft and grow as people.	Jun 13, 2014 4:11 PM
110	I have had very positive interactions with Dr. Sawyer. He is professional, well spoken and I believe that he is doing a great job as superintendent. He responds to parent emails in a very timely fashion and advocates for students.	Jun 13, 2014 8:31 AM
111	Excellent job communicating the budget needs which helped pass the override. Now the stakes are higher. Dr. Sawyer will need to continue to proceed cautiously, as he has done, when adding to the expense side of the budget. Overrides will not be welcomed on a annual basis.	Jun 13, 2014 6:24 AM

Q11. Comments:

112	Would appreciate more transparency regarding Common Core and PARCC. The discussion seems to be pretty one sided without providing an equal opportunity for those opposed to PARCC to speak. I found Dr. Sawyer's actions at this week's school committee meeting disheartening. I've always viewed Dr. Sawyer as the consummate professional but he came across as a bully this past Wednesday.	Jun 12, 2014 10:47 PM
113	I believe we have lost sight of the big picture. Granted the population has increased, the number of children in every school has increased but what about the quality of learning? Some of the teachers in the Elementary and Middle schools have lost their "umph", their edge on the excitement of teaching children to love to learn. They have lost their edge on getting students to care about learning and wanting to do well. Some of them are just showing up because it is their job not because of what and who they could really be influencing. I have seen the level of education decline drastically from the year 2000-2001 school year to the present time. I have living proof of it, my own four children. Teaching the basics like that little school house....one room school house with mutiple grades, Falcon facts (were awesome) Spelling tests and handwriting are completely gone, learning the 50 states of the USA and their capitals, memorizing all of the 44 presidents of the USA. Middle school teachers can't even hold children accountable for their actions or for their lack of effort and completed work. Just because their administration is afraid of parent feedback or lashback. Our senior middle school Principal needs to get a backbone like you had when you were their Principal, Dr. Sawyer. The lack of support for her teachers and aides is not something she should be commended for.	Jun 12, 2014 5:08 PM
114	The Shrewsbury Public Schools could not have a better leader - thank you!	Jun 12, 2014 8:59 AM
115	I am a teacher in another town. I think Dr. Sawyer is an outstanding superintendent. Shrewsbury is lucky to have him!	Jun 12, 2014 8:32 AM
116	I am so impressed with Dr. Sawyer's commitment, professionalism, and understanding of how a school system should operate. Thank you for everything you do for the children, teachers, and parents of Shrewsbury.	Jun 12, 2014 7:55 AM
117	I believe that all officials of Shrewsbury could do a far better job at managing finances. Therefore, not requiring more and more from families to run the schools properly. After watching public television and admittedly not being a fan of the the tax increase I was wondering who all the nicely wrapped blue and yellow gifts were for and if the superintendent used tax payer money to purchase them?	Jun 11, 2014 11:11 PM
118	Outstanding Leadership! Keep him in Shrewsbury.	Jun 11, 2014 10:00 PM
119	Shrewsbury is fortunate to have a leader like Dr. Sawyer. He is an excellent communicator and takes the time to listen to parent's feedback. He sets the bar very high for the quality of education Shrewsbury provides its students. Staff and students rise to these expectations. When something goes wrong, he apologizes and takes responsibility. He also makes adjustments so that the result will be different the next time. Given the budget issues the town has faced over the past several years, he has done a fantastic job working with the community, school committee and staff in setting priorities. He did a fantastic job in presenting the financial situation of the schools to the greater community.	Jun 11, 2014 8:15 PM

Q11. Comments:

This helped set the stage for the override to pass.

120	The town of Shrewsbury is truly blessed to have Dr. Sawyer as our Superintendent. His commitment to the children, parents, faculty, staff and the community at large is beyond compare. In recent years he managed to lead the District through very difficult budget discussions while all the time keeping the children's best interest in the forefront. Dr. Sawyer is an active parent and a visible, approachable member of our Shrewsbury community. Kudos for a job well done!	Jun 11, 2014 6:20 PM
121	Dr. Sawyer was very vocal and present through the whole override process. He clearly has a desire and a strong commitment to make our school district the best that it can be.	Jun 11, 2014 5:59 PM
122	I think this year I have really seen and heard from Joe. I continue to be impressed with how well he is able to lead an extremely strapped (financially) school district. Expectations are kept high and the staff and student strive for excellence. I was really impressed with how well the state of the school district (facts) was communicated during various meetings over the over-ride. Although I'm sure there was a lot of emotion involved during those meetings, his presentation was always based in fact and professionalism.	Jun 11, 2014 3:10 PM
123	Dr. Sawyer continues to do an exemplary job as our superintendent! We should all feel very lucky to have him as our educational leader for the Shrewsbury Public Schools. He is always on top of his game and addresses conflicts and difficult situations in a very positive and professional manner resulting in successful outcomes for our children. God bless him! And I hope he stays here for a very long time!	Jun 11, 2014 3:01 PM
124	I believe Dr Sawyer is focused on providing and facilitating excellence for our schools. My concern is that beginning at the high school level, the culture of actively engaging students and embracing the love of risk taking, and providing a safe learning environment for our children has been compromised. The high school has several teachers and administrators that are absolutely wonderful, however there are so many more that provide a hostile learning environment for students. Please create a "code of conduct" for teacher and administrative behavior. Walk your halls and observe your classrooms. The issue in the drop in student performance is larger than class size. The core values are demonstrated and advocated for though middle school level. At the high school, attention to those values becomes compromised. There is no excuse for a rigorous honors class to be interpreted by the teacher, to not only the students, but the parents, as "at the honors level, we expect students to learn independently 'using what they know'". I'm not here to teach in the traditional sense, I'm here to watch and observe. If your student can't do that, they are not honors material." Statements like this speak to a school's culture. Teachers must teach at every level. For every successful student in our district, there are so many more that are marginalized by attitudes that advocate complacency and indifference. I am forever grateful for each teacher and mentor that invited a student to challenge themselves by aiming high, reaching out to invite a child to come for extra help, not accepting a bell curve as normal. Our children know which teachers and administrators are safe and helpful. They also know those who are not. Please advocate for your students and hire and evaluate teachers carefully. Dr. Sawyer, you are an asset to our school district and our community. However,	Jun 11, 2014 1:09 PM

