

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
March 15, 2021
Shrewsbury Town Hall

Start: 6:02PM

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 & Operations; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.

Discussion:

Reopening of the elementary schools is scheduled for April 5th and is on schedule. After the middle school openings the Wednesday early release days will not continue since those hours will be needed to meet the minimum hours of student learning state requirements. Dr. Sawyer is reviewing parent survey data to better understand concerns and respond accordingly.

The administration is meeting with the Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA) regarding getting the middle schools back in person. At Oak there will be ~200 fully remote students returning which will present logistic challenges. There is also the issue of dealing with the different levels of progress that have occurred in fully remote versus hybrid groups and getting them aligned.

The school calendar is being redesigned to start one week earlier than the initial proposal to avoid having the first day of school on Rosh Hashanah. This will also move the last day of school back in June.

The Committee and the Administration reviewed two documents in draft form provided by Mr. Mizikar, one a public facing document intended to be an agreement between the town government and the community and the other being a more detailed document regarding the structure of an override implementation.

The Committee noted that we could get to a 5 year promise for no repeat override only with a 4% limit on school budget growth and a \$9.5 million override. With a 4.25% and \$9.5 million dollar override we would get 4 years before another override was needed. It was also noted that adding 4 teachers to the budget in FY22 will improve overall budget performance since we will not need to use part of our growth limitation to add back teachers.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of language in the documents regarding a stabilization fund and the oversight of the stabilization fund was expressed. With this exception, the Committee strongly favored the documents and favored a \$9.5 million override with a 4.25% on school budgets. No vote was taken regarding these documents.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Wensky, Second: Mr. Palitsch. Roll Call: Mr. Palitsch: yes; Ms. Heffernan: yes; Dr. Magee: yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; Ms. Fryc: yes.

Adjourned at: 7:21PM

Documents referred to:

Draft Override Statement to Residents 03-15-21

Override Framework between BOS & SC (as of 3-15-21)

Analysis of Override Models 03-12-21