



**School Committee  
Meeting Book**

**March 10, 2021  
7:00 pm**

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



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA

**March 10, 2021 7:00pm**  
**Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room**  
**100 Maple Avenue**

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.

While for this meeting the School Committee and members of the School Department administrative team will physically meet at the location listed above, members of the public may not attend in person. If a member of the public wishes to participate remotely in the Public Participation portion of the meeting or the Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget & School Choice, they should contact the Committee Chair, Ms. Sandra Fryc, by sending an email to [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto: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. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report   | 7:05 – 7:20  |
|      | B. Update on School District's Response to the Pandemic & Possibilities for Reopening for Full, In-Person Learning: Report & Potential Vote to Request a Waiver from the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education Regarding the Timeline for Return of Grade 5 to Full, In-Person Learning Program | 7:20 – 8:00  |
|      | C. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget & School Choice: Public Hearing  | 8:00 – 8:30  |



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- D. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget & Possible Operational Override: Discussion 8:30 – 8:55
- V. Curriculum
- VI. Policy
- A. School District Calendar for 2021-2022 School Year: Discussion 8:55 – 9:10
- VII. Finance & Operations
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Approval of Minutes 9:10 – 9:15
- XI. Executive Session 9:15
- 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

**Next regular meeting: March 24, 2021**



## **SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM NO: I      Public Participation**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

#### **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: 03/10/21**  
**A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Under the Massachusetts Education Reform Act, school districts are required to have a Student Advisory Committee (SAC), consisting of five high school students who are elected by the student body. The SAC is required to meet with the School Committee during the year to review various issues of concern to the student body. Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Principal, will accompany the SAC. The agenda for the SAC report is enclosed.

### **ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

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

### **STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal  
Students: Aabia Hasan, Chairperson  
Maxfield Evers  
David Lee  
Nikhita Ram  
Anushka Mukhopadhyay

Student Advisory Committee  
Agenda for the School Committee on March 10th, 2021

**I. Seniors**

- A. College Applications
- B. Senior Activities

**II. Student Advocacy and Well being**

- A. Wellbeing Reframe
- B. Peer Mentoring
- C. Lunch Changes
- D. Office Hours
- E. Schedule Changes

**III. Covid-19 effects**

- A. Athletics
- B. Vaccinations and Covid-19 testing
- C. Cohort D
- D. Science Fair

**IV. Current Events and Student Engagement**

- A. Anti-racism Talk
- B. Student Feelings about Historical Events
- C. Black History Month Presentations

Thank you for your continuous support of the SAC.

Respectfully submitted,

Aabia Hasan  
Chairperson

Maxfield Evers, David Lee, Nikhita Ram, Anushka Mukhopadhyay  
SAC Members



## **SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**  
**B. Update on School District's Response to the Pandemic & Possibilities for Reopening for Full, In-Person Learning: Report & Potential Vote to Request a Waiver from the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education Regarding the Timeline for Return of Grade 5 to Full, In-Person Learning Program**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Dr. Sawyer and members of the leadership team will provide an update on the school district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and possibilities for reopening for full, in-person learning. Dr. Sawyer will also request the School Committee to vote to request a waiver from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) that would treat Grade 5 in Shrewsbury as a middle school grade, so that the timeline for reopening 5th grade for full, in-person learning is synchronized with the other middle school grades (6, 7, & 8) who are required to return to this mode by April 28, instead of with elementary school grades (K-4) which are required to return by April 5. DESE's new mandate includes Grade 5 as an elementary grade, and has indicated that a waiver is required for districts where Grade 5 is part of the middle school model, as is the case in Shrewsbury.

### **ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

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

That the School Committee vote that the district request a waiver from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education so that Grade 5 may be aligned with the other middle school level grades regarding the timeline for a return to full, in-person education.

### **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: 03/10/21**  
**C. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget & School Choice: Public Hearing**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The public and members of the School Department are invited to provide input to the Committee and the administration regarding the FY22 Budget and/or School Choice.

Regarding the FY22 Budget, this public hearing meets the requirements of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 38N, which requires school districts to provide an opportunity for members of the public to be heard regarding the proposed school district budget.

Regarding School Choice, this hearing will satisfy the requirements of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 12B which requires a public hearing prior to a potential School Committee vote to not participate in or to otherwise restrict the provisions of the interdistrict School Choice program. The Committee will vote on whether or not to participate in School Choice at their meeting on March 24.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee hold a public hearing in order to listen to feedback on the topic of the FY22 Budget and on the topic of the potential for participation in interdistrict School Choice in the 2021-2022 School Year.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

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





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: 03/10/21**  
**D. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget & Possible Operational Override: Discussion**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The School Committee recently held a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the possibilities of an operational override to provide adequate funding for town government, including the School Department. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will provide updated information regarding a potential agreement between the School Committee and Board of Selectmen regarding how the funding from an override could be allocated over time to provide stability for the budget over a multi-year period.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee hold a discussion on this topic 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 C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

**A. School District Calendar for 2021-2022 School Year: Discussion**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Dr. Sawyer will summarize his recommendations for the proposed 2021-2022 school year calendar and answer any questions the Committee may have. The draft calendar will be posted for public comment in advance of a requested vote at the Committee's meeting on March 24, 2021. A memorandum from Dr. Sawyer and the draft of the calendar are enclosed.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee review the draft calendar and provide feedback in advance of posting it for public comment.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

March 10, 2021

To: School Committee  
Re: Recommended school year calendar for 2021-2022

Enclosed with this memorandum is a proposed calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. It follows state law regarding not holding school on [legal holidays](#), you will see that 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. However, there are some key differences that this calendar represents due to the unique situation we have for next year.