Q11. Comments:

you can only advocate for student issues you have knowledge of.

125	The categories don't go high enough!! Dr. Sawyer is a superb leader, educator, advocate and manager of both people and resources. His attention to transparency and communication are particularly strong.	Jun 11, 2014 12:34 PM
126	Concerned about big bump in salary being given, post override vote.	Jun 11, 2014 12:16 PM
127	He should really look into the High School's bullying policy because it is not enforced in all instances. Many people at that high school are turning the back on issues and hiding them and some students are afraid to bring it up because of it. I am not the only parent who feels this way	Jun 11, 2014 9:23 AM
128	I am so glad that we have such a competent and dedicated superintendent!	Jun 11, 2014 9:12 AM
129	The past few years in Shrewsbury have been particularly challenging. Throughout it all Dr Sawyer has communicated clearly with parents and community members and advocated for our students and town. There will always be challenging decisions to be made, but I trust in Dr Sawyer's leadership. Shrewsbury is lucky to have him and I hope he stays for a very long time.	Jun 11, 2014 9:04 AM
130	Am unable to provide feedback for questions 2 - 4. Given the context of the questions in deference to the students "well being", high standards and expectations for student success" and "a high quality job of educating students." and my recent knowledge of a culturally (political or otherwise) imposed gay and lesbian alliance observation acknowledgment week (or partial week), I find myself at an impasse as to the educational relevance of distracting the majority of the student body in this way, especially given that the norm of student interaction regarding class participation was categorically set aside for this time serving only a man-imposed special interest group	Jun 11, 2014 9:03 AM
131	In our 3 years in the Shrewsbury school system to date, we have been extremely impressed by Dr. Sawyer's leadership. He possesses a remarkable combination of strong leadership skills with down-to-earth approachability. He also combines his strong advocacy work with sophisticated diplomacy in managing the larger community. This latest effort to pass the budget override is a perfect example-- he remained calm and measured in his outreach and response to the community, focusing on the data--the budget, the differences in tax rates among central mass communities, the class sizes, the performance of Shrewsbury students compared to others in the state--and never let any of the discussion get personal or emotional. The fact that he lives in the community and has children in the schools, that we run into him on the sidelines of Shrewsbury youth soccer games, boosts his legitimacy as leader and advocate 100 fold. Shrewsbury is very fortunate to have someone like Dr. Sawyer in such an important leadership position.	Jun 11, 2014 8:59 AM
132	I think Dr. Sawyer is doing a wonderful job.	Jun 11, 2014 8:29 AM
133	Dr. Sawyer should review policies around AA transportation bus drivers driving our children around with their own children or grandchildren ages infant to teen. It's illegal in some MA towns and shouldn't be allowed in Shrewsbury. Infants and toddlers riding the bus distract he driver from what they are hired to do..	Jun 11, 2014 7:50 AM

Q11. Comments:


	<p>That is drive our children to and from school safely, not to mention the unnecessary liability the town would incur if something happened on the bus. This is a serious concern for many parents.</p>	
134	<p>I think an amazing job was done providing clear numbers, graphs, comparison of why an increased school budget was critical. It gave parents incredibly strong talking points to help pass the tax increase.</p>	Jun 11, 2014 7:10 AM
135	<p>Excellent !!!! Dr. Sawyer has a family of his own, yet I feel that he gives as much effort for each and every one of the students. There is nothing more I can say than that. Thank you !</p>	Jun 11, 2014 7:00 AM
136	<p>I am impressed with the superintendent's level of communication with parents. Except for that one glitch with the early release snow day for the high school, I believe Dr. Sawyer has done a great job with keeping in touch with students and parents. Haven't checked out the twitter feed yet, but kudos for getting it started. This really is a great school district and the dedication of the staff in the system, regardless of the town's (lack of) financial support, comes from the top down. I have two very successful children as a result of the excellent programs in the school. I rated question 5 as good, not excellent because it is my understanding that raises happen at a rate of 4% across the board yearly. Very few people in this day get that level of increase, and I believe some people might merit less, some might merit more. Not sure what control the superintendent has over this, but it does seem unjust to me when there are people out there in comparable public service positions, who are working just as hard, but don't get automatic raises, and certainly not at that rate.</p>	Jun 11, 2014 6:51 AM
137	<p>We are very lucky to have Joe Sawyer as our Superintendent!!!</p>	Jun 11, 2014 6:45 AM
138	<p>Joseph Sawyer is the MOST important aspect of the Shrewsbury school system. The countless hours and dedication he has shown this community towards/ for the Students/ Parents of our town is staggering. Such as stressing to the community the need for Proposition 2 1/2 to pass was probably one of his, if not his biggest achievement to date. I am very proud to have Mr. Sawyer as OUR Superintendent of OUR school system. XXXXXXXXXX <i>Name redacted</i></p>	Jun 11, 2014 6:19 AM
139	<p>We are fortunate to have Dr. Sawyer both as a member of our community and as our school superintendent. As a parent, I have observed him interact with students. He treats them with respect. His navigation of difficult budget issues has been stellar. I hope our system is blessed to receive many more years of service from Dr. Sawyer.</p>	Jun 11, 2014 4:40 AM
140	<p>Thank you for your excellent work!</p>	Jun 11, 2014 12:37 AM
141	<p>We are consistently impressed with Dr. Sawyer's demonstrated leadership and feel privileged to have him as our Superintendent.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 11:51 PM
142	<p>I have known him since my first day as a student at Floral during his days as Assistant Principal and remained a student all through high school and graduation, accompanying his rise to superintendent. He is a fantastic administrator.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 11:18 PM
143	<p>Dr. Sawyer is amazing. The amount of time and dedication that he gives to our</p>	Jun 10, 2014 11:08 PM

Q11. Comments:

	<p>schools, our children and our community is beyond any expectations I have. He is highly intelligent yet humble, always approachable and incredibly astute in the financial aspects of our school department and town. He is highly visible and definitely gives the impression of being deeply passionate about Shrewsbury. I think we are SO fortunate to have him as our Superintendent.</p>	
144	<p>We are very lucky to have Dr Sawyer. He is personally connected to students, parents, the community. He handles the challenges of this community with grace and dedication to what is best for our students and this town.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 10:50 PM
145	<p>We need to get a SPS website that does not have 4 year old info, no entries on calendars, etc. Parents need to know what, when and where things are going on. It is the only communication we have especially with SHS students, as hs students do not typically share any information. It is kind of embarrassing that it is 2014 and I could not even find out when the Jr. Prom was in January because we don't have ANY school information online. For that I am giving a Very Poor rating for communication. I almost missed SAT sign up also, again no communication and no dates, events, etc. online. Clinton Public Schools website is informative, user friendly and should be one that SPS should follow.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 10:21 PM
146	<p>Great job We appreciate having Dr Sawyer</p>	Jun 10, 2014 10:19 PM
147	<p>I am thankful to have my child in a school district lead by Dr. Sawyer. He is an excellent leader and his dedication to our children's education is clear through the quality of education our children receive (through teachers who teach but also take time to build relationships with students) and was shown through all of the time he spent working to increase resources to the school district this year. He was very clear in not only what was missing but what was needed to resolve the challenges facing our schools.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:59 PM
148	<p>Having children in the Shrewsbury school system for the past 9 years, this year I have been completely dissatisfied with Superintendent Sawyer and his commitment to the well being of students along with his and other administrators avoidance of serious issues that are present in the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Especially concerning to me was Superintendent Sawyers response to a very serious issue I brought to his attention.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:56 PM
149	<p>Having children in the Shrewsbury school system for the past 9 years, this year I have been completely dissatisfied with Superintendent Sawyer and his commitment to the well being of students along with his and other administrators avoidance of serious issues that are present in the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Especially concerning to me was Superintendent Sawyers response to a very serious issue I brought to his attention.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:56 PM
150	<p>Needs to be accessible for students to comment on teachers' performance, some are not doing an effective job, but students feel lost.</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:46 PM
151	<p>Dr. Sawyer can be seen frequently at Shrewsbury High School, especially at important events such as awards ceremonies and Honor Society Inductions. It's great to see that Dr. Sawyer cares about all of his students' achievements!</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:44 PM
152	<p>I feel that the superintendent exemplified the qualities we need to lead out schools, especially in the areas of communication and advocating for the school</p>	Jun 10, 2014 9:42 PM

