

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

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

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM and Ms. Fryc immediately requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association – Unit A, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 6:30 PM.

The Committee returned to open session at 7:00 PM, and the meeting was recessed. Ms. Malone left the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 7:06 PM by Ms. Fryc.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Liza Trombley, Director of English at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) and Capstone Program advisor, and ten SHS students who recently completed a set of thoughtful and diverse projects for the Capstone Exhibition Honors course, which allows students to pursue an independent project over the course of the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

SHS students Sophia Peng (Chairperson), Aabia Hasan, David Lee, and Nikitha Ram, (Max Evers was unable to attend as he was competing in a track meet) presented the Committee with an update on the Class Cup competition, provided information from Quarter Two on new academic initiatives and extracurricular activities, and summarized issues presented by students at a recent SHS annual Town Meeting. In response to questions from the Committee, the students provided additional information on: a request for additional counseling for career and military options from students, issues around providing feminine protection products in school bathrooms, and monies raised by SHS fundraisers (Coins for a Cure raised \$3,576 for breast cancer research).

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Program of Studies: Recommended Changes for 2020-2021

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Ms. Maureen Monopoli, Assistant Principal, Shrewsbury High School (SHS), gave the report. Mr. Bazydlo described the course selection timeline in detail; Ms. Monopoli provided information on efficiency of course scheduling (satisfaction rate was 95.8% for 2019-2020) and detailed proposed changes to courses in Family & Consumer Science, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Performing Arts, Science & Engineering, Social Science, and Visual Arts.

The Committee asked clarifying questions regarding the genesis of some of the proposed new courses, staffing for new Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and the co-study option for advanced mathematics students; suggested getting feedback from graduates on their high school mathematics preparation; and noted the importance of offering a course that is challenging, but not overwhelming, for seniors who struggle with math. Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation for proposed inclusion courses that are modeled on the successful Unified Program at SHS, and gave kudos (with the Committee and presenters) to Mr. Gregory Nevader, Assistant Principal, for his work on course scheduling at SHS.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Preschool Tuition Rates for 2020-2021: Vote

Dr. Sawyer summarized proposed changes to the district's preschool program offerings and tuition rates for 2020-2021 that were presented to the Committee at their meeting on December 18, 2019 by Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and Mrs. Lisa Robinson, Parker Road Preschool Principal. He advised that no feedback had been received from the public since posting the information for review and comment after the December 18 meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the adjustments to preschool tuition rates and program offerings for Fiscal Year 2021 as illustrated in the Superintendent's recommendation memo.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. State of the District: Report

Dr. Sawyer began his report by citing indicators of excellence in the district (noting its commitment to excellence for all students is exemplified by SHS's recent designation as a National Unified Champion School by Special Olympics), recognizing the contributions of superb educators and staff, and acknowledging strong leadership from the School Committee and support from town government and the community. He noted the importance of staying focused on the district's vision for the future as outlined in the *Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate*, and went on to provide detailed information on work being done to advance each of the district's four strategic priorities. He added that that additional Social and Emotional Learning resources being utilized were much needed and appreciated, but noted there are still challenges around serving students with significant mental health needs.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the amount of progress made on the district's strategic priorities; acknowledged challenges around space, funding, and meeting parent concerns regarding ensuring all students' success; and noted that Dr. Sawyer's report represented a good lead-in to the budget process.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from School Committee Meeting held on December 18, 2019, and the School Committee Workshop held on December 19, 2019, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Please see above.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Student Advisory Committee Agenda
2. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Report
3. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Slide Presentation

4. Superintendent's Memo - FY21 Preschool Tuition and Programs
5. Superintendent's State of the District Report
6. Superintendent's State of the District Slide Presentation
7. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above