



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**January 6, 2021
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall -100 Maple Avenue
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

January 6, 2021 7:00pm
Remote Meeting

THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC. TOWN HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR MEETINGS. THIS MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON LOCAL CABLE CHANNELS 29 & 329 AND STREAMED LIVE ON THE SHREWSBURY MEDIA CONNECTION WEBSITE AT <https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/iE0p5N2b-Se5BhxS-3KDrHfUWzLHfku2/stream/722>. SEE BELOW FOR INFORMATION ON CONTACTING THE CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing.

The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means. "Adequate, alternative means" may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time. A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable afterwards.

In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.

If a member of the public wishes to participate remotely in the Public Participation portion of the meeting, they should contact the Committee Chair, Ms. Sandra Fryc, by sending an email to schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Items

Suggested time allotments

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| I. | Public Participation | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">7:00-7:05</div> |
| II. | Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports | |
| III. | Superintendent's Report | |
| IV. | Time Scheduled Appointments: | |
| | A. Update on Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report | 7:05 – 7:20 |
| | B. Elementary Redistricting Project: Report on Options for Consideration | 7:20 – 8:15 |
| V. | Curriculum | |
| VI. | Policy | |
| VII. | Finance & Operations | |
| | A. Five-Year Fiscal Projection: Report | 8:15 – 8:45 |



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

- B. Food Services Program: Report 8:45 – 9:00
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Approval of Minutes 9:00 – 9:05
- XI. Executive Session 9:05 – 9:30
- A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.
- B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association.
- XII. Adjournment 9:30

Next regular meeting: January 20, 2021



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

ITEM NO: II. Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson of the School Committee and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

School Committee Members
Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson
Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary
Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Committee Member
Mr. Jason Palitsch, Committee Member

ITEM NO: III. Superintendent's Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**
A. Update on Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and members of the leadership team will provide an update on the reopening of schools for students for the 2020-2021 school year.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
District Administrators



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: **MEETING DATE: 01/06/21**
B. Elementary Redistricting Project: Report on Options for Consideration

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The opening of the new Major Howard W. Beal School for students in grades K-4 in the fall of 2021 will require redistricting of elementary school attendance zones at Shrewsbury Public Schools. In September 2019, the Committee voted to establish an ad hoc committee tasked with applying guiding principles provided by the School Committee when considering information, reviewing options, and making recommendations for the redistricting of elementary school attendance zone boundaries to take effect when the new Beal School opens. This work has been ongoing. Most recently, Dr. Sawyer, Mr. Collins, and members of the demographic and geographic information system consulting team presented a project update to the Committee on December 16, 2020. Tonight Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will present a summary of redistricting options that the consulting team has created based on the guiding principles and feedback from the Redistricting Committee. The Redistricting Committee will be further reviewing these options and subsequently making a recommendation to the School Committee regarding its preferred option on January 20, and welcomes the School Committee's perspective on the various options in advance of making its recommendation (Redistricting Committee members will be in attendance at the School Committee meeting to hear feedback). A copy of the slide deck with the current options is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



Shrewsbury School Redistricting School Committee Presentation

Jan 6, 2021

AppGeo

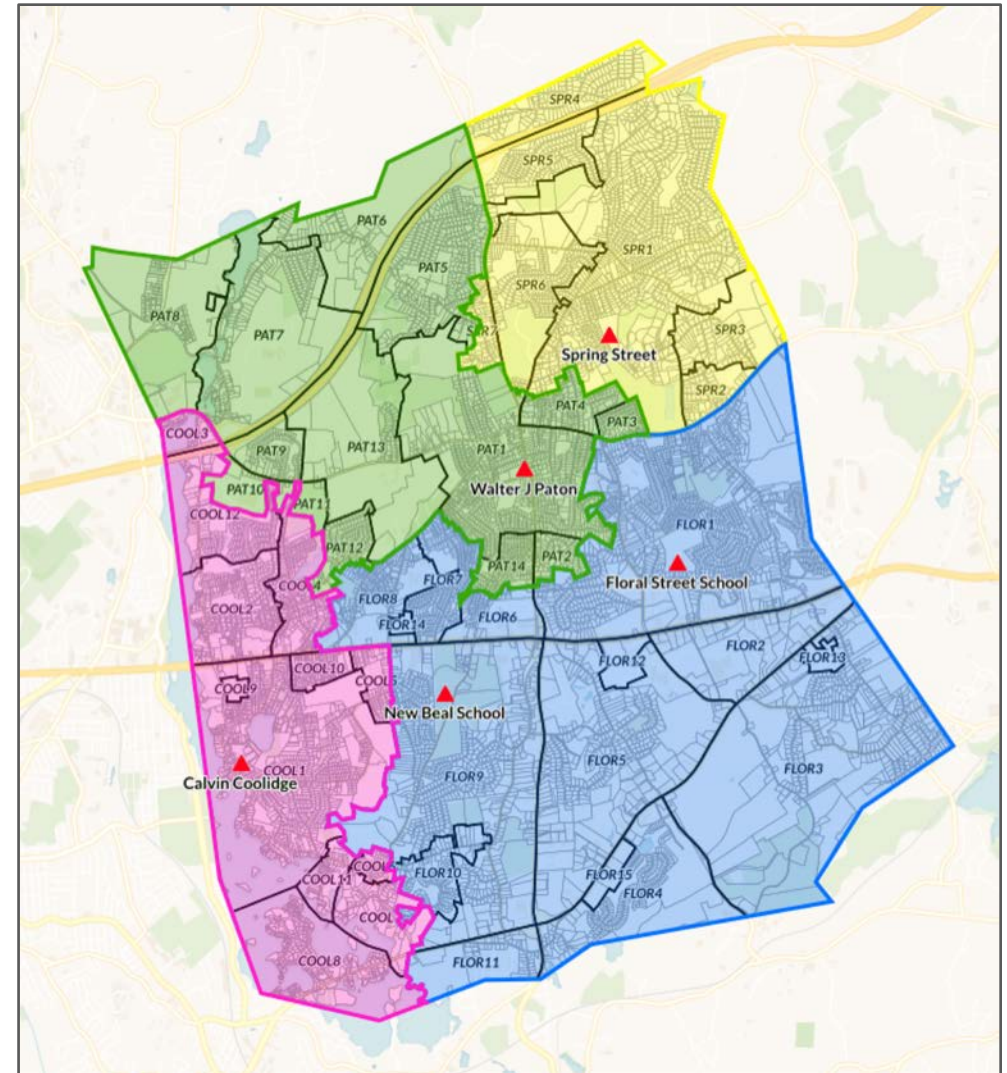
Covered Today

1. Current & District Projections
2. Scenario Overview
3. Determining Future Capacity and Targets
4. Scenarios
 - a. Focus on Socio-Economic Equity
 - b. Focus on Geography
 - c. Balancing Guiding Principles
5. Timeline/Next Steps
6. Questions/Feedback

Current Districts

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
"Old" Beal	244	68	0	0	0
Coolidge	39	82	97	118	76
Floral	0	121	174	206	221
Paton	38	82	92	70	88
Spring	41	80	70	79	80

School	K Thru 4	% Reduced Lunch	% White	% Non White	% Mixed Race
"Old" Beal	312	16%	37%	60%	4%
Coolidge	412	32%	53%	39%	8%
Floral	722	15%	42%	54%	4%
Paton	370	11%	72%	24%	3%
Spring	350	7%	65%	29%	6%



Current & Projected (2030) Students

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
"Old" Beal	244	68	0	0	0	312
Coolidge	39	82	97	118	76	412
Floral	0	121	174	206	221	722
Paton	38	82	92	70	88	370
Spring	41	80	70	79	80	350
Total	362	433	433	473	465	2166

School	Projected K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4	Totals
						454
Coolidge		95	94	95	93	377
Floral		206	201	196	196	799
Paton		83	90	91	94	358
Spring		75	76	77	78	306
Total	454	459	461	459	461	2294

Scenario Overview

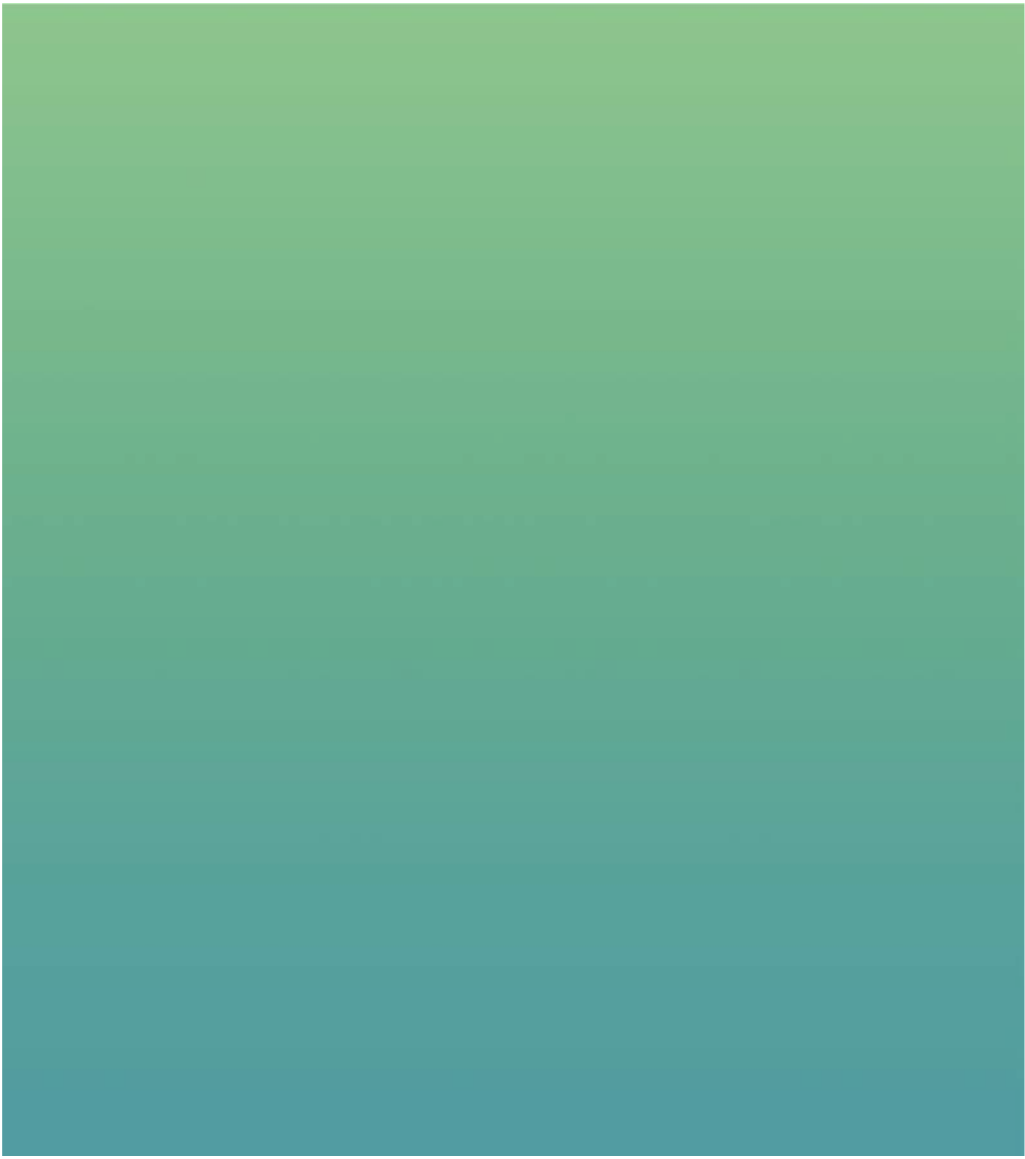
- The Redistricting Committee presents a total of 5 scenarios today
- Each scenario is presented with a lot of data
 - Current student data and projected future enrollment
 - Grade level breakdown
 - Demographics
- The Redistricting Committee is not making any specific recommendations at this time
- Each scenario fulfills Guiding Principles to varying degrees
- There is no “perfect” scenario

Determining Future Enrollment Capacity and Targets

ACCEPTABLE RANGE FOR FUTURE SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS					
School	Core Classrooms	Class size	K-4 Sections	Target (10/1/2025) Enrollment [Using Low-end of School Cmtee Guidelines]	Total Enrollment (Using High-end of School Cmtee Guideline)
Coolidge	15	20.5	3/gr.	308	333
Paton	15	20.5	3/gr.	308	333
Spring	15	20.5	3/gr.	308	333
Floral	30	20.3	6/gr.	608	666
New Beal	40	19.8	8/gr.	790	888
Total				2322	2553

School Committee Guidelines for Class Sizes	
Kindergarten	17-19
Gr. 1-2	20-22
Gr. 3-4	22-24

*Our projected K-4 enrollment for 2021-2022 is **2,126** so we will be below our target enrollments by design for the next few years and may have fewer & varying number of sections as a result.*



Scenarios with Focus on Socio- Economic Equity

Focus on Socio-Economic Equity - Pros & Cons

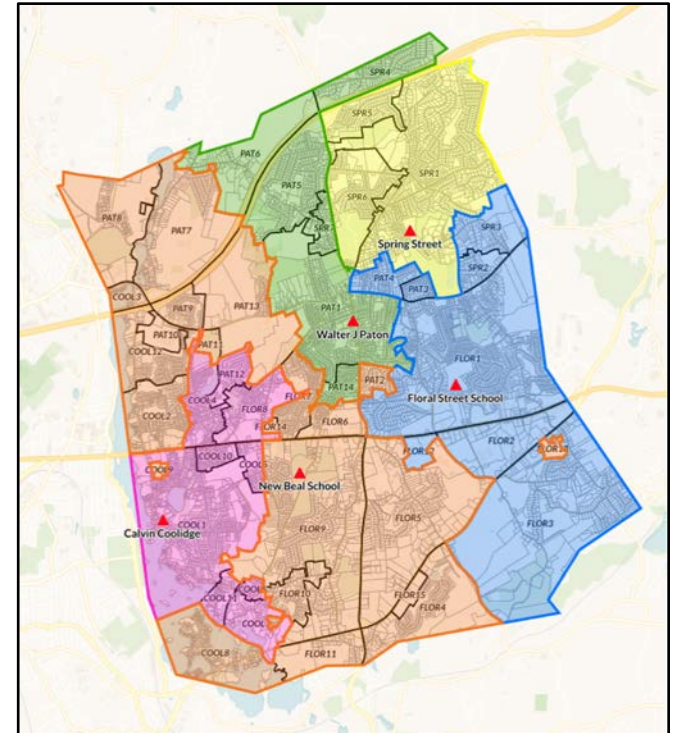
- The committee spent significant time and effort trying to balance socio-economic equity across the school districts
- Every scenario that was created was evaluated using this guiding principle
- Several scenarios were considered but the general consensus of the committee was to present this option for consideration

