



## Superintendent's Update

May 11, 2017

Dear Shrewsbury Families, Staff & Community Members,

Please read on for a variety of several important announcements and student achievements:

- School Committee elects new officers
- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment appointed
- Central One Federal Credit Union donates \$750,000 for SHS stadium field project
- Report on district strategic goal achievements
- State science fair achievements
- Community service awards
- National Honor Society induction

### **School Committee elects new officers:**

At their meeting last night, the School Committee elected Dr. Dale Magee as Chair, Mr. Jon Wensky as Vice Chair, and Ms. Sandra Fryc as Secretary. The other members are Ms. Erin Canzano and the newly elected Mr. Jason Palitsch, who previously served on the School Committee from 2012 to 2015. Our school district is fortunate to be led by this group of dedicated, thoughtful citizens who are deeply committed to the success of our schools. I also wish to thank Mr. John Samia, who served multiple terms since 2006 and who chose not to run for reelection, for his many years of service and leadership and his unwavering dedication to the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

### **Amy Clouter appointed as next Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

Upon my recommendation, last night the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Amy Clouter, who has been the principal of Coolidge School for the past eleven years, to this important district leadership role. Ms. Clouter's outstanding expertise regarding best educational practices, combined with her experience helping to lead a variety of curriculum and professional development initiatives within our district, led me to determine that her strengths are the best match for this role at this time. I shared with the School Committee that this was the single most difficult hiring choice I've made in my career, as Dr. Jane Lizotte, the very successful principal of Sherwood Middle School, was also a superb candidate for the role. As a result of the search process, I have more appreciation than ever for Dr. Lizotte's leadership, and going forward I am hopeful that we will be able to find ways for her many strengths to have more of an impact district-wide. Although it was a

very difficult decision, it is gratifying that we had two outstanding school leaders from within the district who wished to serve in this district-level role.

**Central One Federal Credit Union donates \$750,000 for SHS stadium field project:**

At last night's School Committee meeting, David L'Ecuyer, President & CEO of Central One Federal Credit Union, announced that the Central One Board of Directors had approved making a donation of \$750,000 towards the SHS stadium field project, which includes installing a synthetic turf field. The School Committee unanimously approved this extremely generous sponsorship, which will result in the SHS stadium being named Central One Federal Credit Union Stadium. Mr. L'Ecuyer, spoke about the value of this partnership with our school district and its importance to Central One's commitment to supporting the Shrewsbury community. I am enormously grateful for Central One's very generous gift, which moves us much closer towards our goal of raising \$1.8 million for this exciting and much-needed project, which will benefit SHS students and Shrewsbury youth athletics. For more information about the sponsorship, see the press release [here](#), and to learn more about the project go to <http://turf4shrewsbury.org>.

**Report on district strategic goal achievements:**

The administration is providing a series of reports to the School Committee regarding the achievements and progress made relative to the strategic priorities set by the School Committee in December 2011. Please click [here](#) for a report on how our schools addressed the priority of "increasing value to the community," and click [here](#) for the slide presentation made on this topic. Highlights include several outside measures of academic excellence, SHS students devoting over 95,000 hours of community service, and raising over \$1.5 million in outside funding (which is now over \$2.25 million with the Central One Federal Credit Union sponsorship of the SHS stadium project).

**State science & engineering fair results:**

Several SHS students competed in the state science and engineering fair at MIT, and the following students were honored with prizes for the quality of their very sophisticated research projects:

**2nd Place**

Joshua Choi (Grade 9) Defying Death: Antibacterial Resistance of E. Coli to Neomycin Sulfate

**3rd Place**

Vikram Pathalam (Grade 12) and Varun Swamy (Grade 12) (team project) Automated Diagnosis of Dementia through Supervised Learning Classification Algorithm

**Honorable Mention**

Vishnu Penubarthi (Grade 10) C "No" 2: A Novel Method to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Motor Vehicles

**Honorable Mention**

Anshuman Madhukar (Grade 10) Effect of Depth and Angle of Indentation on Drag Reduction caused by Surface Dimples

**Service learning awards:**

At a recent awards ceremony, many SHS students were honored for giving over 100 hours of community service; the cumulative total over the past year was 17,750 hours! Congratulations to SHS student Marlie Atlabachew, Class of 2018, who was the recipient of the Amy O'Leary Award for her outstanding community service. Mrs. O'Leary is a retiree who served our community as a teacher for 50 years, and who was passionate about community service learning.

**National Honor Society Induction:**

Earlier this evening, just over 100 members of the SHS Class of 2018 were inducted into the Shrewsbury High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. They heard poignant remarks from SHS Principal, Mr. Todd Bazydlo, and keynote speaker Ms. Joanne Alley, the Director of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester. Her organization serves homeless families, and during the past year it was supported by SHS volunteers from the National Honor Society from the Class of 2017. Ms. Alley's eloquent message focused on the importance and benefits of serving those who are less fortunate. Congratulations to both the graduating and newly inducted members of the National Honor Society for exemplifying the four National Honor Society pillars of character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

There continue to be many reasons to be very proud of our students, our educators, and our many community champions. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Respectfully,

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