Q11. Comments:

within the greater community

153	My daughter is intellectually & socially disabled. Her needs are not being met by the Shrewsbury School System. This system is failing my daughter. "VERY SAD" Thanks,  <i>Name redacted</i>	Jun 10, 2014 9:19 PM
154	Stop pushing the kids to be Presidents!!! enough.... too much expectations for the kids,. There is way too much stress on the kids in school to achieve, in school for them to function in a normal. teenage. or any age capacity.	Jun 10, 2014 9:12 PM
155	Thank you for your willingness to go above and beyond for our children!!! It truly makes a difference. Your dedication and passion in your job make you a role model for us all. Shrewsbury is quite fortunate to have you. Keep visiting the schools - the kids always notice:)	Jun 10, 2014 8:13 PM
156	Dr. Sawyer continues to be an effective leader. His dedication to the quality of the school system is commendable.	Jun 10, 2014 8:03 PM
157	Keep up the great work, Joe!	Jun 10, 2014 7:42 PM
158	he is doing a good job.	Jun 10, 2014 7:32 PM
159	Joe needs to do something about the bullying going on in the Shrewsbury schools instead of always blaming the victim!!	Jun 10, 2014 7:26 PM
160	Absolutely outstanding!!!! Shrewsbury is a better school system for his stewardship!	Jun 10, 2014 7:25 PM
161	Dr. Sawyer has been a tireless advocate for our schools. We are very fortunate to have him as our superintendent!	Jun 10, 2014 6:39 PM
162	I think that the most difficult job for the superintendent is negotiating and implementing the staff contracts. It is because of these contracts that money was not able to be spent on books and materials. With the passage of the override, it is now Dr. Sawyer's and the School Committee's responsibility to negotiate in good faith and not blow the largesse on future contracts. Also, chasing technology is a losing game. We need to be careful in this area as the equipment and software are almost obsolete by the time it is purchased. I caution you to be careful and fulfill the promise to be a good steward of the cash infusion the citizens of Shrewsbury awarded you.	Jun 10, 2014 6:22 PM
163	Dr. Sawyer is a huge asset to our community and we are so grateful to have him at the helm of Shrewsbury Public Schools!	Jun 10, 2014 6:10 PM
164	This past year I have come to really respect and admire Dr. Sawyer. His commitment to the Shrewsbury education system is unparalleled in my opinion.	Jun 10, 2014 6:08 PM
165	Superintendent's dedication to the school district and students is obvious. He seems to "walk the talk." However, I am not convinced that all administrators and teachers share his passion. All the right things are said, but follow through and commitment reflect that it's only a job.	Jun 10, 2014 6:04 PM
166	I would like to go to Disney once a year but my budget won't allow me too- there are wants and there are needs and the school dept. needs to be able to separate	Jun 10, 2014 5:39 PM

Q11. Comments:

the twoo better!

167	We are greatly impressed with Dr.Sawyer's commitment and dedication for the schools.	Jun 10, 2014 5:25 PM
168	While this does not relate directly the superintendent's direct responsibilities, the special education department in this district seems to do a good job educating students with significant special needs, but fails to provide the necessary supports for students with less significant disabilities. There appears to be a strong "push" to not provide educational services for students who need them and parents/caregivers are not viewed as equal team members making decisions at the table. For example, is a "2" at the elementary school considered making academic progress? The answer to this question does not seem consistent across the district. Perhaps this will change with the prop 2 1/2 passing and that more special education services will be provided in an inclusive setting at the elementary school level, where intervention services are key to future success.	Jun 10, 2014 5:01 PM
169	Dr Sawyer is an asset to the Shrewsbury community. He cares deeply about the quality of education of each and every student!! We are fortunate to have someone like him looking out for our children.	Jun 10, 2014 4:57 PM
170	Dr. Sawyer is very respectful and very eloquent when discussing the challenges of running an effective school program in tough economic times. His professional demeanor throughout the budget and Override process was a key part of it's eventual success.	Jun 10, 2014 4:50 PM
171	Dr. Sawyer has done a fabulous job for our students and we are so lucky to have him here in Shrewsbury. I hope he will serve our community for many years to come.	Jun 10, 2014 4:40 PM
172	We are lucky to have him as our superintendent. I cannot even think of one thing he did not do well enough.	Jun 10, 2014 4:13 PM
173	I think that the Shrewsbury Public Schools are doing overall well. I also think that the school district will benefit from extra educational programs like a spelling bee.	Jun 10, 2014 3:46 PM
174	Not forthcoming on down-slide of quality of shrewsbury schools compared with neighboring towns and better performing schools in the state. Not doing enough to retain quality teachers	Jun 10, 2014 3:40 PM
175	We're lucky to have Joe.	Jun 10, 2014 3:40 PM
176	As a parent of three current SPS students and SPS employee, I think that Dr. Sawyer has done a fantastic job managing the district within the constraints set upon him by the state, town budget, etc. He is visible in the community at many school events that take place outside of his work day. He is an excellent superintendent!	Jun 10, 2014 3:18 PM
177	Thank you so much Dr. Sawyer for making the operational override vote a success for Shrewsbury Public Schools!!!	Jun 10, 2014 3:07 PM

Q11. Comments:


178	I wish there was higher rating than "excellent", "Outstanding" maybe? I am very thankful that we have Dr. Sawyer leading our schools. I dream that more music and theater will be offered - maybe there's hope now that the override has passed?	Jun 10, 2014 2:58 PM
179	given that the community gave the override, I would like to see the Superintendent implement changes that really make a difference to the students and the parents. For e.g. think about the spring and winter vacation and the stress this puts on working parents in addition to all the snow days and prof development days.	Jun 10, 2014 2:49 PM
180	I think Dr. Sawyer has dropped the ball on athletics. Too much money is needed for it and I think he should find out why. It needs to be investigated.	Jun 10, 2014 2:47 PM
181	I enjoyed the series of information sessions / interviews that Dr. Sawyer presented on the town's public station over the past couple of months. They were very informative and helpful. It may have been called "Superintendent's Corner."	Jun 10, 2014 2:45 PM
182	The superintendent is an outstanding leader. The community is fortunate to have him at the helm!	Jun 10, 2014 2:15 PM
183	My opinion is that the schools have absolutely no interest in fostering academic excellence when it comes to advanced or gifted students. ALL the effort and resources are concentrated on lifting up the bottom students. And surprise, once you lower the standards, or show lack of interest in anything related with excellence, even the middle students are starting to lose ground. Progress can only be achieved when you look up and reach higher, not when you waste your energy in a futile attempt to raise the floor. This IS a problem of leadership.	Jun 10, 2014 2:12 PM
184	I am happy that our school systems led by an intelligent and thoughtful leader. I only wish our superintendent would consider more diversity in the leadership of our schools. Seems that many of the leaders are friends and or come from the same neighborhood demographics. Diverse opinions create great communities	Jun 10, 2014 2:09 PM
185	Hello, I am a parent of a SPS student. There are so many issues & factors that need to be concentrated on to enhance the quality of school, however, I have only seen and heard about lack of budget & resources to enhance the school system. Looking forward to seeing more productive measures in this area.	Jun 10, 2014 1:56 PM
186	My issue is that I don't understand how a student at OMS can successfully score 3/4 grades in Mathematics (honors) and yet not be able to pass the St. John's placement test for Math. Something is inherently wrong here, I don't know what but this is a disconnect of some kind. I also have concerns with the SHS athletic department. On the GOOD side, I believe Mr. Sawyer does an admirable job with the limited school budget / resources overall. His visibility and advocacy skills are strong.	Jun 10, 2014 1:42 PM
187	I'm not sure if the intent of the question set was to be general, but the questions appear somewhat vague so as not to provide answers to more specific situations; therefore, I'm not clear on how helpful these answers will be. For example, direct questions about the iPad program's success, whether all elementary schools are achieving the same level of technological education, or	Jun 10, 2014 1:39 PM

Q11. Comments:

the multitude of classes offered at the high school level compared to other schools, seems more appropriate in gauging the superintendent's overall success.

188	We are fortunate to have such a committed and talented leader at the helm of our school district. Shrewsbury would be much the poorer without Dr. Sawyer.	Jun 10, 2014 1:38 PM
189	Mismanaged school budget, excessive teacher salaries and raises, etc. led to Prop 2 1/2 override. Great communications from Sawyer -- very honest, open, forthcoming, and timely.	Jun 10, 2014 1:21 PM
190	As a parent of two former Shrewsbury Public School children, I have always appreciated the efforts and accomplishments of Dr. Sawyer. We in Shrewsbury are extremely fortunate to have an individual of his experience and character leading our school system.	Jun 10, 2014 1:11 PM
191	I am especially pleased with the school Closings during winter And his not canceling too quickly.	Jun 10, 2014 1:10 PM
192	For #7 I have answered "good" only because I don't hear my 6th grader or Jr in HS mention as much anymore the visits to their schools(course that very well may be more of a reflection on their ages). This has been Dr. Sawyer's finest year in support of our children...job well done. Thank you.	Jun 10, 2014 1:02 PM
193	Our superintendent is fantastic, we are lucky to have him. I do think our schools have slipped in the last few years quality-wise and I hope we can get back on track, get ALL class sizes back to manageable, update our school websites (or take them down), get substitute teachers, update curriculum and technology, etc now that the override has passed. Things are so very lean, I do hope to see some improvements in the near future, not stagnation. I would encourage all of the schools - not just some as is the case presently - to solicit feedback from parents,families, to get a pulse on where to direct efforts.	Jun 10, 2014 12:52 PM
194	I do not think the IPADs are a well used item for studnts with learning disabilities as it inhibits their writing skills.	Jun 10, 2014 12:40 PM
195	My opinion of Dr. Sawyer is that He presents himself in, appearance, actions and attitude, very professional. He listens carefully to and assesses all options, regarding chioces, and sides of arguments before reaching any conclusion. I believe He is honost and does the best he can to make make wise decisions based on the knowledge and facts before him and drawing on His own experiences. While there is always room to grow and improve still, being human nature, Can we ask more?	Jun 10, 2014 12:35 PM
196	No opportunity to actually meet you.	Jun 10, 2014 12:35 PM
197	I commend Dr. Sawyer for doing an outstanding job during this very tough, transitional time in Shrewsbury. He's a fantastic public speaker, and I always feel he's making the best possible decisions to ensure a fantastic education for our children.	Jun 10, 2014 12:34 PM
198	Dr. Sawyer, we love you! We are so fortunate to have you as our superintendent. We love our schools!	Jun 10, 2014 12:31 PM

Q11. Comments:

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| 207 | Would like to see more communication regarding the quality of education. Would like to see more insight into teacher performance. I see too many examples of inconsistencies with teacher performance. Would also like to see a re-evaluation of the grading system for 5-8 grades. | Jun 10, 2014 11:50 AM |
| 208 | I am extremely happy with the efforts that Joe Sawyer puts in into making our school district better. I can see that he works hard to make this possible. | Jun 10, 2014 11:47 AM |
| 209 | They say the sign of a strong leader is to be able to hire great people and to stand back and let them do their jobs. I am extremely satisfied with the staff at the high school. I attribute their excellence to the school leadership and the school culture that Todd B. is creating and maintaining. I believe effective and timely communication with school parents is CRITICAL for the superintendent and the school principal. I believe Joe S. and Todd B. do an exemplary job at communicating with us. And frankly there isn't much more in this life that is more important to me than news which affects my children. I'd like to see Joe S. and Todd B. attend a SHS Robotics event. Team #467 is a Championship Team. It is a formidable and respected team in the FIRST Robotics community, and it would be great for the incredibly dedicated and hard working students to experience the physical and visible support of their school system's top leaders. Nurse Brenda Filliere works above and beyond the call of duty. This level of commitment speaks to leadership. Respectfully submitted. | Jun 10, 2014 11:44 AM |
| 210 | Dr. Sawyer is simply the best superintendent ever!!! | Jun 10, 2014 11:44 AM |
| 211 | My two kids graduated in 2008 and 2010 but I still stay current with our school system as it is an important part of our community. I met Joe Sawyer when he was assistant principal at Floral and am pleased he oversees our entire school district now. | Jun 10, 2014 11:42 AM |
| 212 | I value the emails and quick communication of information. | Jun 10, 2014 11:40 AM |
| 213 | We are extremely fortunate to have Joe Sawyer as the Superintendent of Shrewsbury schools. He works tirelessly to ensure that our children are receiving an outstanding education with the resources that we have. He supports our schools, advocates for our students' needs and effectively communicates his goals for the future of our children. He is a tremendous asset to Shrewsbury. | Jun 10, 2014 11:28 AM |
| 214 | An incident occurred this year at Sherwood Middle School involving a student threatening other students. The families at Sherwood Middle School were notified of this incident but the school failed to notify the families of Oak students. I feel that since buses are shared between these two schools that Oak families should have been notified as well. I found out from neighbors with children attending Sherwood. I also believe that this incident was reported on the news. It would have been good to communicate facts to families with children that may have been in contact with this student. | Jun 10, 2014 11:26 AM |
| 215 | As a Shrewsbury resident, I feel very lucky to have Dr. Sawyer here to lead our schools. With the YES vote for override, I expect Dr. Sawyer and the schools have enough resources to get job done. I believe our schools will be on top again. Thank you Dr. Sawyer for your great job. 
<i>Name redacted</i> | Jun 10, 2014 11:26 AM |

Q11. Comments:

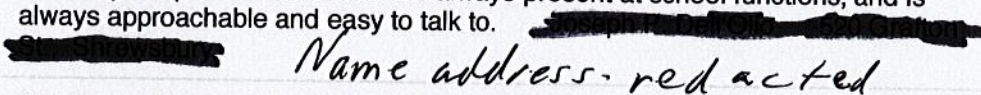
216	I find the Superintendents regular e-mail communications much to focussed on politics and budgeting and severly lacking in his strategy for educating our children. So much so that I have seriously considered removing myself from his discription list. It is understood that budgets enable strategy but his communications should focus primarily on what he is trying to achieve for our children and how it will benefit them. If the stratify is clear and well thought out the money needed to achieve it will follow.	Jun 10, 2014 11:24 AM
217	I think overall the superintendent does a very good job however I also believe the superintendent needs to ask more of the non teaching positions at the high school. For example, having student smoking and chewing tobacco in the bathrooms on a regular basis without any intervention is alarming. In addition, I get the feeling that we are putting too much effort into the kids that have zero interest in learning and not enough on the kids that do. Overall, I am very happy with the schools and feel the over ride should stabilize the schools for the next 4-5 years. After 5 years, I'm not so sure.	Jun 10, 2014 11:21 AM
218	As a school employee, I think we are very lucky to have Joe. I have always found him to be a fair and decent man, with students and staff always his main concern.	Jun 10, 2014 11:19 AM
219	Joe Sawyer is tops and Shrewsbury is benefitting greatly!	Jun 10, 2014 11:19 AM
220	My little girl is finishing second grade at Spring Street School, so technically I only have a few years watching Dr. Sawyer's performance, and that I'll admit, is unfortunately more from afar as I'm not always able to attend the school committee and budget meetings at the Town Hall or participate in the PTO. But I can't express enough the sense of great comfort and gratitude I feel having him as Shrewsbury's Superintendent of Schools. The e-mailed Superintendent's Updates and Community Bulletins keep me informed. And he always has a warm, effective communication style that helps me feel involved and plainly exhibits his deep pride in the students and his concern that they continue to excel. I feel so well served knowing he's part of Shrewsbury's schools. Please take good care of this gem we have!	Jun 10, 2014 11:14 AM
221	The perception is that the Superintendent is excellent and is committed to his job. However, it does appear he could work better with the Town Manager. This year with the over-ride it appeared the relationship was improved because they were both rowing in the same boat. At times, such as with the implementation of the ipad program, it comes across as having the superintendent's agenda, ie the largest roll out of a program, rather than the immediate needs. While the parents absorb the cost of the actual ipad, the cost of training time for teachers is money that could have been spent training on teacher evaluations, new testings, etc. All this being said, we are in a great district with fabulous schools with exceptional commitment through all levels. thank you.	Jun 10, 2014 11:12 AM
222	Dr. Sawyer's understanding of curriculum requirements for the 21st century, and advocacy for the total student population truly amazed me. He offered a balanced presentation of facts and either could answer the "tough" questions with logical/factual data or would offer to research and find the answer during the operational override process. His energy and passion for excellence is appreciated. With all his responsibilities, and rigid commitments, he still spends some of his "personal" time in more relaxed, yet equally important venues.....he	Jun 10, 2014 11:10 AM

