

**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**February 16, 2022
7:00 pm**

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**February 16, 2022 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

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. State of the District: Report	7:05 – 7:30
B. District Response to the Pandemic: Report	7:30 – 7:50
C. COVID-19 Mitigation & Mask Mandates: Discussion & Potential Vote	7:50 – 8:15
V. Curriculum	
VI. Policy	
A. School District Calendar for 2022-2023 School Year: Vote	8:15 – 8:35
VII. Finance & Operations	
A. FY23 Superintendent’s Budget Recommendation	8:35 – 9:10
VIII. Old Business	
IX. New Business	
X. Approval of Minutes	9:10 – 9:15
XI. Executive Session	9:15 – 9:45
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”)	



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association

- C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”)

XII. Adjournment

9:45

Next regular meeting: March 2, 2022



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 02/16/22

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
Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson
Ms Sandra Fryc, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary
Dr. B. Dale Magee, 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:
A. State of the District: Report**

MEETING DATE: 02/16/22

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer will share his perspective regarding the current state of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The report will be provided under separate cover in advance of the meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**
B. District Response to the Pandemic: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and other SPS administrators will provide an update on the district's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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
Other SPS administrators as necessary



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

A. School District Calendar for 2022-2023 School Year: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A draft school calendar was presented to the Committee at the meeting on February 2, 2022, with a summary of changes provided by Dr. Sawyer. The draft calendar was posted on the District website for public comment. The Shrewsbury Education Association and Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association officers were consulted.

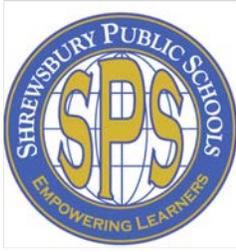
Dr. Sawyer took all feedback received into account, and determined that his recommendation for the calendar is unchanged from the one presented on February 2. A memorandum from Dr. Sawyer and the proposed school calendar are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to approve the proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

February 14, 2022

To: School Committee
Re: Recommendation for school year calendar for 2022-2023

Enclosed with this memorandum is a draft of the proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. It is unchanged from the draft presented to you at your February 2 meeting.

I gave consideration to feedback that the Committee provided on February 2, to the petition regarding the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day nomenclature, and to subsequent emails on that topic.

There was a suggestion from a School Committee member that the professional development day proposed for Friday, October 7 be moved elsewhere due to some parents who do not get the state holiday of Columbus Day on Monday, October 10 off and needing to potentially take two days off from work. I ultimately decided to keep my recommendation, which aligns with the recommendation of the Calendar Committee based on the preferences the families gave when surveyed, where 64% preferred the Friday prior to that long weekend as a professional development day over other options.

With regard to the request to remove the title *Columbus Day* from the calendar document and label the third Monday in October solely as *Indigenous Peoples' Day*, it is my recommendation to maintain the practice begun this past year of listing both. The listing on a calendar of holiday names that are created outside of the control of the School Committee or School Department should not be seen as the school district's endorsement of the holiday itself or the origin or history of the name of the holiday. While I understand some see this differently as a matter of importance regarding symbolism, I do not agree that the listing of a holiday name on a calendar is somehow coupled with how students are taught about a holiday, its subject, or its history – which in all cases should be done with accuracy and care.

One correspondent submitted a request to not have school on the Hindu holiday of Ganesh Chaturthi, a ten-day feast that begins on Wednesday, August 31, the second day of school for Grades 1-12 and the first day of school for preschool and kindergarten. While I do not recommend having a no school day on this date, I will work with the preschool and elementary leadership team to reach out to families and to determine what special accommodations we may make with those who may choose to have their child remain home on that day for their religious celebration.

The remainder of this document is the language from the original recommendation I made for your February 2 meeting.

This proposed calendar follows state law regarding not holding school on [legal holidays](#). The approach used for scheduling vacation periods is the same as in recent years, which is structured according to the [recommendations made in January 2016](#) by a Calendar Committee composed of staff and parents.

This calendar returns to the approach for the start of the school year that we utilized prior to the pandemic, with the first day for staff being the Monday before Labor Day (August 29), followed the next day by the first student day (August 30), and holding a professional development day that Friday (September 2).

