



## Superintendent's Update

March 29, 2018

Dear Shrewsbury Families & Community Members,

There's still snow on the ground, but it's Opening Day for the Red Sox, so spring is hopefully right around the corner.

I would appreciate it if you would read on to get information about:

- The budget reduction plan I presented last night
- My recent school safety & security presentation
- Beal School construction project update
- Great news regarding our SHS stadium field project
- Recent student successes

### **Budget reduction plan for next year**

Last night, I presented the School Committee with my recommendations for reducing costs in next year's budget to meet the likely levels of funding that will be available. Much of this reduction plan involves not adding recommended positions to address continued student population growth and key needs, as well as deferring some purchases of equipment and investments in training, but it will also reduce some existing positions. While this reduction plan won't be devastating, it will move us further down a path towards significantly reducing programming and personnel that we would rather not travel again. For details, click [here](#).

### **School safety & security presentation**

I was recently invited to speak to the Board of Selectmen to give an overview

of how our school district addresses safety and security. To watch it, click [here](#) and go to the 43 minute mark. Additionally, our Safety & Security Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting today to discuss ongoing ways to improve in these areas. Today's meeting included representatives from the School Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Buildings Department, and Parks & Recreation Department, along with a representative from the Massachusetts State Police.

### **Beal School building project update**

The architects for the project presented detailed information at the recent Board of Selectmen's meeting. Click [here](#) and go to the 7 minute mark to watch the presentation. The next major milestone will be deciding on a site for the building, a decision that will be made by late April. The two sites under consideration are the Glavin Center on Lake Street and the Allen Farm on South Street.

### **Great news regarding the SHS stadium field project**

Last night, I was pleased to share some exciting news at our School Committee meeting. Thanks to an extremely generous pledge of \$250,000 from the Adams Family, we have now raised \$1.62 million of the \$1.8 million we need for the new synthetic turf field at Shrewsbury High School! We still need the remaining \$180,000 to complete the full scope of this project. If successful, we will go out to bid soon and hopefully break ground in early July. If you haven't already done so, I am asking you to please consider supporting *The Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields* and make this project a reality for our students and our community. **Please go to [www.turf4shrewsbury.org](http://www.turf4shrewsbury.org) to purchase a brick by tomorrow's March 30 deadline or to make an online donation.**

### **Student successes**

Congratulations to the following student teams on their successes!

- **Destination Imagination:** Not only did Shrewsbury field the most teams in the region (20), eight of the teams placed in the regional

competition with four moving on to the state tournament. At the state competition, one high school team placed second and an elementary team placed third, qualifying each to move on to the global competition!

- **SHS Boys Ice Hockey:** The SHS Boys Hockey team won its second consecutive state title in a dramatic 2-1 victory at the TD Garden!

Thanks for your continued support of excellence in education in the Shrewsbury Public Schools!

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer  
Superintendent of Schools