

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
February 3, 2021
Selectmen's Meeting Room**

Meeting opened at 7:03PM

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. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Ms. Barbara Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being

Discussions:

1. There was a discussion of previously presented budget scenarios. FY22 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. It appears that without a significant override we will not be able to open the new Beal School. The budget gap from what the Town is likely to offer for status quo service level is ~ \$4.2 million if Beal is not opened and ~\$6 million if it is; it is likely that the Circuit Breaker projection will be updated to be somewhat better, and it is expected that the Town Manager will release his budget recommendation number on February 9, the evening prior to the Superintendent's budget presentation, at which point the initial gap will be defined publicly. This uncertainty is also spilling over to the redistricting plan since it does not make sense at this point to vote on redistricting and not have a new school in which to place students.

An urgent appeal to the Selectmen will be made since, absent a successful override prior to this summer, we will have to begin cuts in service. This may have repercussions regarding how long it would take to rebuild services if money were to become available. In addition, hiring teachers has become more difficult since the pandemic has increased demand.

A biweekly discussion with Ms. Fryc, Dr. Magee, Mr. Collins, Dr. Sawyer and representatives of the Town Government including Selectmen Samia and Casavant as well as Mr. Mizakar has been going on since last fall. We have repeatedly brought up the need for an override. We will, again, emphasize the urgency and critical nature of this need at the next meeting.

There have been a number of emails from concerned citizens calling for an override. Some have mentioned a citizen's petition for such and we will monitor that progress.

2. Ms. Malone presented a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding full remote work standards that was presented to and approved by the membership of the Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA). This has been reviewed and discussed by the Committee in the past. Motion by Mr. Palitsch to approve the MOA; second by Mr. Wensky. Roll Call vote: Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; Dr. Magee, yes.
3. Ms. Malone presented an MOA regarding educator evaluation that was presented to and approved by the membership of the SEA. This has been reviewed and discussed by the Committee in the past. Motion by Mr. Palitsch to approve the MOA; second by Mr. Wensky. Roll Call vote: Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes.

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; Dr. Magee, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn at 8:48PM.

Documents referenced:

1. Final Remote MOA Jan 20, 2021
2. Ed Eval MOA 2.2.2021 FINAL
3. MASS FY22 State Aid Summary
4. FY22 Budget Workshop Slide Presentation