Also of note is this calendar begins the December vacation on December 23. Data from this year showed a very high level of student absenteeism on December 23 (15% overall, almost 20% at SHS), which principals anecdotally believe was due to a large number of families traveling, which made this day a challenging one for instruction. Additionally, a review of surrounding communities' calendars that have already been approved for next year or are in draft form indicate that many also have this day as the start of the vacation, creating scheduling conflicts for SPS staff with children in those districts. For these reasons, I believe it makes sense to begin this vacation on December 23.

This draft calendar has the 180th day on Thursday, June 15, 2023. As a reminder, the relatively new state holiday, Juneteenth Independence Day, must be observed on Monday, June 19, 2023. This will only affect the school calendar if snow days require the school year to continue into the following week.

Finally, a reminder that last year the calendar included a change in language to acknowledge that the third Monday in October has become widely recognized in American society as Indigenous Peoples' Day in addition to its designation as the official state holiday of Columbus Day, and is listed in this year's calendar as "Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day." This approach both includes the legal name of the holiday under Massachusetts law that requires schools to be closed on this day, while also recognizing that Indigenous Peoples' Day has become a more widely accepted and known holiday that honors the native peoples of America and commemorates their history. Given our school district's efforts to increase the sense of belonging and inclusivity for our students, families, and staff, last year I recommended this language change and the School Committee concurred.

This past October, the School Committee received a petition asking that the school district calendar only reference Indigenous Peoples' Day and not cite Columbus Day at all in its calendar. The text of the petition, which was signed by 114 individuals connected to the Shrewsbury community including current students, alumni, current and former SPS parents, and residents, is as follows:

Dear School Committee members,

As we look ahead to the 2022-2023 School Calendar, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider omitting Columbus Day from the Shrewsbury Public School Calendar like our neighbors have in Westborough and Grafton.

Last year, the School Committee recognized Indigenous day on the calendar however kept Columbus day alongside that recognition which, in our humble option, is an oxymoron. Indigenous day is about celebrating people instead of thinking about somebody who actually caused genocide on a population or tried to cause the genocide of an entire population. By bringing Indigenous Peoples' Day, we're bringing awareness that we're not going to allow someone like Columbus to be glorified into a hero, because of the hurt that he caused to Indigenous people of America.

There are multiple ways that this would benefit Shrewsbury families.

First, it would signal a commitment to teaching our history in a more inclusive and accurate way and to honoring the current and continued contributions of Indigenous Peoples to our community, nation, and the Americas. This is not only an urgent shift for the few Indigenous students we have in our district, but a beneficial one for Shrewsbury at large in our efforts towards creating a more just and inclusive community.

Second, the district is in ongoing discussions about equity and anti-racism and it is clear that heavy investments need to be made on these fronts. Adding Indigenous Peoples' Day to the district calendar AND omitting Columbus day takes minimal administrative labor, is free of cost, and will concretely demonstrate the district's commitment to these efforts.

Finally, this change will signal to the State legislature that Shrewsbury and communities like ours are ready to see this change at the State level. We hope this is something the School Committee is willing to discuss and thank you in advance for your reconsideration.

I believe it is important that the School Committee consider the argument put forth by this petition and discuss it as part of your deliberations about the school calendar. The draft calendar I am presenting continues the practice begun last year of listing both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day, as this is the status quo. Questions the School Committee may wish to consider, in addition to those raised by the petitioners, could include the following (and I'm sure there are more):

- Columbus Day remains an official state holiday, as noted on the Secretary of State's website [here](#), and is the legal reason that the school district may not hold classes on that date. Does including the official name of a state holiday suggest that the school district has taken a particular stance on the individual(s) or event recognized by that holiday? Should the district consider omitting the official name of a state holiday due to the objections of citizens regarding what that name signifies to them?
- Would removing the name of an official state holiday from the calendar signal that if our school district disagrees with an aspect of a state law, that the district can choose not to recognize it?
- Does the listing of the official name of a state holiday on the district calendar affect or influence how our schools teach the history associated with the namesake or origin of that holiday? Does including the title of a holiday that many find

objectionable on the calendar affect whether the school district teaches history with accuracy, and with attention to the impact historical events had on different peoples, including indigenous peoples?

