



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 31, 2020

To: School Committee

From: Joe Sawyer

Re: Pay continuity for staff during the COVID-19 pandemic school closure

Dear School Committee:

At the meeting on March 18, 2020, the School Committee voted to authorize that hourly-paid and salaried employees receive their typical pay for mandated closure days through April 6, the original length of Gov. Baker's order to close schools.

Gov. Baker has now extended school closure until a planned reopening on May 4, 2020 as part of its efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This date is subject to change as the conditions evolve, and it is quite possible the closure will be extended further.

At this point, the district has shifted to a work-from-home model in order to maintain operations and to provide remote learning for students as well as support for them and their families, as well as to participate in online professional development and online organizational meetings. Also of note, the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education is advising Massachusetts public school districts to continue to pay all staff during this extended period of closure in order to maintain staffing for the reopening of schools.

Mr. Collins has analyzed the district's financial resources, and based on that current analysis, there are sufficient funds in the appropriated budget and in revolving accounts to continue paying all of our employees through at least the next pay period, which closes on Friday, April 17. Based on this analysis and in order to maintain our staff during this closure period, I recommend that pay for all district employees be continued through at least Friday, April 17.

This recommendation is made with the understanding that continued analysis will be completed regarding the financial position of the school district, and another decision will need to be made at the School Committee's April 15th meeting to determine whether the district will be able to continue to pay certain employees beyond April 17.

I recommend that the School Committee vote to approve the following suggested motion:

That the School Committee vote to approve the continued compensation of all Shrewsbury Public Schools employees through at least April 17 of the mandated school closure for the COVID-19 pandemic, including both salaried and hourly employees, at their contractual rates of pay based on their typical time worked per pay period.

I look forward to answering any questions you have regarding this recommendation at our meeting on April 1.