PROS

- Bring the % of Reduced Lunch Students to 30% - lowest of all scenarios
- Since COOL8 needed to be moved to get to this % moving COOL2 and COOL12 makes a potential bus route instead of just moving COOL8
- Enrollment balanced

CONS

- Some potential walkers to Coolidge will need transportation to New Beal
- FLOR13 bused students moved to New Beal
- Of all Scenarios this is on the higher end of students being displaced (718)
- Map not contiguous and looks very engineered

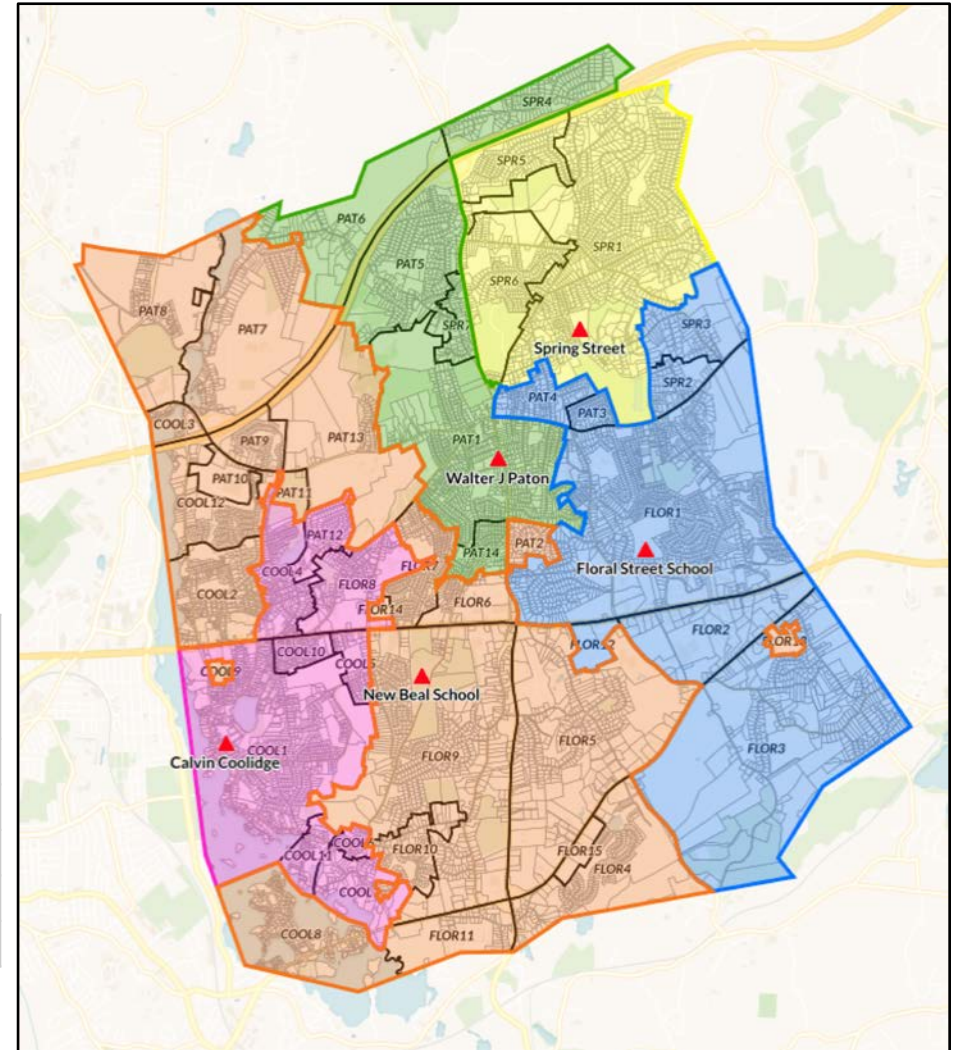


Focus on Socio-Economic Equity

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Coolidge	48	57	64	71	52
Floral	115	120	101	113	126
Paton	37	62	66	51	75
Spring	47	65	58	67	63
New Beal	115	129	144	171	148

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment	% Reduced Lunch	% White	% Non White	% Mixed Race
Coolidge	308	292	95%	30%	60%	31%	9%
Floral	608	575	95%	13%	39%	57%	4%
Paton	308	291	94%	10%	74%	22%	4%
Spring	308	300	97%	7%	65%	30%	5%
New Beal	790	707	89%	19%	45%	51%	4%

Reference: Original Scenario 10; Socio-Economic Option 2



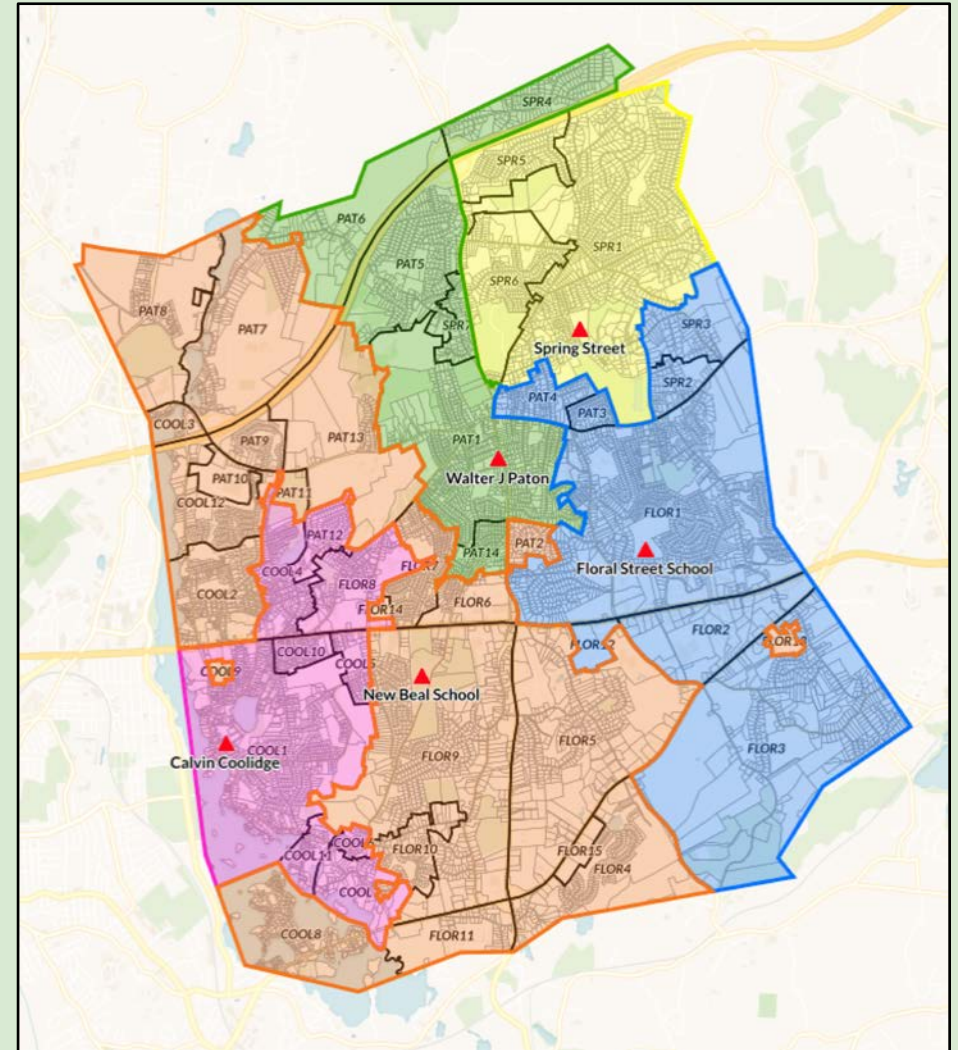
Focus on Socio-Economic Equity

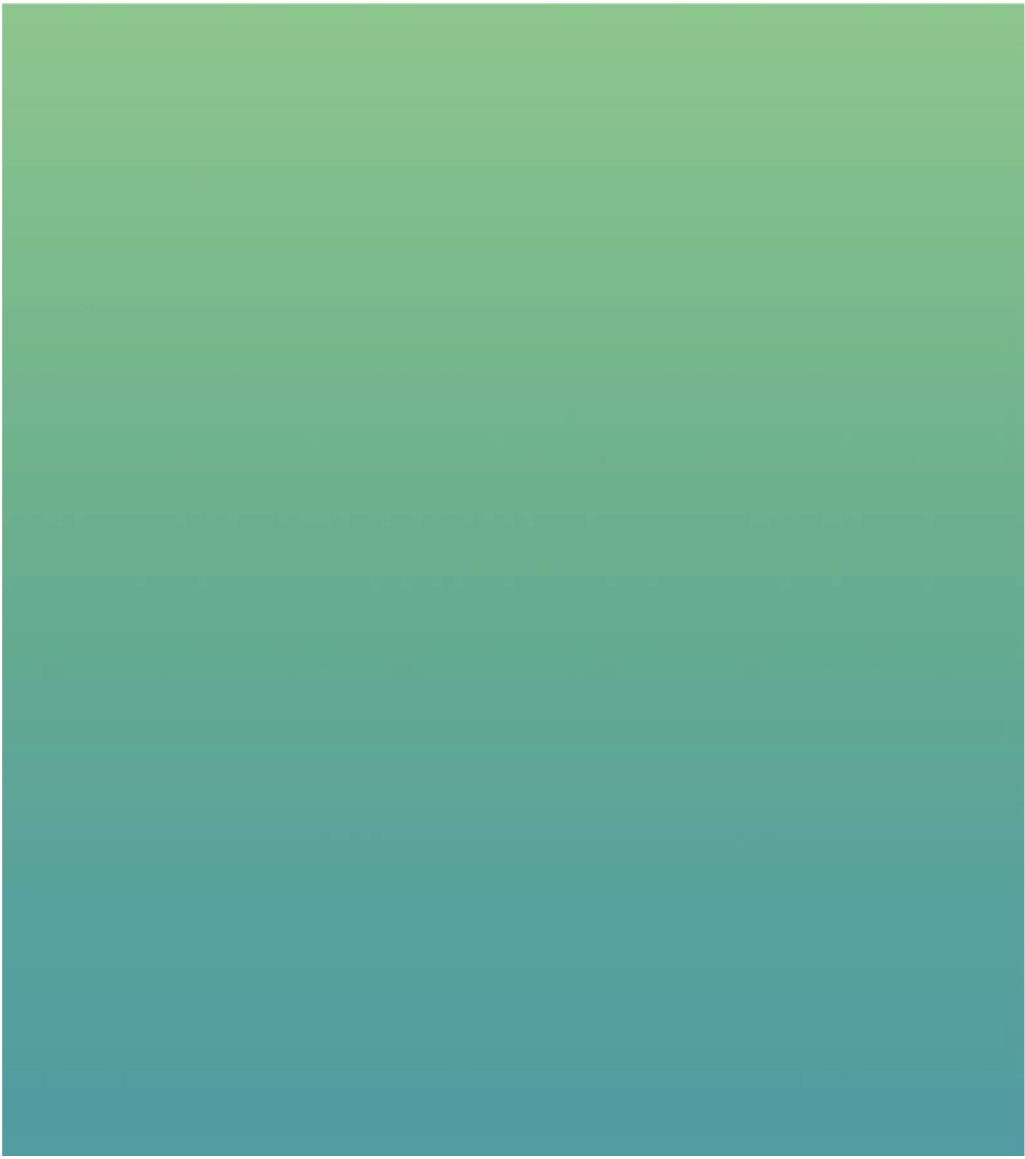
Projected 2030

School	Projected Grade K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4
Coolidge	61	64	63	59	60
Floral	145	130	115	108	113
Paton	46	62	65	63	79
Spring	59	61	63	66	62
New Beal	145	141	156	161	144

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	Projected K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment (+/-10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	308	292	307	95%	100%
Floral	608	575	611	95%	100%
Paton	308	291	315	94%	102%
Spring	308	300	311	97%	101%
New Beal	790	707	747	89%	95%

Reference: Original Scenario 10; Socio-Economic Option 2





Scenario with
Focus on
Geographically
Compact &
Contiguous

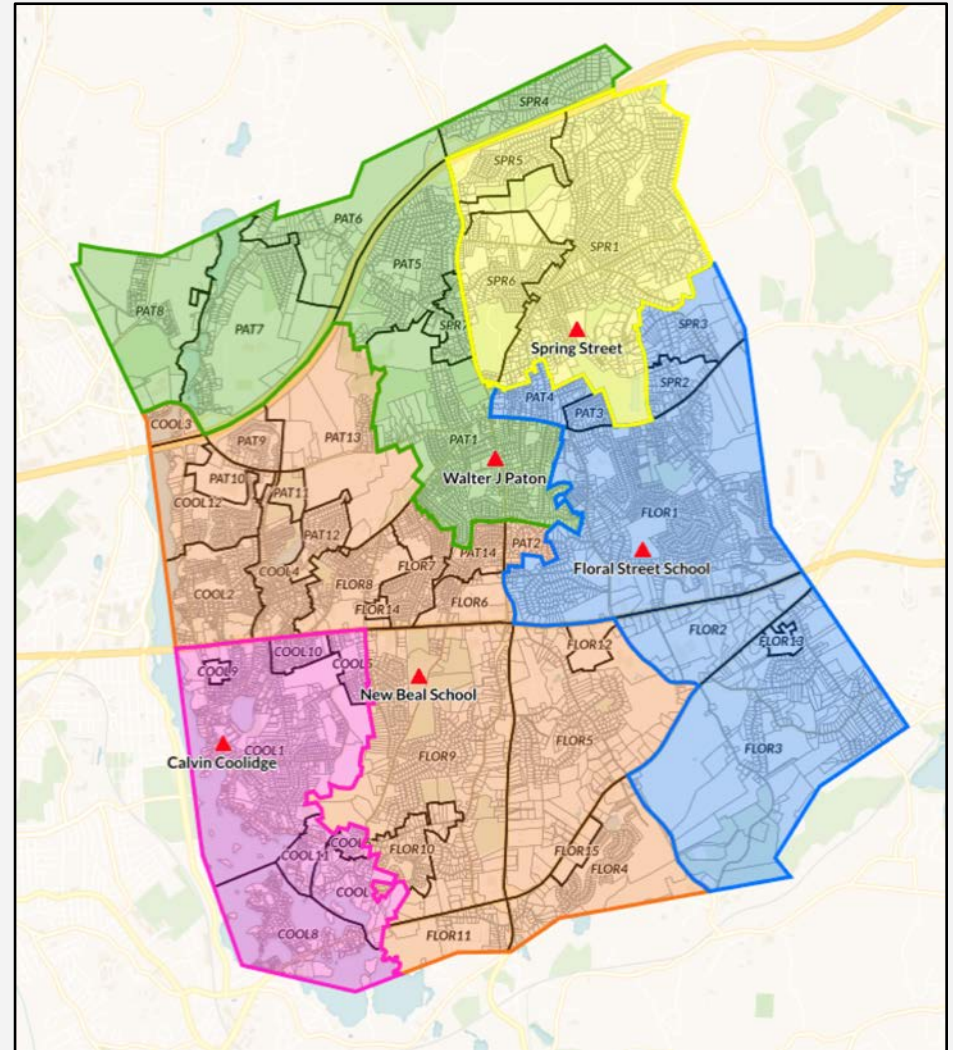
Geographically Compact & Contiguous

Pros

- Geographically compact and contiguous
- Enrollment balanced

Cons

- Coolidge Reduced Lunch percentage remains similar to current (37%)
- Some Spring and Paton potential walkers moved
- To maintain compactness (PAT8 & PAT7 stay in Paton), PAT14 walkers need to be moved to New Beal