Q11. Comments:

	was able to enjoy a girls tennis match recently!.....a job very well done.	
223	Dr. Sawyer does an excellent job of communicating about issues, options, solutions and results on everything from budget to class sizes to extra curricular activities. He is a highly visible member of this community and we couldn't be happier with his performance as our superintendent!	Jun 10, 2014 11:10 AM
224	Dr. Sawyer did an amazing job this year. I am proud to have him as the superintendent of Shrewsbur Public Schools.	Jun 10, 2014 11:09 AM
225	Dr. Sawyer does an excellent job of communicating about issues, options, solutions and results on everything from budget to class sizes to extra curricular activities. He is a highly visible member of this community and we couldn't be happier with his performance as our superintendent!	Jun 10, 2014 11:08 AM
226	Mr. Sawyer is extraordinarily good at his job. The town of Shrewsbury and the students of Shrewsbury public schools are lucky to have such a talented, dedicated leader.	Jun 10, 2014 11:08 AM
227	We are happy that our kids are getting a good education from the public schools. We are glad to see the school officials and the community all work together and utilize the resources well.	Jun 10, 2014 11:05 AM
228	Dr. Sawyer does an incredibly great job at an incredibly difficult (public) position in our town. Parents and students are extremely lucky to have him!	Jun 10, 2014 11:03 AM
229	Keep up the good work.	Jun 10, 2014 11:01 AM
230	Sorry for the average score but while I voted a resounding Yes for the override because it was absolutely the right thing to do for my kids, I don't have a high level of confidence that the superintendent and school committee truly know how to now execute on the plan. My fear is that all this effort put forth to get the funding will not be put to as good use as it could have and should have and this was just a very short term bandaid and we will be right back where we were in a couple short years. I hope I am wrong but I just don't see the superintendent as someone to elevate the system. He does a good job at maintaining but I am not sure he can drive us forward to excel.	Jun 10, 2014 10:59 AM
231	As a Ph.D. and an academic, I am deeply aware of the value of education, and I have been markedly impressed with Dr. Sawyer's ability and dedication to furthering education in Shrewsbury. His letters in the published School Journal have been clearly-written,eloquent, and powerful, and he maintained a strong and effective presence when advocating for the override. I truly feel lucky that he is our Superintendent.	Jun 10, 2014 10:58 AM
232	Given what has been recently accomplished for our students and the town, after prior failures, he surely has the leadership capabilities a growing town such as ours needs! Thank you, thank you and thank you! I have confidence he will continue to be proactive and thoughtful with his choices and direction vs. carefree and irresponsible with engaging in unnecessary spending simply because the revenue should provide the resources.	Jun 10, 2014 10:53 AM
233	I think he is doing a great job in making sure our schools run smoothly and	Jun 10, 2014 10:52 AM

Q11. Comments:

maintain a high standard.