I feel I need to continue to consider the issues raised by these various questions, and I am interested in the School Committee members' perspectives. As is my responsibility, I will make a recommendation when the calendar comes up for a vote at a subsequent meeting.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding this recommended calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

Shrewsbury Public Schools 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Draft – 2/2/22

AUG/SEP					22 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31	1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER					19 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

NOVEMBER					17 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

DECEMBER					16 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

JANUARY					20 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				

August/September

- 8/25 & 26 New Teachers' Orientation
- 8/29 Opening Program for All Staff/No School
- 8/30 Gr. 1-12 First Day of School
- 8/31 Kindergarten/Preschool First Day
- 9/2 Professional Development for Educators/No School
- 9/5 Labor Day/No School

October

- 10/7 Professional Development for Educators/No School
- 10/10 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day/No School

November

- 11/8 Parent Conferences/No School
- 11/11 Veterans Day/No School
- 11/23-25 Thanksgiving Vacation

December

- 12/6 Professional Development/Early Release
- 12/23-12/30 December Vacation

January

- 1/2 New Year's Day Observed
- 1/16 M.L. King Jr. Day/No School

February

- 2/7 Professional Development/Early Release
- 2/20 Presidents Day/No School
- 2/21-2/24 Winter Vacation

March

- 3/7 Professional Development/Early Release

April

- 4/4 Professional Development/Early Release
- 4/17 Patriots Day/No School
- 4/18-4/21 Spring Vacation

May

- 5/2 Professional Development/Early Release
- 5/4 & 5/5 No School for Preschool (New Student Screenings)
- 5/29 Memorial Day/No School

June

- 6/1 Graduation Day
- 6/15 Last Day/Half Day (No PM Preschool) if no snow days
- 6/19 Juneteenth Independence Day (Observed)/No School (if snow days)

FEBRUARY					15 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28				

MARCH					23 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL					15 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

MAY					22 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

JUNE					11 Days
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

- 0 snow days = 6/15 last day
- 1 snow day = 6/16 last day
- 2 snow days = 6/20 last day
- 3 snow days = 6/21 last day
- 4 snow days = 6/22 last day
- 5 snow days = 6/23 last day



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

A. FY23 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will present the Superintendent's initial recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2023 School Department Budget. The Fiscal Year 2023 Superintendent's Initial Budget Recommendation document will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the recommendation and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on February 2, and the School Committee Workshop held on February 9, 2022, are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on February 2, and the School Committee Workshop held on February 9, 2022.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson

Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Present: Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Mr. Jason Palitsch; 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 was convened by Mr. Wensky at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer reported that the PreK-Grade 12 educators enjoyed a successful Professional Development day on February 1, and provided a status on the search for a new Oak Middle School principal to replace Dr. Ann Jones who is retiring at the end of the school year, noting the field had been narrowed to three finalists - Liz Garden, currently the Principal of the Mayo Elementary School in Holden; Hallie Burak, currently the Assistant Principal of the O'Donnell Middle School in Stoughton; and Elizabeth York, currently the Principal of David Prouty High School in Spencer - who would all be in attendance at a Public Forum on February 8, 2022.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Student Spotlight: Shrewsbury High School Presentation

Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Principal Mr. Todd Bazydlo and Ms. Pamela Leblanc, Director of Visual Arts, began the report by providing an overview of the Traditional & Digital Photography course at SHS, which is co-taught and incorporates elements of both digital and 35mm film photography. Students Ally Arpino, Emily Diamond, and Anya Pyro discussed their experiences in the course and then showcased examples of their work. After asking the students questions about the course, the Committee and Dr. Sawyer recognized them with certificates.

B. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Student Advisory Committee (SAC) student members Nikitha Ram (Chairperson), Shalini Biju, Anushka Mukhopadhyay, and Rishab Parikh gave the report, and Mr. Andrew Smith, SHS Teacher and Faculty Advisor to the SAC, was in attendance at the meeting. The students provided information on fundraisers at SHS, student life (with each sharing their individual perspectives on topics ranging from COVID to the SHS dress code), and school spirit in the context of events and athletics at the high school. In response to questions from the Committee, the students provided additional information

on hall passes and approaches being taken at SHS to mitigate academic stress (including no mid-term exams and some homework-free weekends for students).

C. District Response to the Pandemic: Report

Dr. Sawyer presented current state, local, and district-specific COVID case data; information on Shrewsbury Public School staff and student cases (vaccinated versus unvaccinated; by day, week, school, and grade); vaccination data by age for the Town of Shrewsbury and local communities; testing program information (*Test and Stay* (discontinued), symptomatic testing, *Routine COVID Safety Testing*, and at-home antigen testing); and updated data on student and staff absences (with both declining in recent weeks). Committee members expressed appreciation for the transparency of the report and asked clarifying questions about the at-home antigen testing program schedule.

D. State of the District: Report

Mr. Wensky advised that this agenda item was being moved to the February 16, 2022 meeting.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. School District Calendar for 2022-2023 School Year: Discussion

Dr. Sawyer reported that the draft calendar being presented followed state law regarding holidays and utilized the same approach taken by the district in recent years to scheduling vacations and staff professional development, based upon the recommendations of the parent and staff calendar committee from 2016. He also highlighted several aspects of the draft, including a return to one professional development day being held during the first week of school for students; December 23 marking the first day of December vacation (citing absenteeism in prior years, and closures that day in surrounding districts); and the addition of the Juneteenth holiday on June 19 should school still be in session, depending on the number of snow days needed. Noting that last year a change was made to the calendar so that the third Monday in October was acknowledged as “Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day,” Dr. Sawyer advised that the School Committee received a petition in October 2021 requesting that the 2022-23 school district calendar only reference Indigenous Peoples’ Day and not cite Columbus Day at all. In advance of a vote on the school calendar at the next meeting, Dr. Sawyer offered suggestions around questions/issues the Committee might want to consider relative to the requested change. Ms. Fryc cited concerns for working families relative to having a Professional Development day on October 7, 2022, which would mean no school for students on the Friday prior to the Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Monday) holiday (which is also a no school day), and suggested not having a Professional Development day in October. Dr. Sawyer added that some elements of the calendar could change in the future as a result of current negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

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 January 19, 2022 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Wensky 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;

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;

C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”); and

D. For the purpose of reviewing and acting upon a student residency issue, 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. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:15 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Shrewsbury High School Student Slide Presentation
2. Student Advisory Committee Agenda
3. Pandemic Response Slide Presentation
4. Draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Memo
5. Draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendar
6. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above

**SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL
64 HOLDEN ST
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wensky at 5:33PM.

I. Presentation of information regarding Fiscal Year 2023 Budget projections and initial recommendations

Dr. Sawyer opened the meeting asking Mr. Collins to share a FY23 Budget Recap. Mr. Collins discussed a carry-forward budget, including COLA and steps, and explained the proposal for additional key expense categories. We also recently learned that the Town Manager’s budget will most likely include a 4.75% budget increase.

Dr. Sawyer spoke to a memo he shared with the Committee regarding Option for Investment. This memo was developed after input and discussion with the District Leadership Team and the School Leadership Team. Investments were proposed for: preschool, English language learner services, mental health and social-emotional support services, allied arts teachers at the middle school level, and eliminating the activities fee for co-curricular activities. Dr. Sawyer sought the perspective of the school committee members. Members shared their input and asked questions.

B. Executive Session

Mr. Wensky 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;

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; and

C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in

preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”), 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.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:41 pm.

C. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary

Documents referenced:

- FY23 Budget Recap, as of February 8, 2022
- Memo from Dr. Sawyer, Re: Fiscal Year 2023 Budget-Options for Investment
- Fiscal Year 2023 School Department Budget: Potential Investments



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **02/16/22**

- 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**
- C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”)**

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;
- 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; and
- C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”), 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**