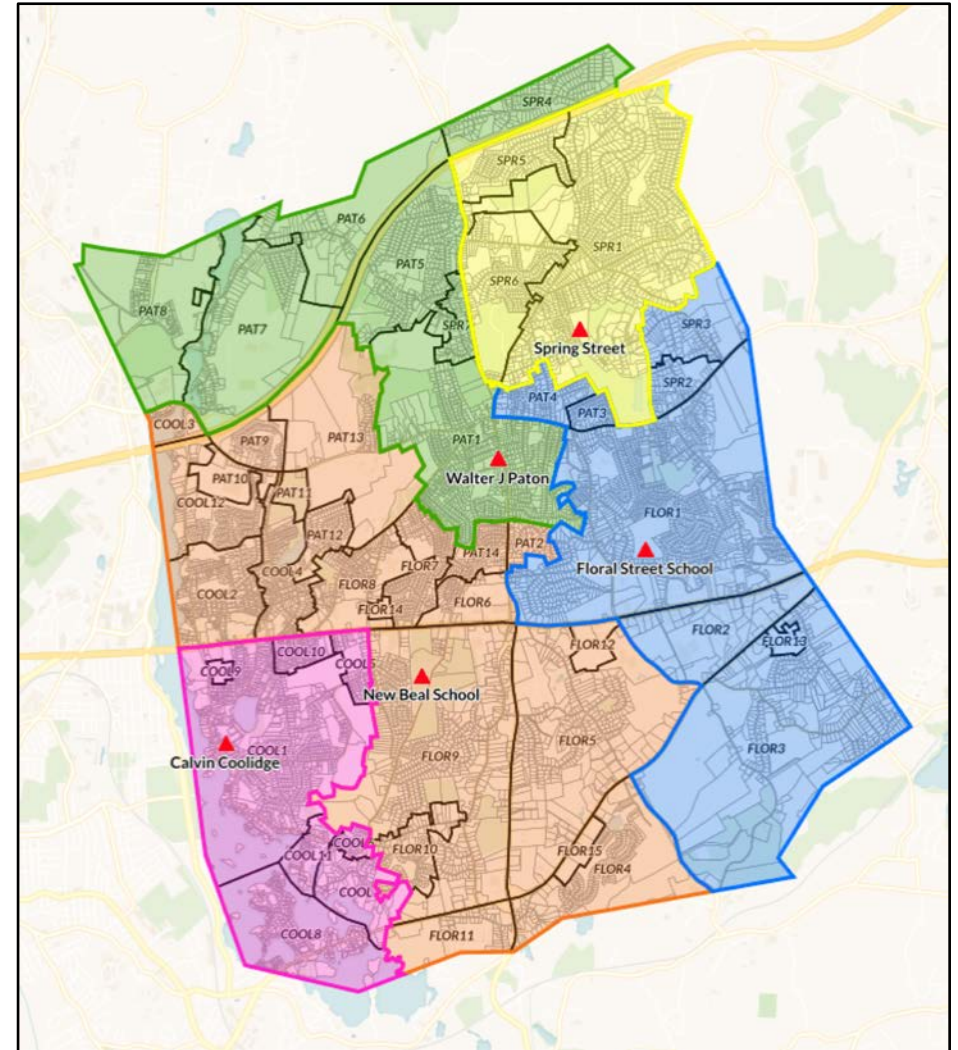


Geographically Compact & Contiguous

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Coolidge	52	55	59	73	44
Floral	117	127	108	119	123
Paton	41	64	65	53	69
Spring	47	65	58	67	63
New Beal	105	122	143	161	165

	Target	K Thru	% Target	%			
School	Enrollment	4	Enrollment	Reduced Lunch	% White	% Non White	% Mixed Race
Coolidge	308	283	92%	37%	57%	34%	9%
Floral	608	594	98%	12%	37%	59%	4%
Paton	308	292	95%	12%	76%	21%	4%
Spring	308	300	97%	7%	65%	30%	5%
New Beal	790	696	88%	17%	48%	48%	4%

Reference: Original Scenario 3B

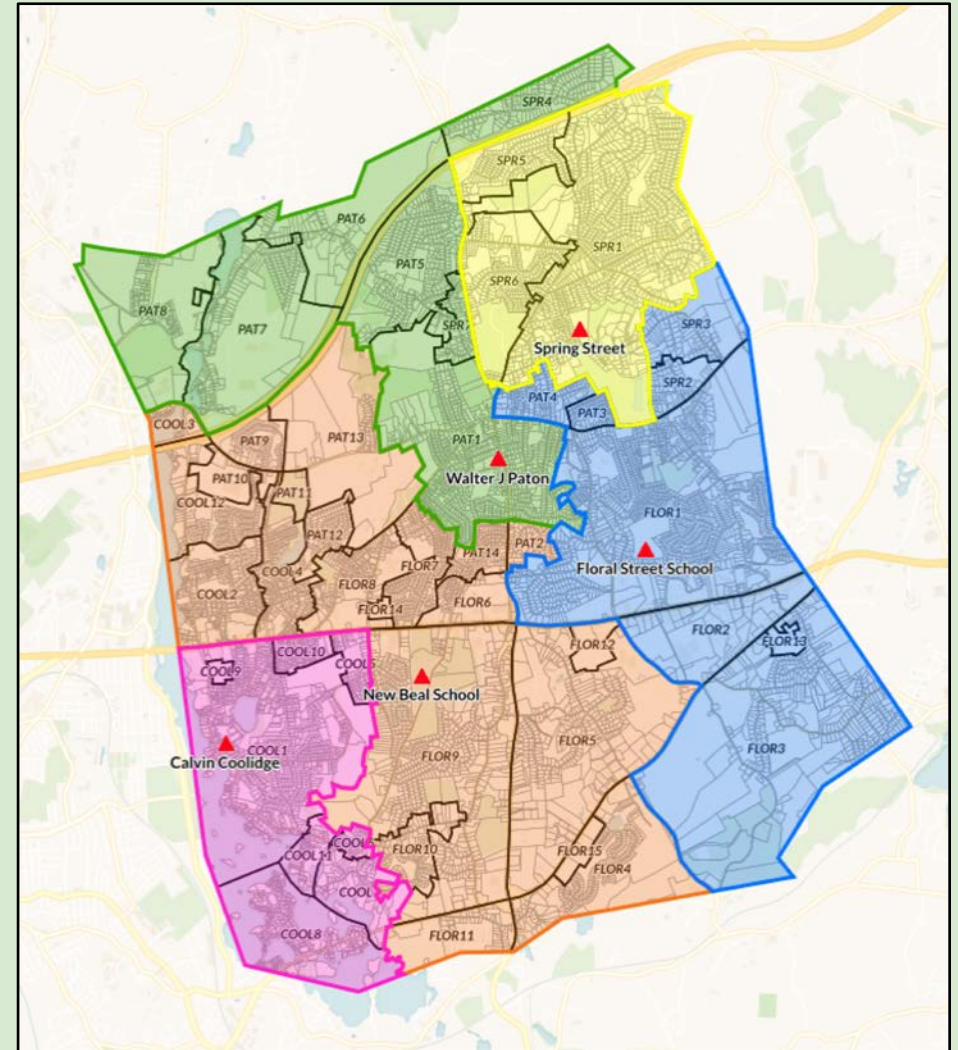



Geographically Compact & Contiguous

School	Projected Grade K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4
Coolidge	65	62	58	60	54
Floral	147	137	123	114	110
Paton	50	64	64	66	72
Spring	59	61	63	66	62
New Beal	135	134	154	151	160

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	Projected K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment (+/-10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	308	283	299	92%	97%
Floral	608	594	631	98%	104%
Paton	308	292	316	95%	103%
Spring	308	300	311	97%	101%
New Beal	790	696	734	88%	93%

Reference: Original Scenario 3B





Scenarios Balancing All Guiding Principles

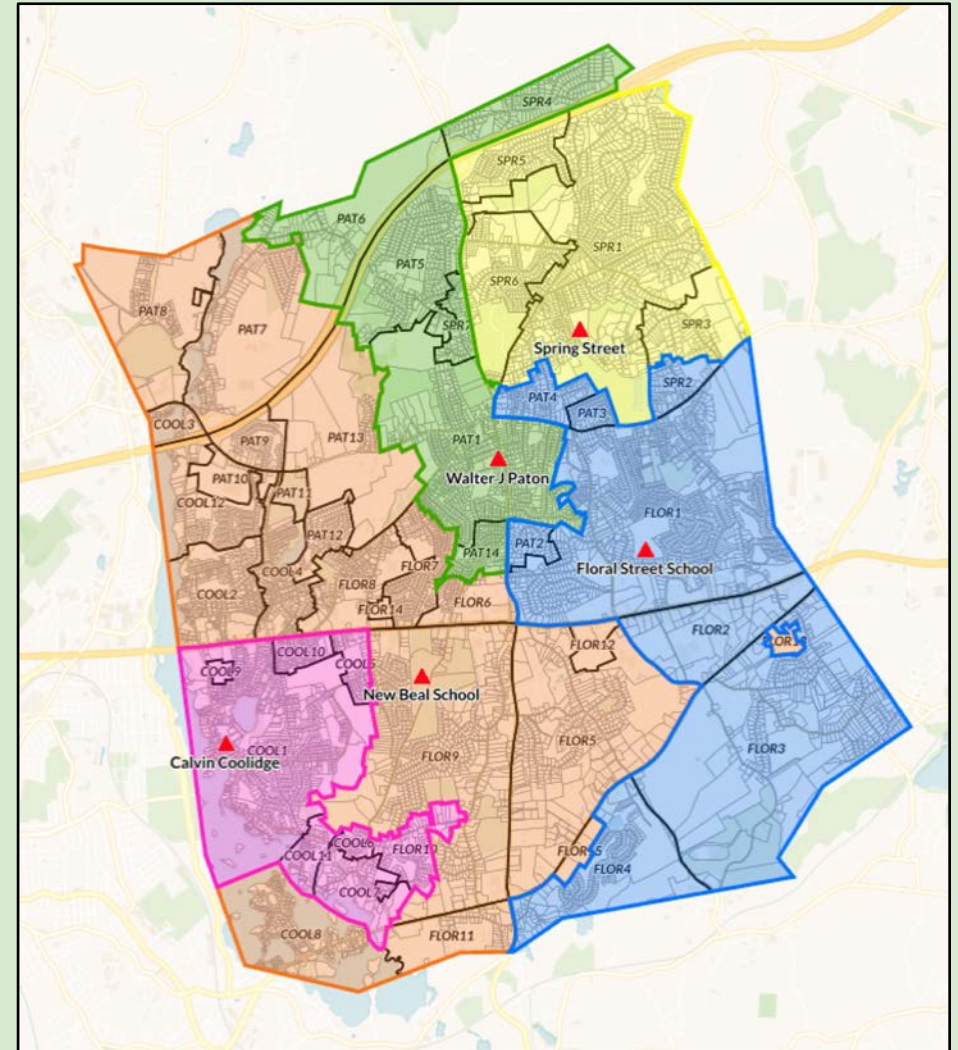
Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles

Option 1 - Projected 2030

School	Projected Grade K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4
Coolidge	58	58	61	64	57
Floral	142	130	112	107	109
Paton	46	62	65	63	79
Spring	63	64	66	70	65
New Beal	147	144	158	153	148

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	Projected K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment (+/-10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	308	286	298	93%	97%
Floral	608	564	600	93%	99%
Paton	308	291	315	94%	102%
Spring	308	316	328	103%	106%
New Beal	790	708	750	90%	95%

Reference: Scenario 13



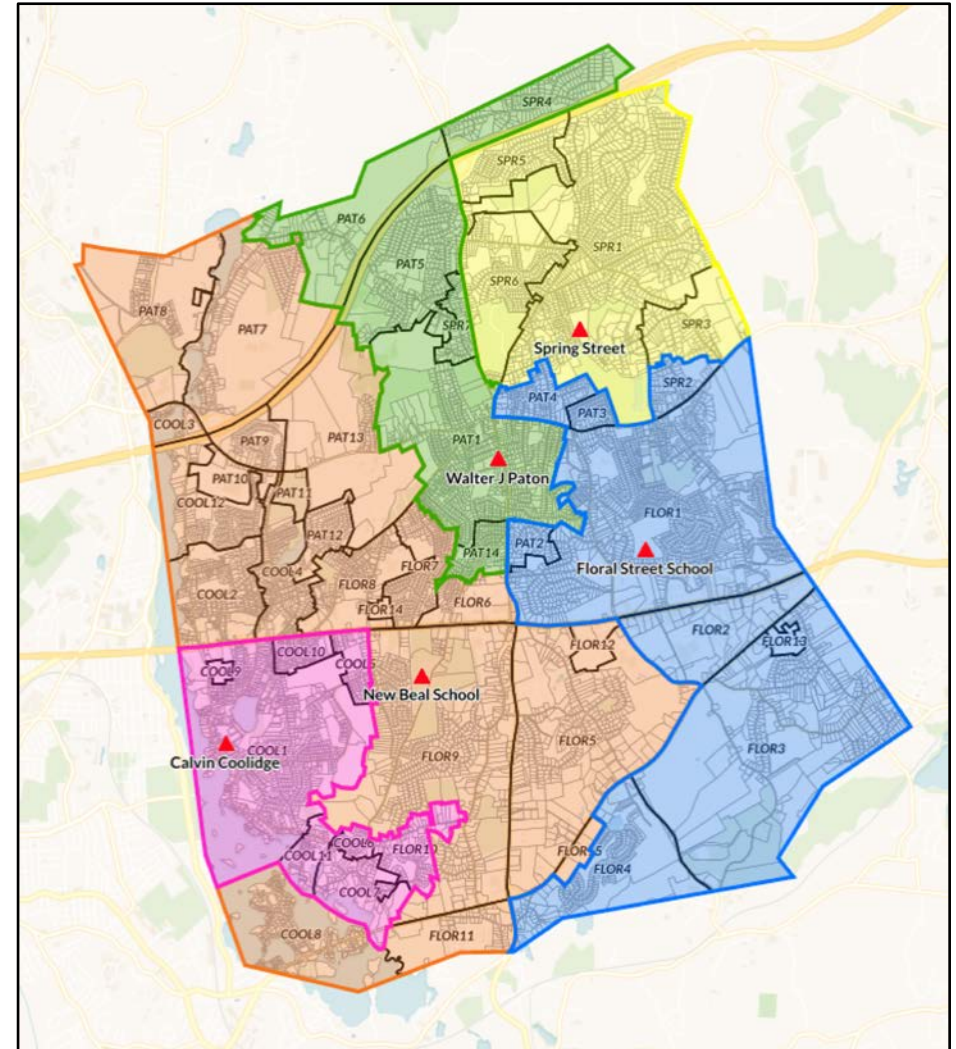
Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles

Option 2

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Coolidge	46	52	61	76	51
Floral	125	136	117	130	136
Paton	37	62	66	51	75
Spring	50	68	61	71	66
New Beal	104	115	128	145	136

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment	% Reduced Lunch	% White	% Non White	% Mixed Race
Coolidge	308	286	93%	34%	55%	37%	8%
Floral	608	644	106%	11%	35%	62%	4%
Paton	308	291	94%	10%	74%	22%	4%
Spring	308	316	103%	7%	65%	29%	6%
New Beal	790	628	79%	20%	52%	43%	5%

Reference: Scenario 14



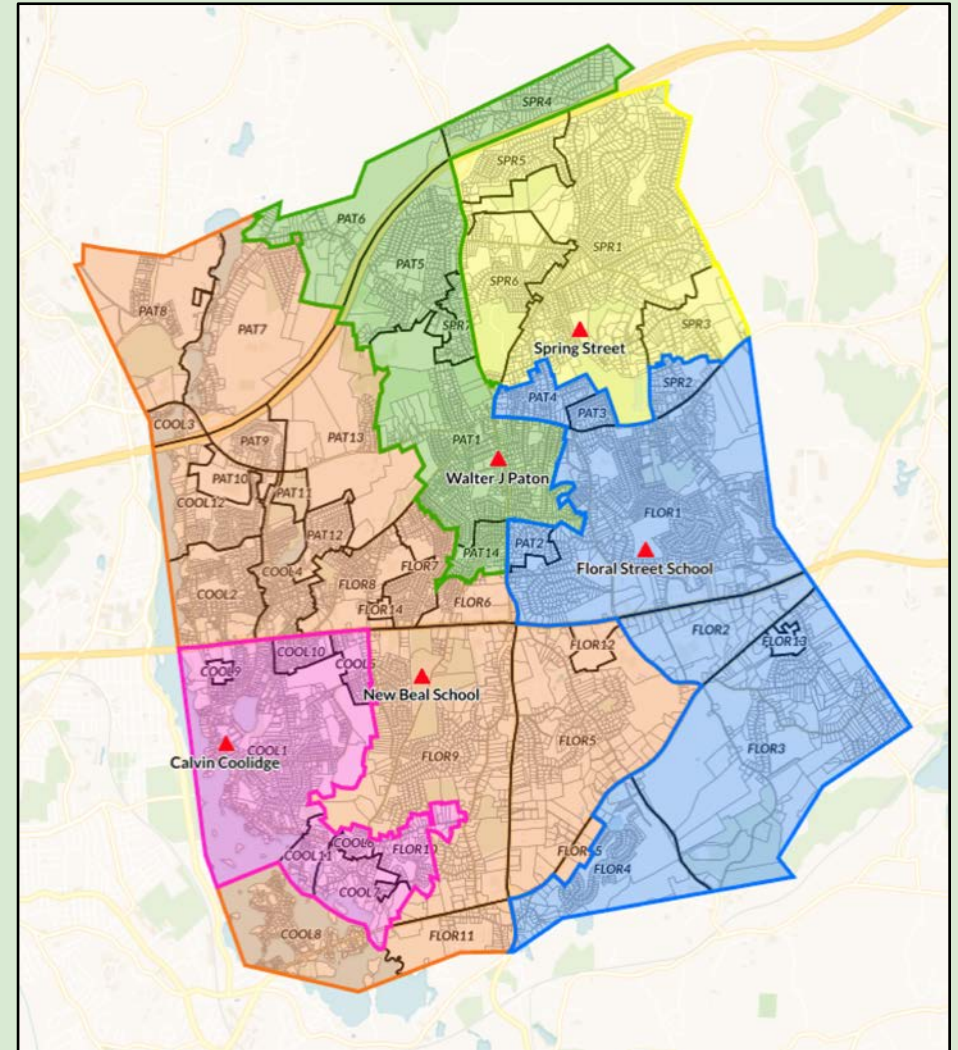
Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles

Option 2 - Projected 2030

School	Projected Grade K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4
Coolidge	58	58	61	64	57
Floral	157	147	133	125	122
Paton	46	62	65	63	79
Spring	63	64	66	70	65
New Beal	132	127	137	135	135

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	Projected K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment (+/-10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	308	286	298	93%	97%
Floral	608	644	684	106%	113%
Paton	308	291	315	94%	102%
Spring	308	316	328	103%	106%
New Beal	790	628	666	79%	84%

Reference: Scenario 14



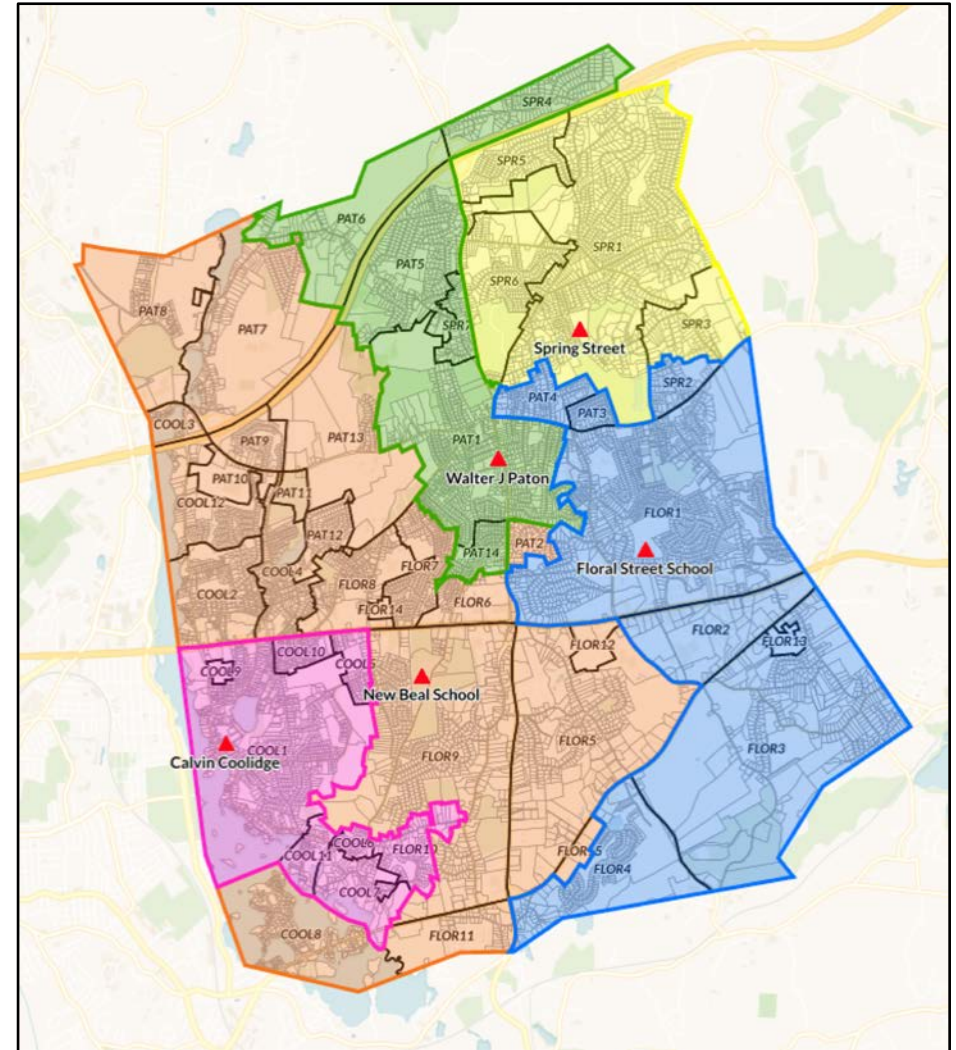
Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles

Option 3

School	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Coolidge	46	52	61	76	51
Floral	122	134	114	126	132
Paton	37	62	66	51	75
Spring	50	68	61	71	66
New Beal	107	117	131	149	140

School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment	% Reduced Lunch	% White	% Non White	% Mixed Race
Coolidge	308	286	93%	34%	55%	37%	8%
Floral	608	628	103%	11%	34%	62%	4%
Paton	308	291	94%	10%	74%	22%	4%
Spring	308	316	103%	7%	65%	29%	6%
New Beal	790	644	82%	20%	52%	43%	5%

Reference: Scenario 15



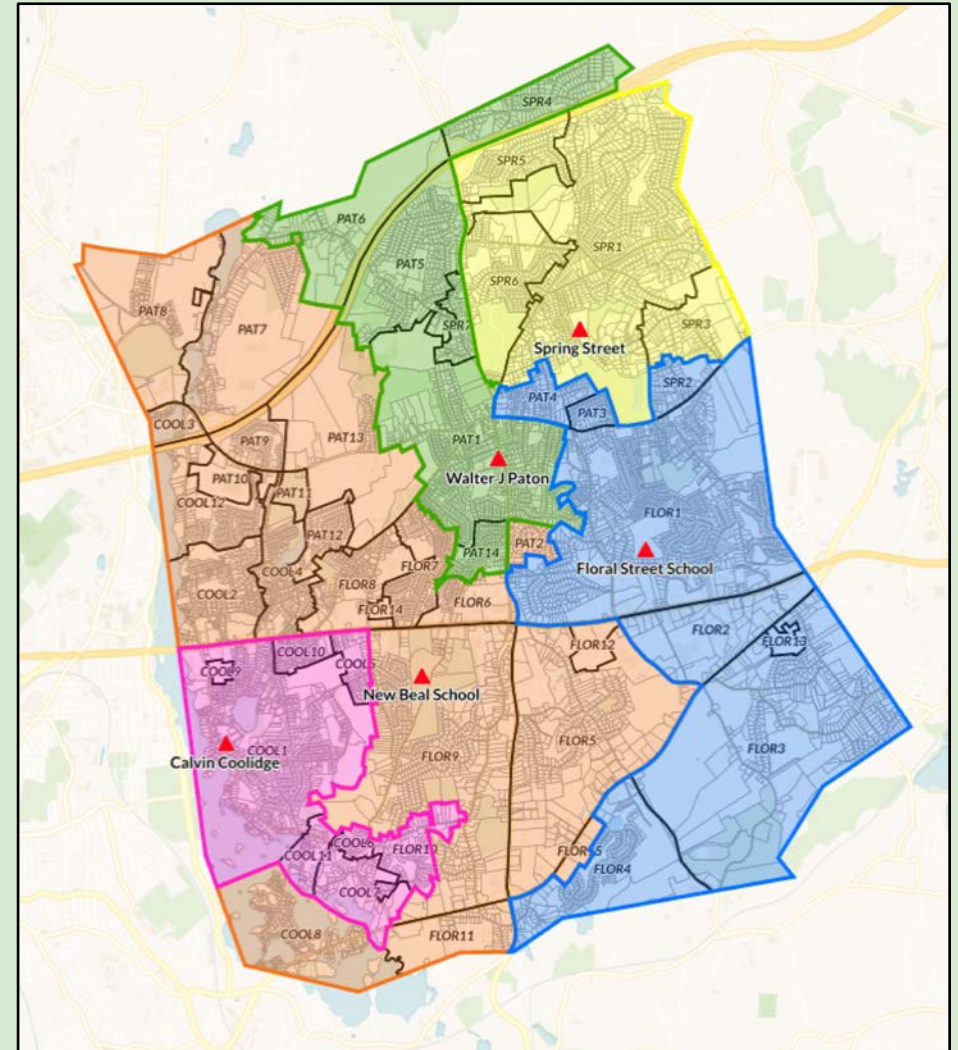
Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles

Option 3 - Projected 2030

School	Projected Grade K	Projected Grade 1	Projected Grade 2	Projected Grade 3	Projected Grade 4
Coolidge	58	58	61	64	57
Floral	153	145	130	120	118
Paton	46	62	65	63	79
Spring	63	64	66	70	65
New Beal	136	129	140	140	139

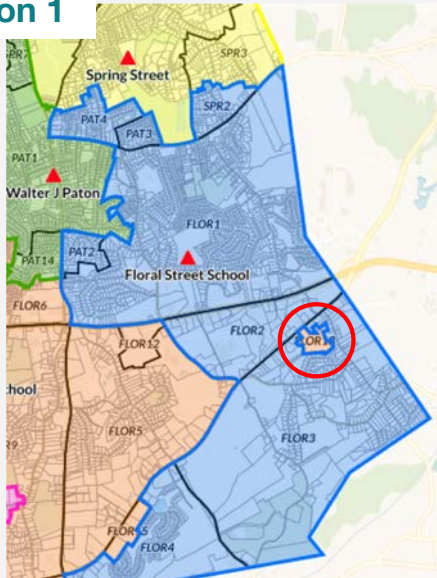
School	Target Enrollment	K Thru 4	Projected K Thru 4	% Target Enrollment (+/-10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	308	286	298	93%	97%
Floral	608	628	666	103%	110%
Paton	308	291	315	94%	102%
Spring	308	316	328	103%	106%
New Beal	790	644	684	82%	87%

Reference: Scenario 15



Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles - Differences in Scenarios

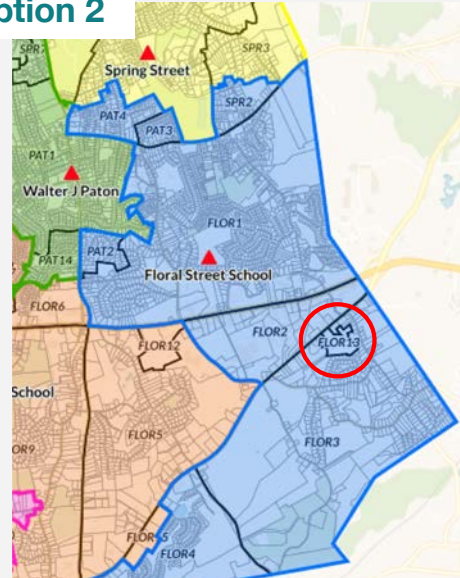
Option 1



PAT2 - Floral; FLOR13 - New Beal

School	% Target Enrollment (+/- 10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	93%	97%
Floral	93%	99%
Paton	94%	102%
Spring	103%	106%
New Beal	90%	95%