Because of the uncertainty of whether we will still face any public health restrictions upon the opening of the school year, and because we very much hope to be opening a new elementary school, our leadership team is in strong agreement that moving New Teacher Orientation two days later to provide more time in August to prepare, along with having two professional development days in addition to the traditional opening day for staff prior to the students returning, will be very beneficial for a successful launch of the school year. This would result in the first day of school for students being September 7, the day after Labor Day.

For decades, we have begun the school year for students on the Tuesday prior to Labor Day, with either three or four days of school happening prior to the holiday (depending on whether we also have a professional development day during that first week). This results in not going as deep into June to hold the mandated 180 days of school. This draft calendar has the 180th day on Friday, June 17, a few days later than typical. While the number of snow days each year is unpredictable, there is some more risk of going deeper into June than usual to complete the school year. However, it is possible that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may continue to allow remote learning days to be held in lieu of snow days even after the pandemic ends, which would give the district a measure of control regarding when the last day would fall, and which is something we will consider next year when that has been clarified by the state. Regardless, the leadership team believes the benefits of having more time on the front end of the school year clearly outweigh the few extra days added to the end of the year.

Something new in the calendar for 2021-2022 is that there is a new state holiday: Juneteenth Independence Day. This holiday will fall on June 19 each year. For the current school year, this is a Saturday, and therefore will have no impact on the school calendar. June 19 falls on a Sunday in 2022. Because Massachusetts state law

mandates that state holidays that fall on a Sunday must be observed the next day on Monday, we cannot then hold school on Monday, June 20, 2022. This would affect the calendar if we have any need to cancel school for a snow day or other reason, as the first “make up” day beyond the scheduled last day of school on June 17, 2022 would then need to be Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Finally, a change in language is also included in this draft. The School Committee has in the past received some communication from the parent community regarding adding Indigenous Peoples’ Day to the calendar. It is my recommendation that this title be added to the Columbus Day holiday entry, so that it reads “Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” This approach 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 and commemorates the native peoples of America. Given our school district’s efforts to increase the sense of belonging and inclusivity for our students, families, and staff, I believe this language addition is appropriate.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding the recommended calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

# Shrewsbury Public Schools 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

**DRAFT March 10, 2021**

AUG/SEP 18 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
23	24	25	26	27
30	31	1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER 20 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER 17 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			

DECEMBER 17 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

JANUARY 20 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				

## August/September

8/30 & 31	New Teachers' Orientation
9/1	Opening Program for All Staff/No School
9/2	Professional Development for All Staff/No School
9/3	Professional Development for Educators/No School
9/6	Labor Day/No School
9/7	Gr.1-12 Students Return/Full Day
9/8	First Day K, Preschool Students

## October

10/5	Professional Development/Early Release
10/11	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day/No School

## November

11/2	Parent Conferences/No School
11/11	Veterans Day/No School
11/24-26	Thanksgiving Vacation

## December

12/7	Professional Development/Early Release
12/24-12/31	December Vacation

## January

1/17	M.L. King Day/No School
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## February

2/1	Professional Development/Early Release
2/21	Presidents Day/No School
2/22-2/25	Winter Vacation

## March

3/1	Professional Development/Early Release
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## April

4/5	Professional Development/Early Release
4/18	Patriots Day/No School
4/19-4/22	Spring Vacation

## May

5/2 & 5/3	No School for Preschool & Kindergarten (New Student Screenings)
5/30	Memorial Day/No School

## June

6/2	Graduation Day
6/17	Last Day/Half Day (No PM Preschool) if no snow days
6/20	Juneteenth Independence Day (Observed)/No School

FEBRUARY 15 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				

MARCH 23 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	31	

APRIL 16 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MAY 21 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			

JUNE 13 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	

0 snow days = 6/17 last day  
 1 snow day = 6/21 last day  
 2 snow days = 6/22 last day  
 3 snow days = 6/23 last day  
 4 snow days = 6/24 last day  
 5 snow days = 6/27 last day



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The minutes from the School Committee Workshops held on February 22 and March 3, 2021 and from the School Committee Meeting held on February 24, 2021, will be provided under separate cover.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Workshops held on February 22 and March 3, 2021, and from the School Committee Meeting held on February 24, 2021.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary



## **SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **03/10/21**

**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**