234	Superb manager, mentor, administrator and leader. Coordinated a strong demonstration of school needs during the recently successful override initiative effort. By 2-1 margin, in a high voter turn out election, the support of the entire community was exhibited. I feel the Superintendent was one significant reason so many folks, young and old, turned out in support of public education within Shrewsbury.	Jun 10, 2014 10:51 AM
235	Dr. Sawyer is absolutely tremendous. We couldn't be happier with the job he does.	Jun 10, 2014 10:49 AM
236	Mr. Sawyer has been communicating with all parents regularly and keeping them updated as and when required. We feel confident and in safe hands for our children future at Shrewsbury.	Jun 10, 2014 10:48 AM
237	The Shrewsbury community is very fortunate to have such a bright and dedicated Superintendent! I am grateful for all his hard work.	Jun 10, 2014 10:48 AM
238	We are lucky to have Dr. Sawyer! I hope that we can do everything that we can to support him in his role, as it would be great to have him for a long time.	Jun 10, 2014 10:48 AM
239	Dr. Sawyer does a great job keeping parents, informed. My children at floral and at sherwood have both commented that they have seen Dr. Sawyer in their schools on several occasions. He's up with the times being on facebook and twitter. He doesn't a great job!	Jun 10, 2014 10:47 AM
240	Keep up the great work!!!	Jun 10, 2014 10:46 AM
241	I am constantly impressed by Dr. Sawyer's high level of commitment to our schools, our students and parents like myself. As a fellow parent of Shrewsbury students, I feel that he truly understands the challenges that we face, especially as it relates to working parents. I appreciate his transparency and frequent communications. I have the utmost confidence in his skills and leadership.	Jun 10, 2014 10:46 AM
242	Dr. Sawyer has done an excellent job as superintendant. He has done this since he was principal at Floral St.. He is always present at school functions, and is always approachable and easy to talk to.  <i>Name address - redacted</i>	Jun 10, 2014 10:43 AM
243	Dr. Sawyer does a great job with the schools, faculty, and students. Always committed to the community as well. Thank you	Jun 10, 2014 10:43 AM
244	I believe Mr. Sawyer is 100% committed to Shrewsbury schools and addressing the needs of every child in its care. Where he falls short, in my opinion, is in budgeting issues and administration. The idea that the schools required a \$15million increase to maintain its level of operation is preposterous. The schools have chased after every shiny new object and curriculum to come down the pike, from the insipid iPad program to yet another Math curriculum to those asinine "fitness watches." And in order to keep up with the changes, student-to-teacher ratios have suffered since administrators have been hired to handle the complexity. When I grew up, class sizes were a low of 28 and a high of 36 -- with ONE teacher in the room. Our text books lasted a decade. Teachers weren't	Jun 10, 2014 10:42 AM

Q11. Comments:

endlessly pulled one way and then another in order to meet endless bureaucratic standards. Participation in sports was free. P.E. was a daily class. Wood shop, Metal shop, Home Ec., Industrial Arts, Driver's Ed. -- all standard fare. Libraries were used for research, not simplistic Google searches. So, how is it that I got a more rounded education than my kids have received? Sorry for the rant. I just think the questionnaire is missing key points with simple multiple choice answers. Joe Sawyer is a great guy, who's totally dedicated to this town's kids. But having just gone through a very contentious budget vote, he really needs to address some fundamental flaws in the system.

245	Excellent email communications..plenty of it.	Jun 10, 2014 10:41 AM
246	I did not understand the superintendent's lack of communication with the Sherwood parents when the assassination list was published. The principal did not seem to have the administration's support, as any message from Dr. Sawyer to the Sherwood community was clearly absent.	Jun 10, 2014 10:37 AM
247	We are extremely fortunate to have such a high caliber educator leading the Shrewsbury Public Schools.	Jun 10, 2014 10:36 AM
248	Dr. Sawyer, we could not be luckier to have you as our leader. You are exceptionally informed about current issues in education, you are dedicated to meeting the needs of your teachers and staff members, and you strive to make strong connections with the parent/student community. Your communication style is direct yet compassionate. You give constructive feedback when necessary, yet you also positively recognize deserving individuals, frequently. I look forward to your annual awards that highlight noteworthy teachers and staff. The twitter online presence is very effective. In addition, it means so much to the parent community when you acknowledge your own shortcomings (there are very few of them.....) A time that comes to mind is when there was a miscommunication this year about one of the inclement weather early dismissals, and you promptly apologized to the parent community. You are such a reflective leader, and we appreciate that very much. The parent community appreciates how visible you are at Community Events, such as the Heart for Art, Sports Games, and History/Herstory Day. You are approachable and encouraging at these special celebrations, and students remember that for years to come. Lastly, we cannot thank you enough for your work in support of the override. Without your information gathering, precise presentations, and constant support, our efforts would not have been successful. What a great way to end a school year! Words that come to mind that describe your leadership style are: fair, unflinchingly honest, and solution-oriented. I hope that you are our leader for years and years to come! Thank you, sincerely, for being such an outstanding Superintendent for our district.	Jun 10, 2014 10:32 AM
249	Dr. Sawyer, we could not be luckier to have you as our leader. You are exceptionally informed about current issues in education, you are dedicated to meeting the needs of your teachers and staff members, and you strive to make strong connections with the parent/student community. Your communication style is direct yet compassionate. You give constructive feedback when necessary, yet you also positively recognize deserving individuals, frequently. I look forward to your annual awards that highlight noteworthy teachers and staff. The twitter online presence is very effective. In addition, it means so much to the parent community when you acknowledge your own shortcomings (there are	Jun 10, 2014 10:31 AM

Q11. Comments:

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250 I am impressed with the personal connections Dr. Sawyer makes. When we see him in public or at school events, he addresses my children by name and can make connections with them/us. Jun 10, 2014 10:27 AM

251 Shrewsbury is extremely fortunate to have Dr. Sawyer as its Superintendent of Schools. He is a tremendous leader. Jun 10, 2014 10:26 AM

252 In my opinion, Dr. Sawyer is an outstanding superintendent and I feel our community is lucky to have him! He has demonstrated strong leadership in very challenging times. He is always articulate in his communication. Correspondence with parents, as well as with the community is clear, timely, accessible, and transparent. Please recognize Dr. Sawyer's unwavering commitment to children and families of Shrewsbury and thank him for a job well done! Jun 10, 2014 10:24 AM