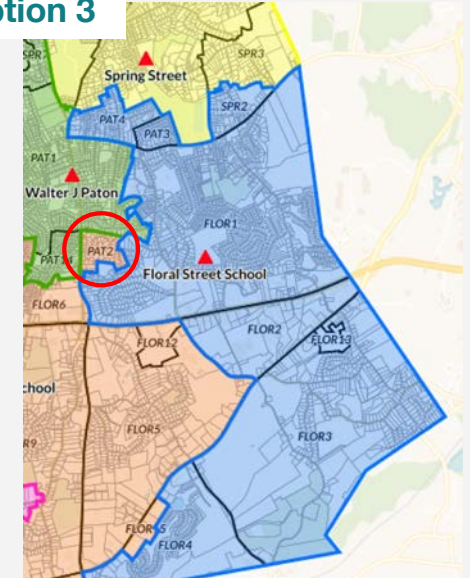
Option 2



PAT2 - Floral; FLOR13 - Floral

School	% Target Enrollment (+/- 10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	93%	97%
Floral	106%	113%
Paton	94%	102%
Spring	103%	106%
New Beal	79%	84%

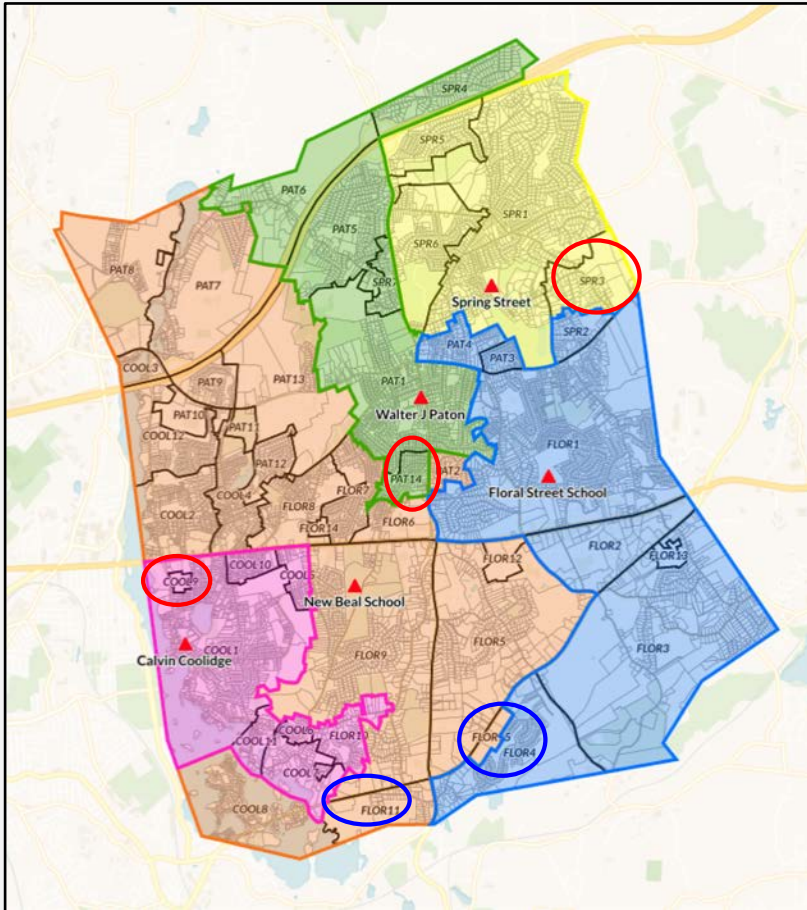
Option 3



PAT2 - New Beal; FLOR13 - Floral

School	% Target Enrollment (+/- 10%)	% Projected Target Enrollment (+/-10%)
Coolidge	93%	97%
Floral	103%	110%
Paton	94%	102%
Spring	103%	106%
New Beal	82%	87%

Focus on Balancing Guiding Principles - Pros & Cons



Showing here Option 3 of the Balancing Guiding Principles Options

PROS

- **Enrollment:** Projected target enrollment balanced
- **Neighborhood:** Paton (PAT14), Coolidge (COOL8), and Spring (SPR3) walkers maintained in current zones
- **Future Development:** Capacity available at New Beal
- **Minimize Change:** Options 2 & 3 have the least number of students displaced (667) of all scenarios considered
- **Student demographics:** Reduced lunch distribution maintained

CONSIDERATIONS

- Potential longer commute for NorthWest Paton students
- Potential Paton walkers (PAT2) to Floral sent to New Beal
- Option 2 most contiguous for Floral but Floral at projected 113%; Option 3 choice of moving PAT2 to New Beal balances Floral further

Comparison of Student Displacement

Scenario	Displaced Students
Focus on Socio-Economic Equity	718
Geographically Compact & Contiguous	684
Balancing Guiding Principles Option 1	721
Balancing Guiding Principles Option 2	667
Balancing Guiding Principles Option 3	667

**Displaced students are defined as those who would be attending a different school than currently. Current 312 Beal students have been excluded from the count.*

Timeline/Meeting Schedule

January

- 1/6 **School Committee** update with a variety of specific options
- 1/12 Redistricting Committee hold a second virtual **Community Forum** to look at specific options and seek feedback
- 1/14 **Redistricting Committee** Meeting finalize pros/cons weighting of each option—show 2-3 options
- 1/20 Redistricting Committee final recommendation to **School Committee**
- 1/27 **School Committee** public hearing

February

- 2/10 **School Committee** vote final plan

March-June

- Communicate plan to our parent community

August

- Implement plan as part of 2021-2022 school year re-opening



Thank You!

AppGeo



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: VII. Finance & Operations
A. Five-Year Fiscal Projection: Report

MEETING DATE: 01/06/21

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In tonight's report, Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer will present historical budget information and detail spending efficiency in the context of relevant comparison groups, and then provide a detailed five-year fiscal projection that incorporates known and upcoming major costs or expenditures, and achievement of the district's Strategic Priorities. The presentation slide deck is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

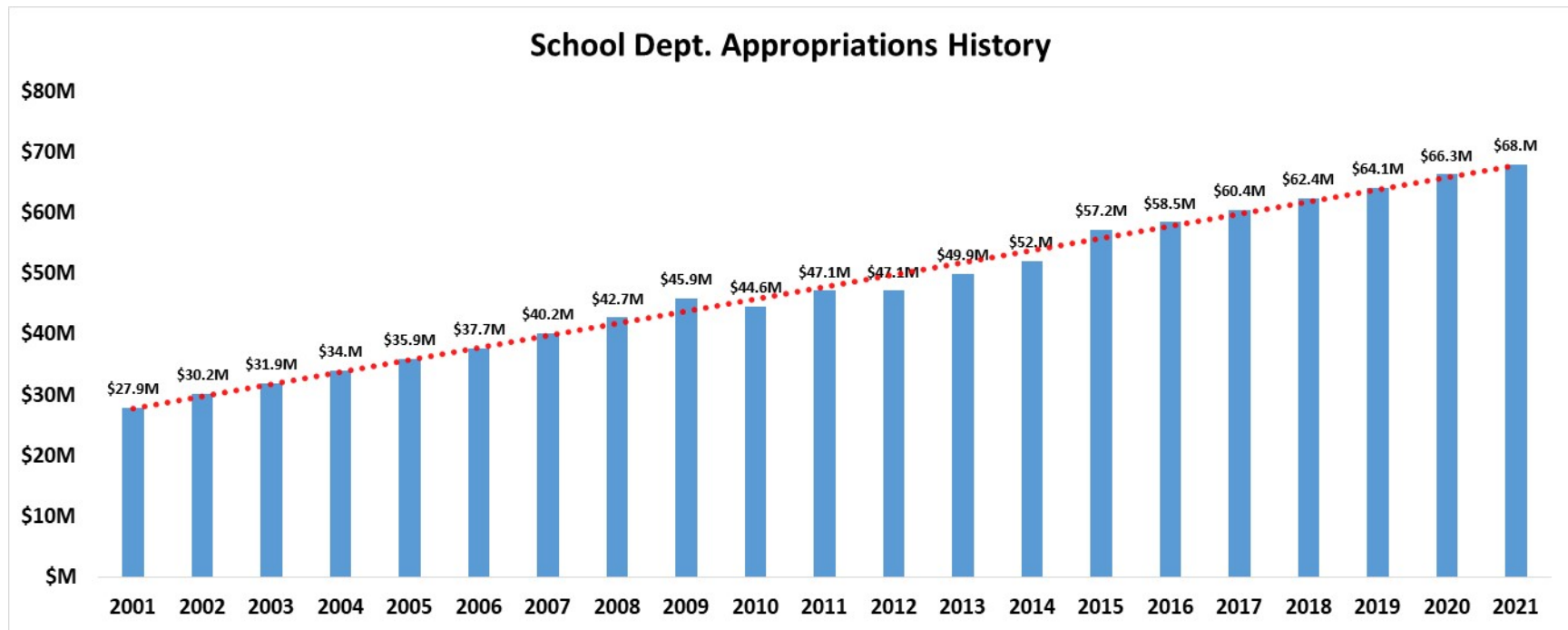
Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Shrewsbury Public Schools

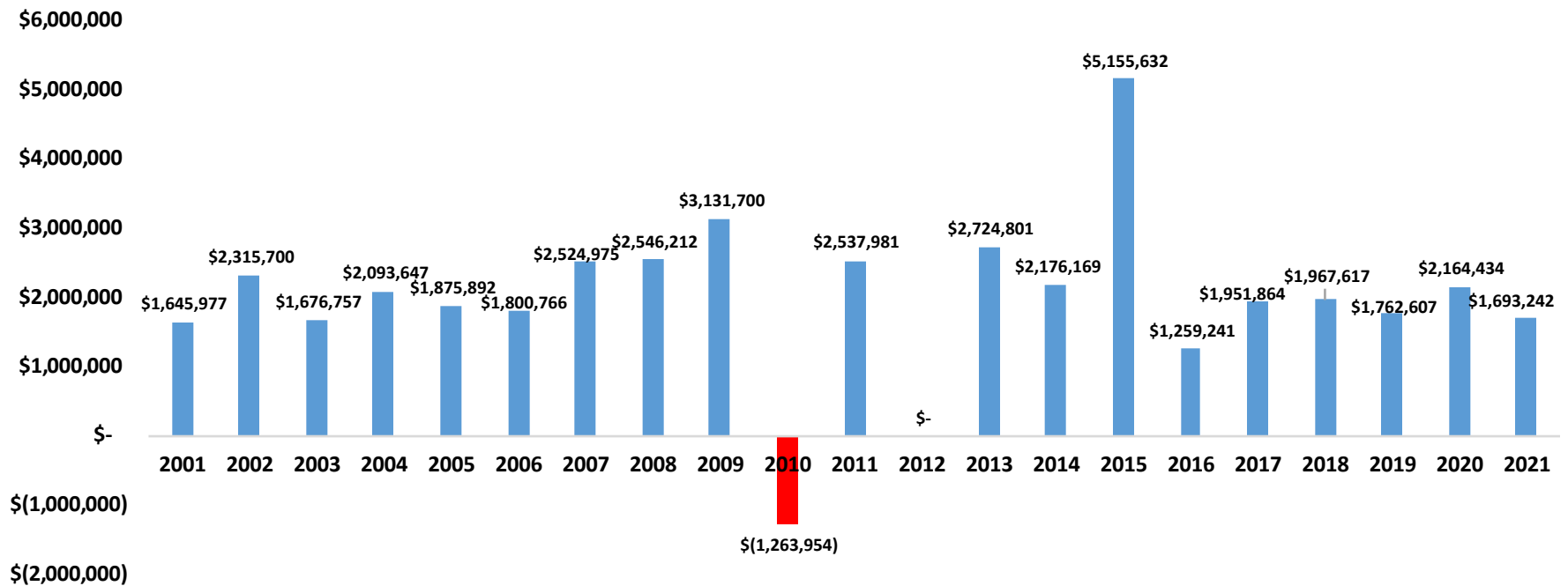
Five Year Fiscal Projection

December 2020

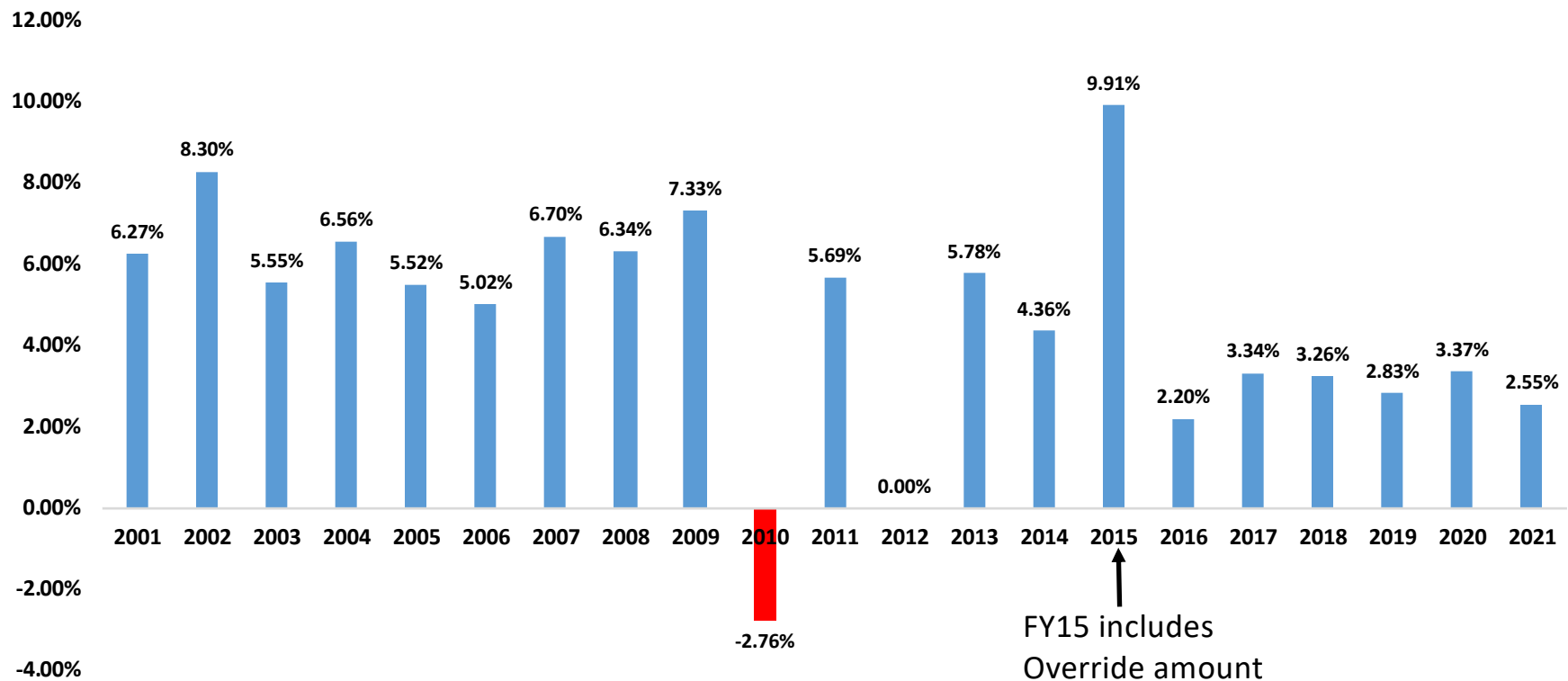
Long Term History [20 year]: School Department Budget



