

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**100 MAPLE AVENUE**  
**SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**January 19, 2021**

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.

**Discussions:**

1. There was a discussion of previously presented 5 year projections. FY 22 presents challenges both regarding the uncertainty of teaching conditions and costs due to the Covid pandemic as well as the fact that all revenue projections are below what is needed to sustain the district even under the most modest cost projections. We will be releasing an initial budget proposal the first week of February and the Town Manager will release his Town budget proposal a week later.
2. Dr. Magee and Ms. Fryc have been meeting with representatives of the Selectmen as well as the Town Manager, Dr. Sawyer, and Mr. Collins. The Selectmen do not appear to be ready to acknowledge the urgent need for an override. There is a risk that the new Beal School may not have the funds to open as well as for significant layoffs (again).
3. We discussed messaging. We need to reach out to groups beyond the Selectmen: parents, PTOs, the Finance Committee.
4. We discussed the need to concentrate messaging on what losses are at stake since focusing on money may not engage parents and voters.
5. Although the Selectmen have said that if they approve an override they would want it to be one that does not need to be repeated for at least 5 years, this can prove difficult to predict given the unstable circumstances and the dollars to be raised may be more challenging to get passed. The Committee and the Administration felt that “putting out the fire” with a smaller override that may be easier to pass and able to be voted on sooner was a more desirable plan.

**Motion to adjourn:** On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, second by Mr. Wensky. Roll Call vote: Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; and Dr. Magee, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn at 7:46 PM.

Associated document: Five-Year Fiscal Projections Slide Presentation