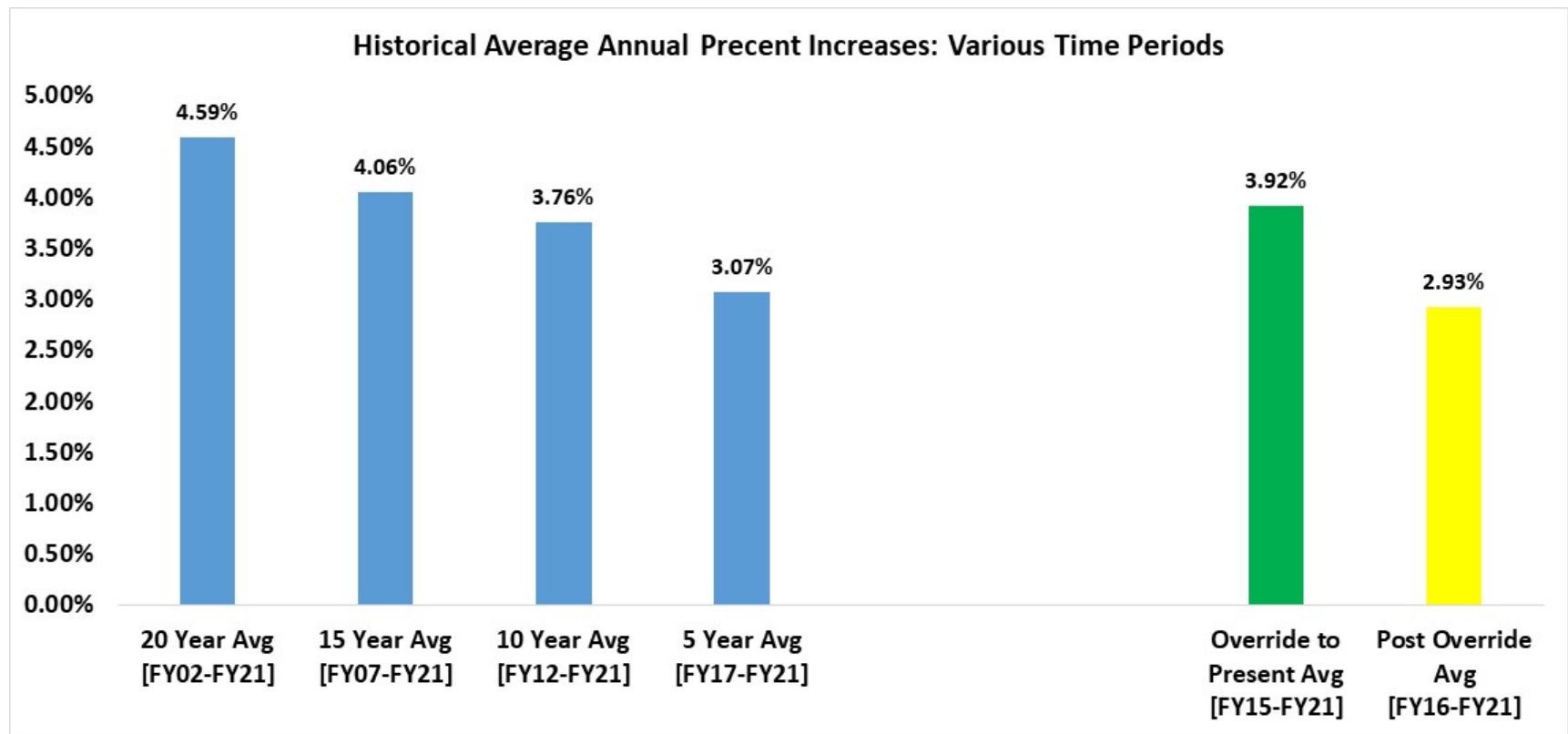
Annual School Budget Appropriations: Historical Amount Increase/Decrease



Annual School Budget Appropriations: Historical Percent Increase/Decrease



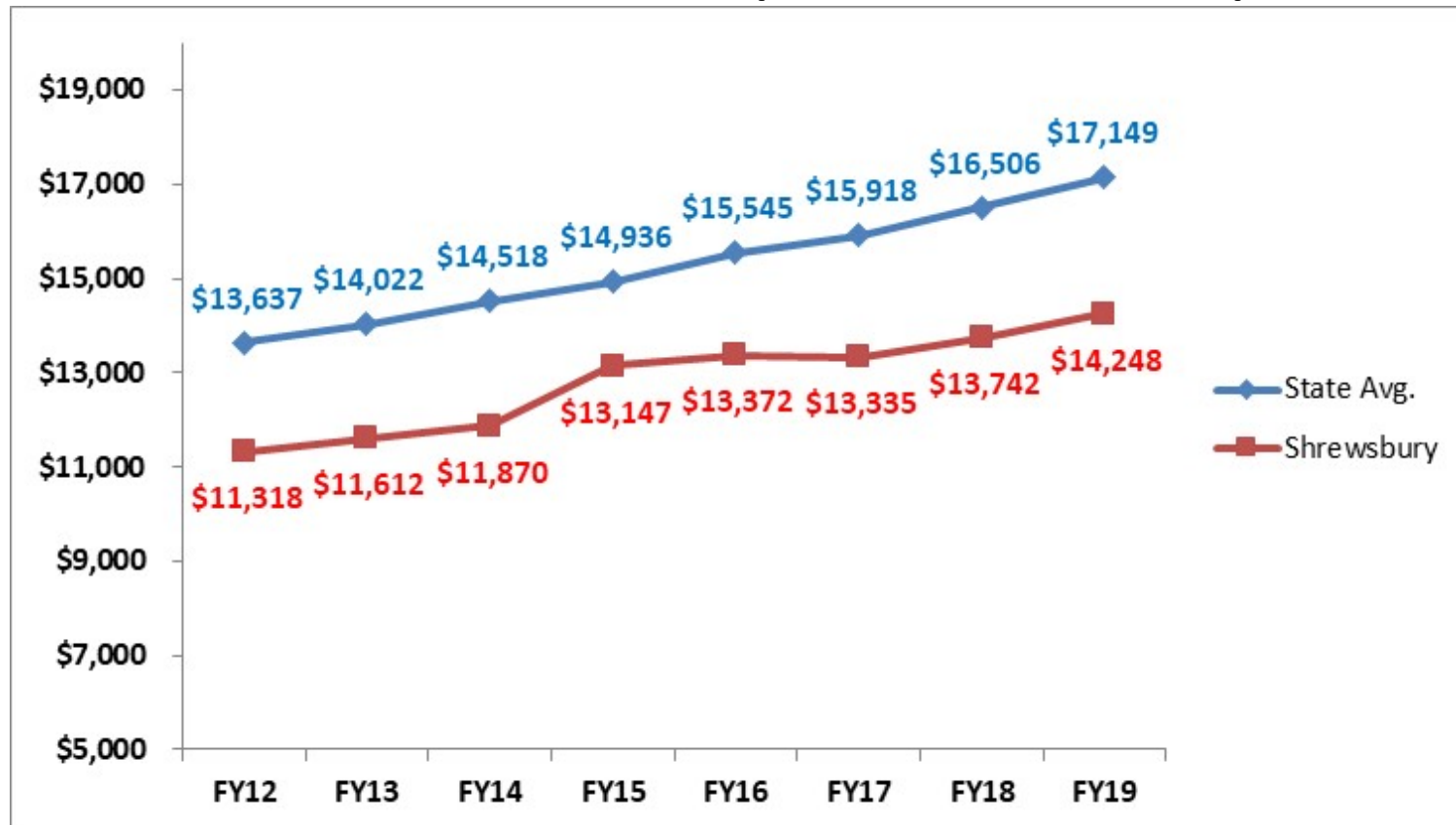
Trend Analysis: Various Time Periods



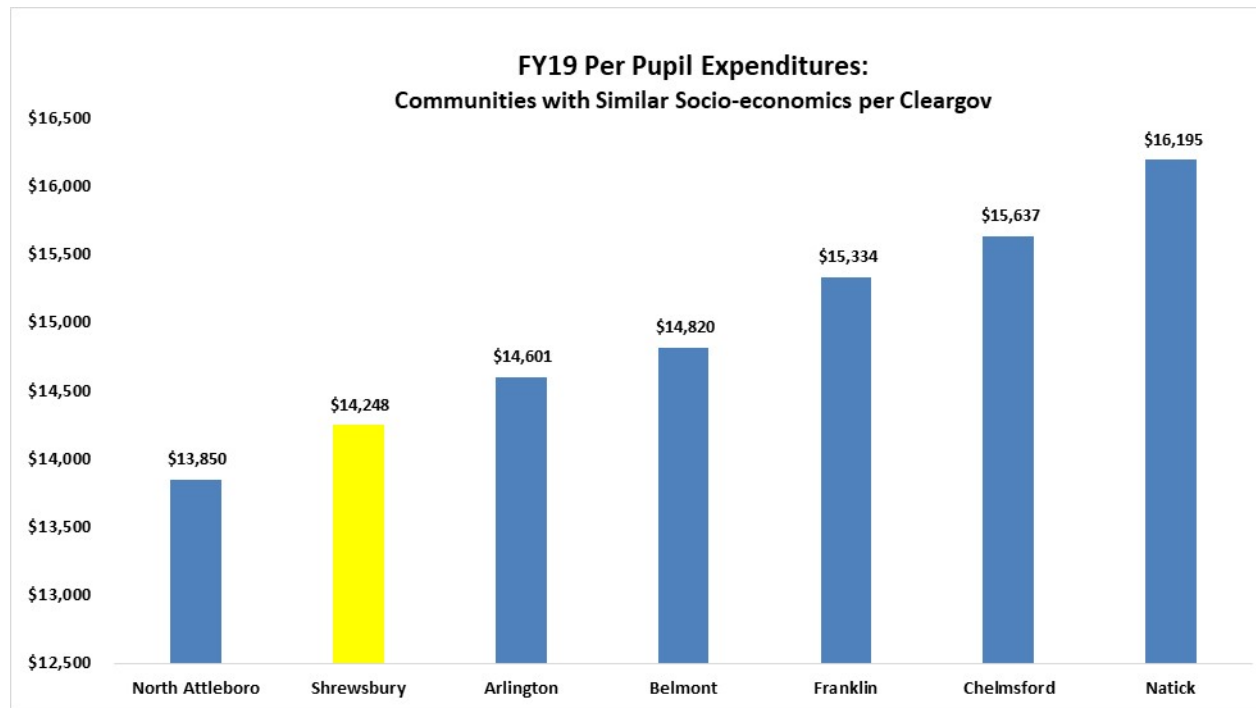
20 Year Range of Budget Changes

Fiscal Year	Percent Change		
2015	9.91%	High	Override
2002	8.30%		
2009	7.33%		
2007	6.70%		
2004	6.56%		
2008	6.34%		
2001	6.27%		
2013	5.78%		
2011	5.69%		
2003	5.55%		
2005	5.52%	Median	
2006	5.02%		
2014	4.36%		
2020	3.37%		
2017	3.34%		
2018	3.26%		
2019	2.83%		
2021	2.55%		
2016	2.20%		
2012	0.00%		
2010	-2.76%	Low	Great Recession

Spending Efficiency in Context of Relevant Comparison Groups



Spending Efficiency in Context of Relevant Comparison Groups



Shift to Future Projections

- Using the past to inform the future
- Factoring known and upcoming major costs or expectations into the projections [i.e. opening New Beal School]
- Planning for achievement of Strategic Priorities, not annual degradation of quality nor elimination of programs/educational supports

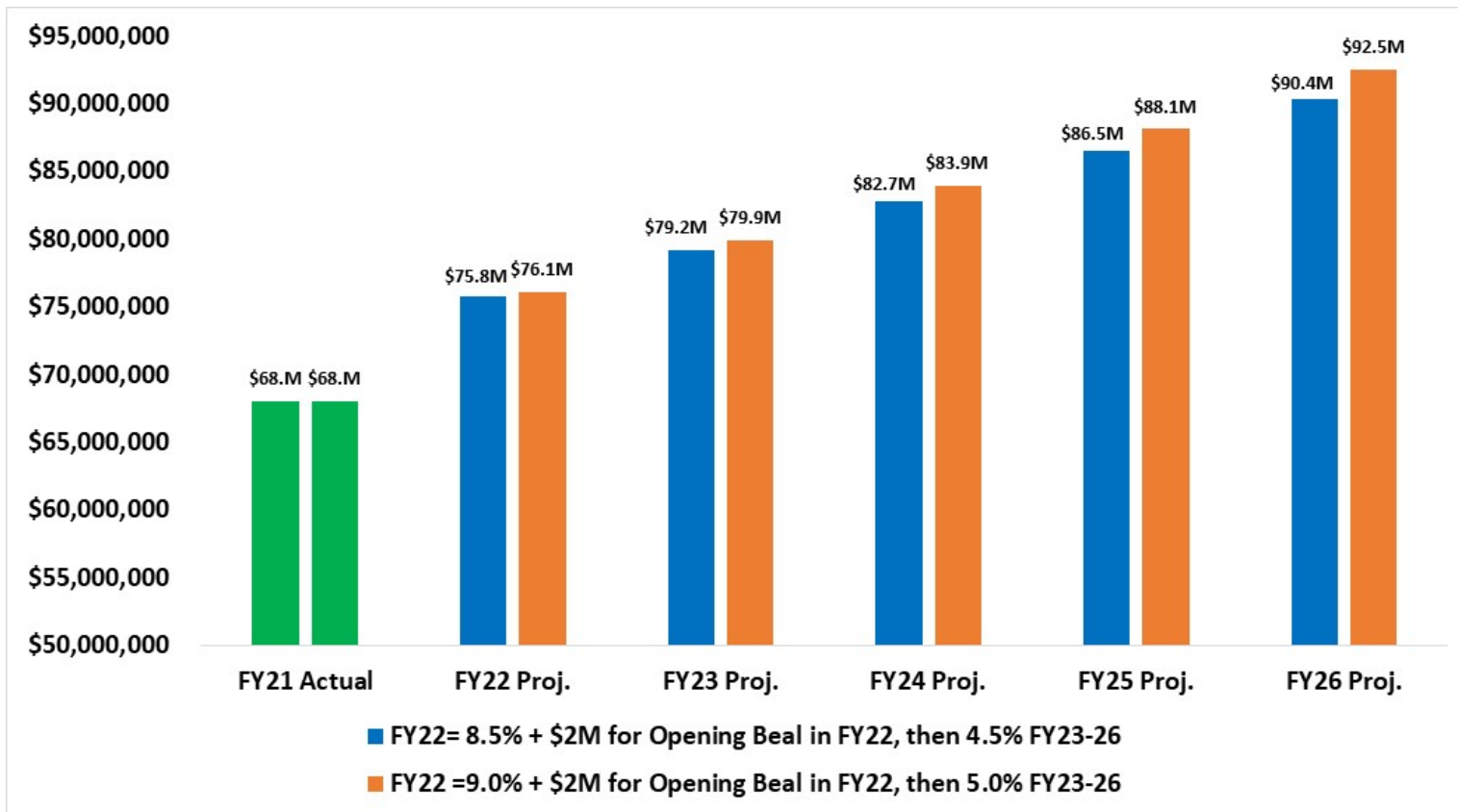
Assumptions

- Cost Assumptions:
 - Labor agreements settle near recent COLAs
 - Out of district placement costs rise with inflation
 - PreK- 12 Enrollment is nearly flat over next five years
 - Transportation cost escalation follows economic pattern
- Revenue Assumptions:
 - Federal and state grants remain flat
 - State Circuit-Breaker funding persists in the 70-75% range
 - Full-day kindergarten tuition eliminated in FY22
 - Fees have annual and incremental increases each year

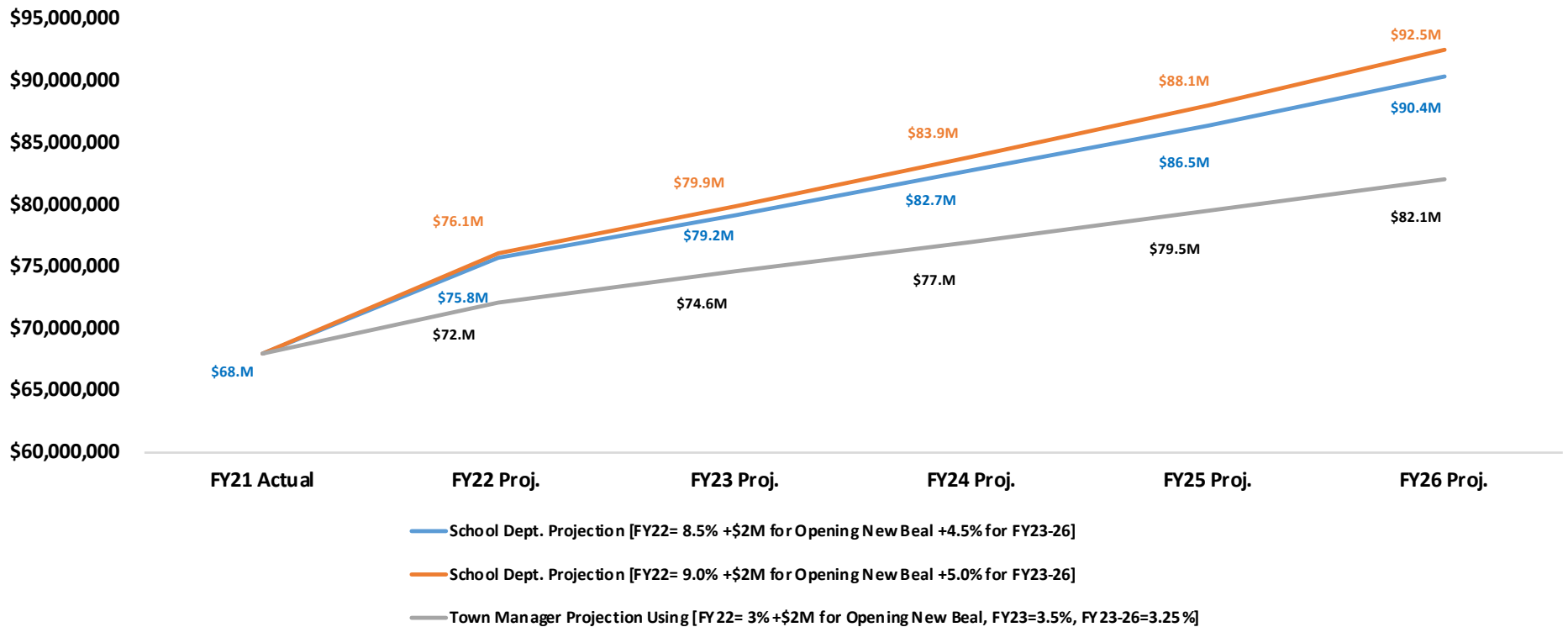
Projections

- Based on the assumptions on the previous, and the history of actual School Department increases, the five-year projection model shows two different scenarios:
 1. An assumption of 4.5% yearly increases on average to maintain programming
 2. An assumption of 5.0% yearly increases on average to maintain programming and make some strategic investments each year
- Projection for Fiscal Year 2022 is for 8.5% increase to maintain programming, plus an additional \$2 million to open the new Beal School. Higher than usual increase to maintain current services is due to one-time 'survival tactics' employed in FY21 that create the need for larger increases in FY22, such as \$1.1 million reduction in salary costs due to union contract renegotiations and use of savings from FY20 school closure to fund necessary services during pandemic

Two Budget Projection Models

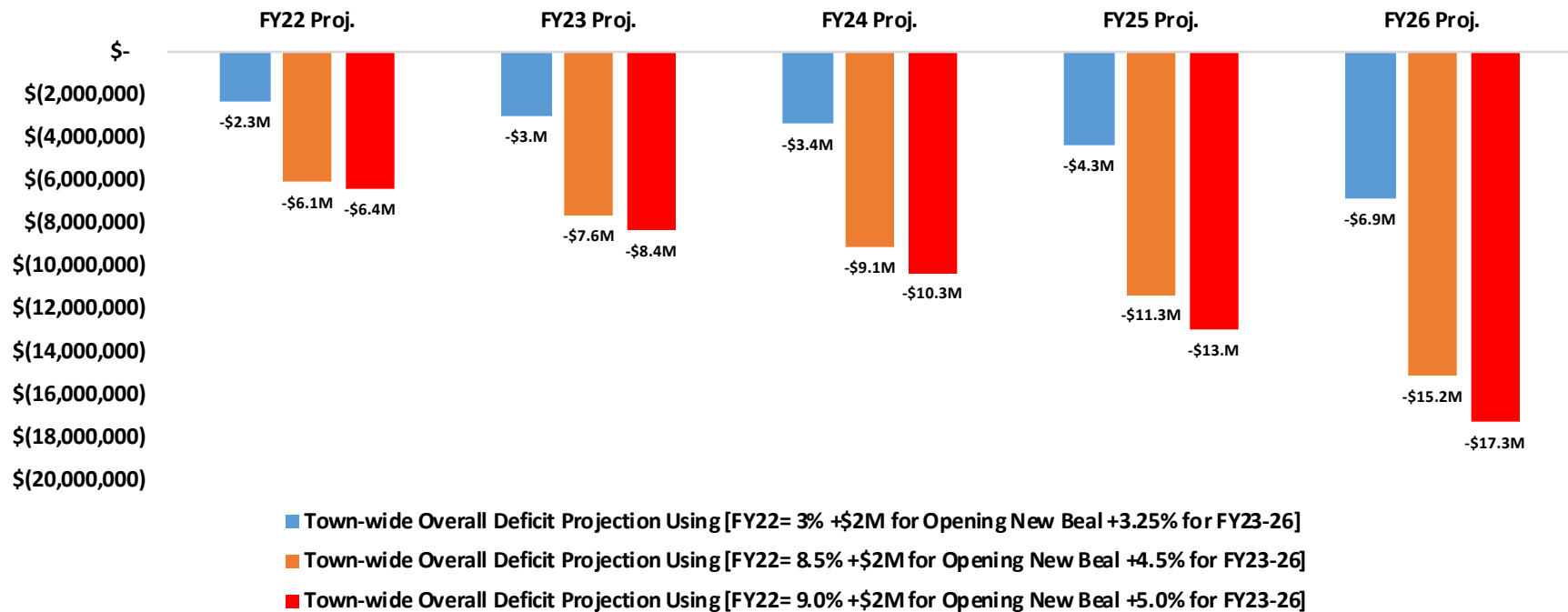


Town Manager and School Dept. Projections



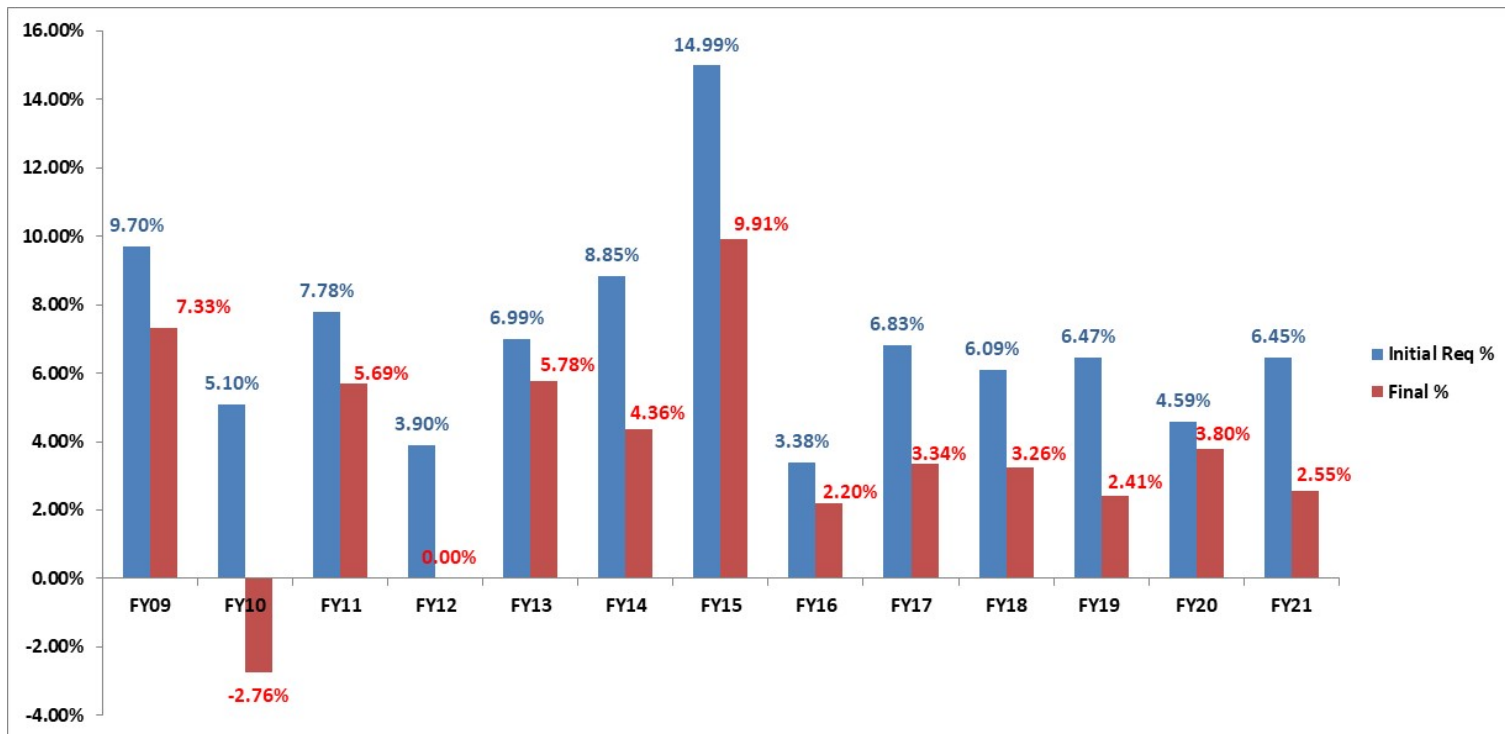
All projection models result in overall town-wide deficits.

Projected Overall Town Deficits



All projections use Town Manager provided data in combination with School Dept. Cost Projection Needs.

Budget Increase History: Recommended vs. Received



Past Funding Pattern Has Led to Program Losses & Implementation of User Fees

- Over the past 20 years, Shrewsbury has experienced significant enrollment growth and diversification of its student body.
- Despite the annual average of 4.5% budget increases, many important educational programs have been eliminated or reduced as funding has not been sufficient to meet all needs.
- During this same time period the School Committee has implemented user fees and periodic fee increases putting additional financial pressure on families.

Educational Services & Programs Lost: Casualties Due to Lack of Funding

- Eliminated classroom teaching positions that increase class sizes (e.g., 3.0 FTE at SHS and 2.0 FTE at Sherwood this year)
- Reduced elementary literacy tutor hours by 40%
- Eliminated foreign language instruction at grades 3, 4, & 5 in the past, grade 6 foreign language eliminated this year

Educational Services & Programs Lost: Casualties Due to Lack of Funding

- Eliminated 7.3 FTE at the preschool level by cutting one teacher and significantly reducing aide support
- Eliminated drama teacher position at Oak
- Eliminated grade 2 and grade 4 health instruction

Educational Services & Programs Lost: Casualties Due to Lack of Funding

- Eliminated advanced math coach positions at Sherwood and Oak
- Reduced elementary media specialists & instruction. One media specialist covers all elementary schools.
- Eliminated media aide positions at SHS, Oak, and Sherwood

Educational Services & Programs Lost: Casualties Due to Lack of Funding

- Reduced general instructional aide hours at elementary level by 60 hours
- Reduced Curriculum and Instruction Textbook and Materials Budget by 50% since FY17
- Eliminated 0.5 FTE of Transportation, Safety & Security Coordinator and all door monitors

Planning Forward

- It will be important to work in concert with other boards, including the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, to develop a fiscal plan that supports the maintaining the appropriate level of services that the community expects in a sustainable manner into the future



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**
B. Food Services Program: Report

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mr. Collins will present a Fiscal Year 2021 update on the Food Services Program that includes a five year financial overview, year-to-date meal claims data, potential adjustments, and that illustrates the impact on the General Fund Operating Budget. The presentation slide deck is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

FY21 Food Service Operation: Fiscal Update

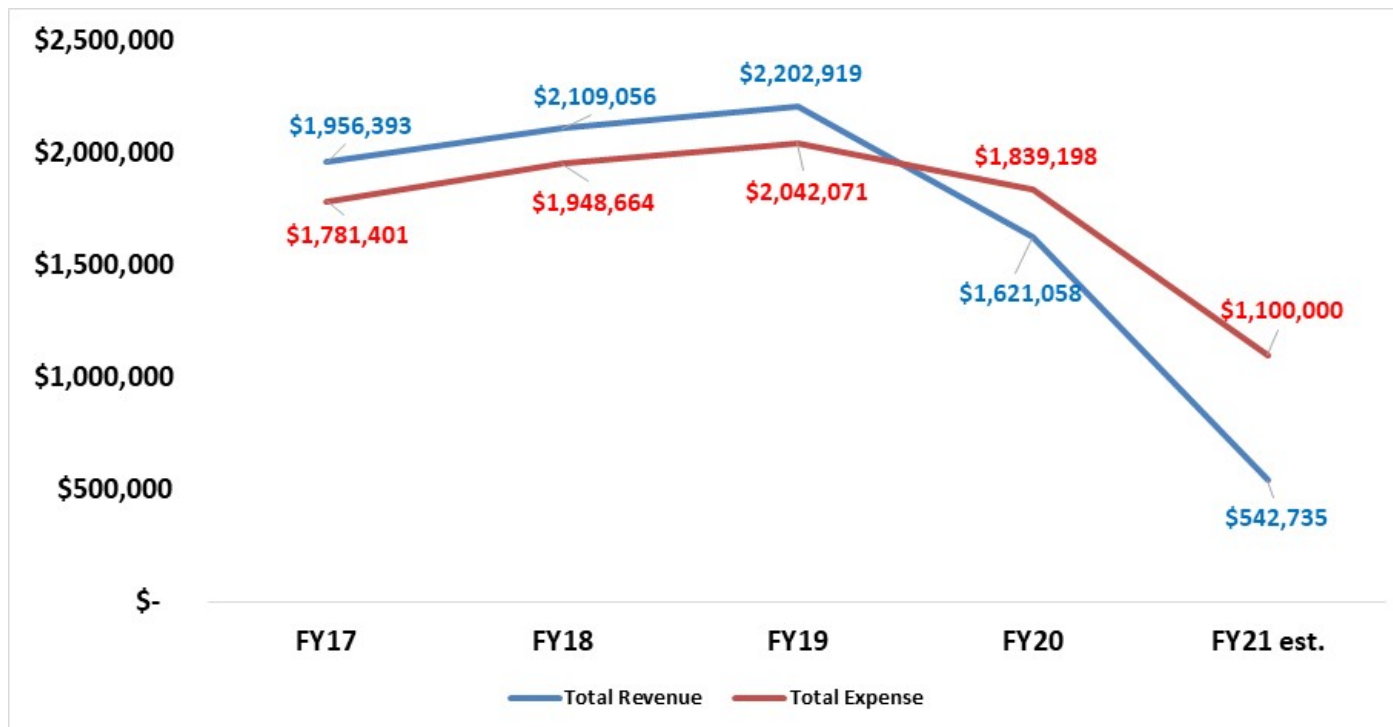
Patrick C. Collins

Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Operations

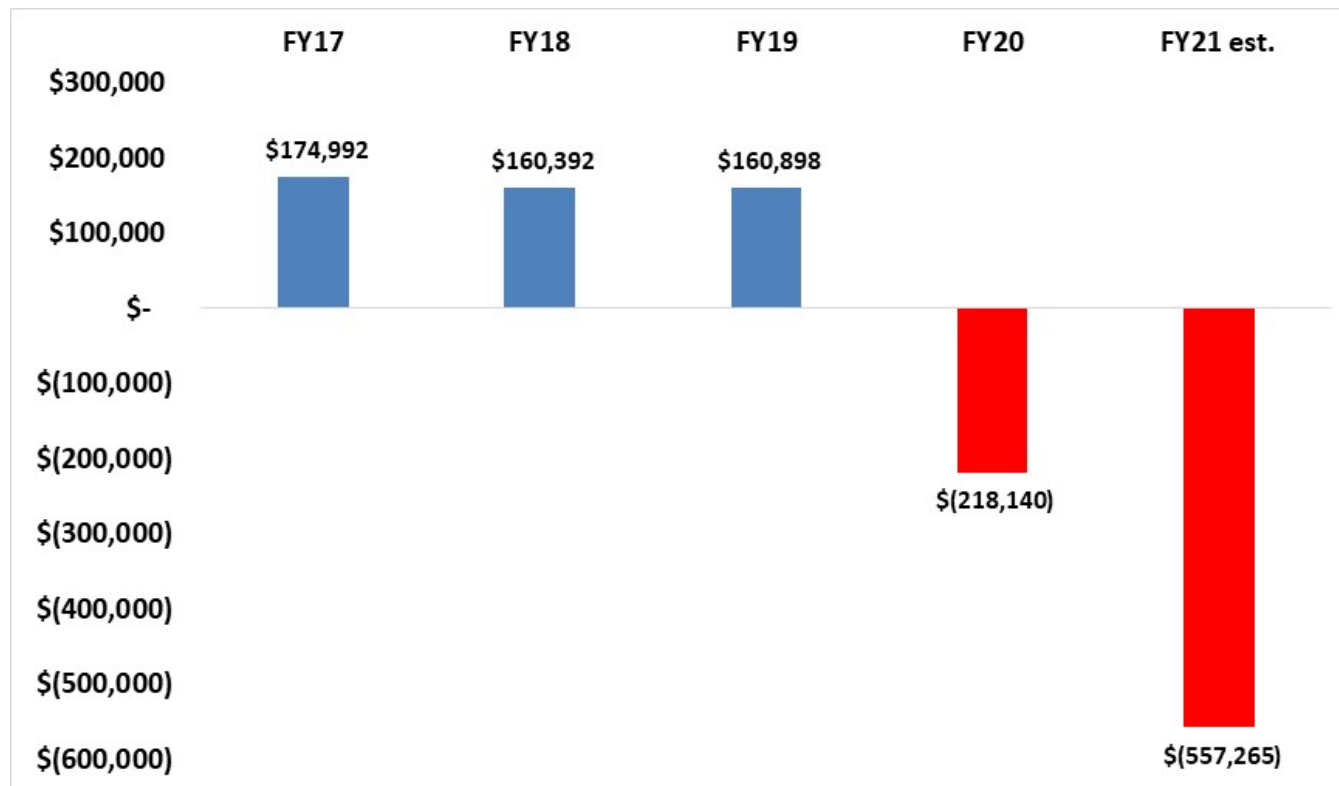
Topics

- Five Year Financial Overview
- Year to date meal claims data
- Potential adjustments
- Impact on General Fund Operating Budget

Five Year Revenue and Expense: History and Forecast



Five-Year Annual Gain [Loss] Results and Forecast



FY21 Revenue Estimating

Government reimbursement
per meal:

Breakfast = \$2.26

Lunch = \$3.64

	In-Person School days	Monthly Reim Revenue	Avg. Revenue/ Day	Notes
Actual September to November				
Sept	12	\$ 24,766	\$ 2,064	10 fewer In-Person days
Oct	20	\$ 65,519	\$ 3,276	
Nov	16	\$ 60,449	\$ 3,778	
December to June projected Using \$3,500 daily average				
Dec	16	\$ 56,000	\$ 3,500	
Jan	13	\$ 45,500	\$ 3,500	Incl. 5 Remote Days
Feb	15	\$ 52,500	\$ 3,500	
Mar	23	\$ 80,500	\$ 3,500	
Apr	17	\$ 59,500	\$ 3,500	
May	20	\$ 70,000	\$ 3,500	
Jun	13	\$ 45,500	\$ 3,500	
	165			
		Total Reim. Revenue	Estimating Models	
			Est.#1 Total Revenue	Maximum Revenue Est.
	165	\$ 560,235		
			Est.#2 Total Revenue	
	160	\$ 542,735		If 5 more Remote Days
			Est.#3 Total Revenue	
	155	\$ 525,235		If 10 more Remote Days

Reasons for Plummeting Revenues

- On any given day we have approximately 35% of the total enrolled students in school in the hybrid model which significantly reduces our participation
- No a la carte sales
- Kindergarten enrollment is down
- No adult meal sales

Covid Funding for Food Service Operations

- The \$1.39M Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant cannot be used to offset revenue losses
- MA DESE recently announced [12/11/2020] a \$5M targeted grant for school food service operations
 - Shrewsbury's allocation was \$10,909 and is being used to offset costs for "Grab & Go" packaging used as a result of Covid

Future Actions

- Potential reduction in staff work hours but realistically cannot cut much more and certainly no where what is needed to close the gap
 - For example, eliminating all work hours on Wednesdays would save approximately \$38K between mid January and end of school year
- We need to prepare for covering a loss in the range of \$500K if our operating circumstances do not change

Message to Parents and Students

- **TAKE THE FREE MEALS!!!**

- ALL students are eligible for the FREE meals
- By taking the meals you not only get a nutritious breakfast and lunch, you are **HELPING THE DISTRICT FINANCIALLY**

Message to Parents and Students

- Our drive through meal pick up program continues
- For remote students [Cohort D] or “hybrid students” [Cohort B and C] meals can be picked up at Shrewsbury High School on;
 - Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-11am

If you cannot pick up at these times and need meals please contact our Food Service Director, Beth Nichols at bnichols@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us or 508-841-8819



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on December 9, 2020 and the School Committee Meeting held on December 16, 2020 are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on December 9, 2020 and the School Committee Meeting held on December 16, 2020.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson

Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
December 9, 2020**

School Committee Workshop meeting opened at 6:02 PM.

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; and Ms. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources.

Agenda items

State Budget Update

Mr. Collins provided an update regarding the State Budget. Current projections are what was expected from August Town Meeting. No difference in Chapter 70 aid. One key change helpful to schools - New COVID grant program “one time COVID 19 response remote learning” to be distributed to schools - \$25 per capita, \$75 per student for those qualifying for free & reduced lunch. This translates into \$220K for Shrewsbury in form of a grant - won’t come in as general aid to the town. This will be in the form of allocation by district that SPS needs to apply for and advise how the money will be spent. Funding assumed to be good to end of current FY (June 30). We will know more by early January. This funding will be helpful to pay for COVID expenses - January 1 to June 30. This is restricted money for COVID-related expenses only. Federal - \$1.39M - must be spent by December 30, 2020, unless extended by the Federal Government. Circuit Breaker - level - dead even projection.

Five year budget projection review

Mr. Collins presented financial projections for Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) and the town over the next five years. Town Manager projects town wide deficit for the next five years. Reviewed history of SPS budget & town appropriations and future projections based on history, factoring in known and upcoming major costs or expectations into projections. Mr. Collins reviewed several Budget Projection Models for School Committee to understand the impact of town deficit on school budget. The committee & Central Office discussed mitigation strategy to off-set future budget deficits, including options available for increasing fiscal resources.

Communication strategy re: FY 22 - structural and opening new Beal

The School Committee discussed messaging to the public regarding school budget challenges for FY 22. What’s the message, and when and how we communicate these challenges, will be addressed at a future School Committee meeting. Mrs. Fryc encouraged transparency and Mr. Palitsch encouraged that we begin communicating as soon as possible, versus later. Dr. Sawyer suggested beginning these public discussions right after the new year given the likely impact on morale and the sense that the public will not be paying much attention just prior to the holidays. The committee discussed focusing a future meeting around revenue and other budget impact issues that the community needs to think about. Also discussed was community outreach through PTO Meetings. The overall consensus is that opening the new Beal School with adequate staffing is a key priority in FY 22 and any risk to that priority must be called

out as soon as possible. The committee discussed sending a budget summary letter to the Board of Selectmen to raise these concerns and communicate projections. As a result, on a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize Ms. Fryc to send a summary letter.

Next Meeting

The Committee discussed moving the January 13, 2020 Budget Workshop date to Tuesday, January 19.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session: Mr. Palitsch; second: Mr. Wensky. Roll call: Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; and Ms. Heffernan, yes. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:32pm.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; and Ms. Heffernan, yes.

Minutes submitted by: Mr. Wensky.

Documents Referenced: Budget Workshop Slide Presentation

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this meeting was not open to physical attendance by the public, but was broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29 & 329 and streamed live on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website. A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Fryc at 5:33 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer commended the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Performing Arts Department on the Fall Play *Our Place*, which was produced with students wearing masks and practicing social distancing, and shared via video for viewing. Dr. Sawyer reported that over 130 individuals applied for the SHS Mascot ad hoc study group and that the number of total participant slots had been expanded to 32 in light of the volume and quality of the applicants and to reflect a diversity of backgrounds.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Update on Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report

Dr. Sawyer presented a summary of key messages, the current COVID-19 case count in the district, and current state and local public health data; cited medical literature focused on in-school transmission risk; noted updated state guidance on decision-making relative to changing educational programs; discussed maintaining stability and supporting students in the current environment; and provided the rationale for implementing a traditional snow day/school cancellation the following day.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Sawyer provided additional information on the district's planned response to one case of possible in-school COVID-19 transmission, and on a recent vote by the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) relative to the required amount of time and learning for students in hybrid and remote educational programs.

B. Update on Beal School Construction Project: Report

Mr. Collins introduced Ms. Kathryn Crockett, President, LPA/A, and Mr. Walter Hartley, Project Manager, PMA Associates, who attended the meeting remotely via video. In her update Ms. Crockett advised that the project was currently 60% complete, on target for substantial completion by May 2021, and on target for occupancy by Fall 2021; noted orders for furniture had been issued; and discussed work by SHS students and Dr. Magee on a history wall planned for the school. Ms. Crockett also provided narration for a drone flyover video of the site (filmed December 13, 2020) presented to the Committee, and answered questions regarding the community and butterfly gardens planned for the site. Committee members acknowledged that good progress was being made on the project.

C. Update on Elementary Redistricting Project: Report

Mr. Collins introduced Ms. Kate Hickey, Principal in Charge, AppGeo; Ms. Priya Sankalia, Project Manager, AppGeo; and Mr. Bob Scardamalia, President, RLS Demographics, who attended the meeting remotely via video. Ms. Sankalia described the composition of the Redistricting Team; detailed the project process and workflow; addressed some of the factors addressing redistricting (e.g., development potential); presented current district student distribution by race/ethnicity, income, special education services, and English Learning; and noted next steps in the timeline. Mr. Collins addressed the project goals and objectives; the rationale for the redistricting plan; and the School Committee's guiding principles for redistricting. Mr. Scardamalia provided data on projected enrollment and demographics, detailing the use of historical enrollment data with fertility and migration analyses. Noting overall racial diversity in town, but a concentration of free/reduced lunch student enrollment in the Calvin Coolidge School district, Mr. Collins advised that the Redistricting Team aspires to even out those factors to the extent possible in the process. Ms. Fryc reiterated upcoming important dates in the project timeline.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations**A. Recommendation for 1:1 iPad Deployment for Grades K-4: Report**

Director of Information Technology Brian L'Heureux provided background information on 1:1 iPad access for SPS students, shared feedback from teachers on increased access, and discussed screen time considerations prior to recommending that the district continue to provide 1:1 access to iPads for grades K-4 students going forward, and detailing the associated financial implications. Committee members expressed support for the recommendation. Dr. Sawyer and Ms. Clouter noted that greater access to technology facilitated increased proficiency among younger students, and more equitable access to digital resources for all students.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on December 2, 2020 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session:

- a) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes, and
- b) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, on a roll call vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 7:31 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. 2020-21 School Year Reopening Update Slide Presentation
2. Elementary Redistricting Project Update Slide Presentation
3. Grades K-4 iPad Deployment Recommendation Report
4. Grades K-4 iPad Deployment Recommendation Slide Presentation
5. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **01/06/21**

- A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.**
- B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Executive session is warranted for these purposes.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee enter into executive session:

- A. for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes; and
- B. for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body; and return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: XII. Adjournment