



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**April 7, 2021
7:00 pm**

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



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

April 7, 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, they should contact the Committee Chair, Ms. Sandra Fryc, by sending an email to 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. Update on School District's Response to the Pandemic & Plans for Reopening for Full, In-Person Learning: Report | 7:05 – 7:35 |
| B. Update on New Beal School Project: Report | 7:35 – 7:55 |
| V. Curriculum | |
| VI. Policy | |
| A. Resolution in Favor of Operational Override Question: Vote | 7:55 – 8:15 |



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- VII. Finance & Operations
- A. Fees & Tuitions for the 2021-2022 School Year: Vote 8:15 – 8:25
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update 8:25 – 8:35
- X. Approval of Minutes 8:35 – 8:40
- XI. Executive Session 8:40 – 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.
- 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”) - non-represented administrators.
- XII. Adjournment 9:15

Next regular meeting: April 28, 2021



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

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: **04/07/21**
**A. Update on School District's Response to the Pandemic & Plans for
Reopening for Full, In-Person Learning: Report**

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 the district's plans for reopening for full, in-person learning.

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
District Administrators



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

MEETING DATE: 04/07/21

B. Update on New Beal School Project: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mr. Sean Brennan, Project Architect, LPA/A, will provide an update on the Beal School Building Project and answer questions from the Committee. The presentation slides are enclosed.

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:

Mr. Sean Brennan, Project Architect, LPA/A

MAJOR HOWARD W. BEAL SCHOOL



MAIN LOBBY



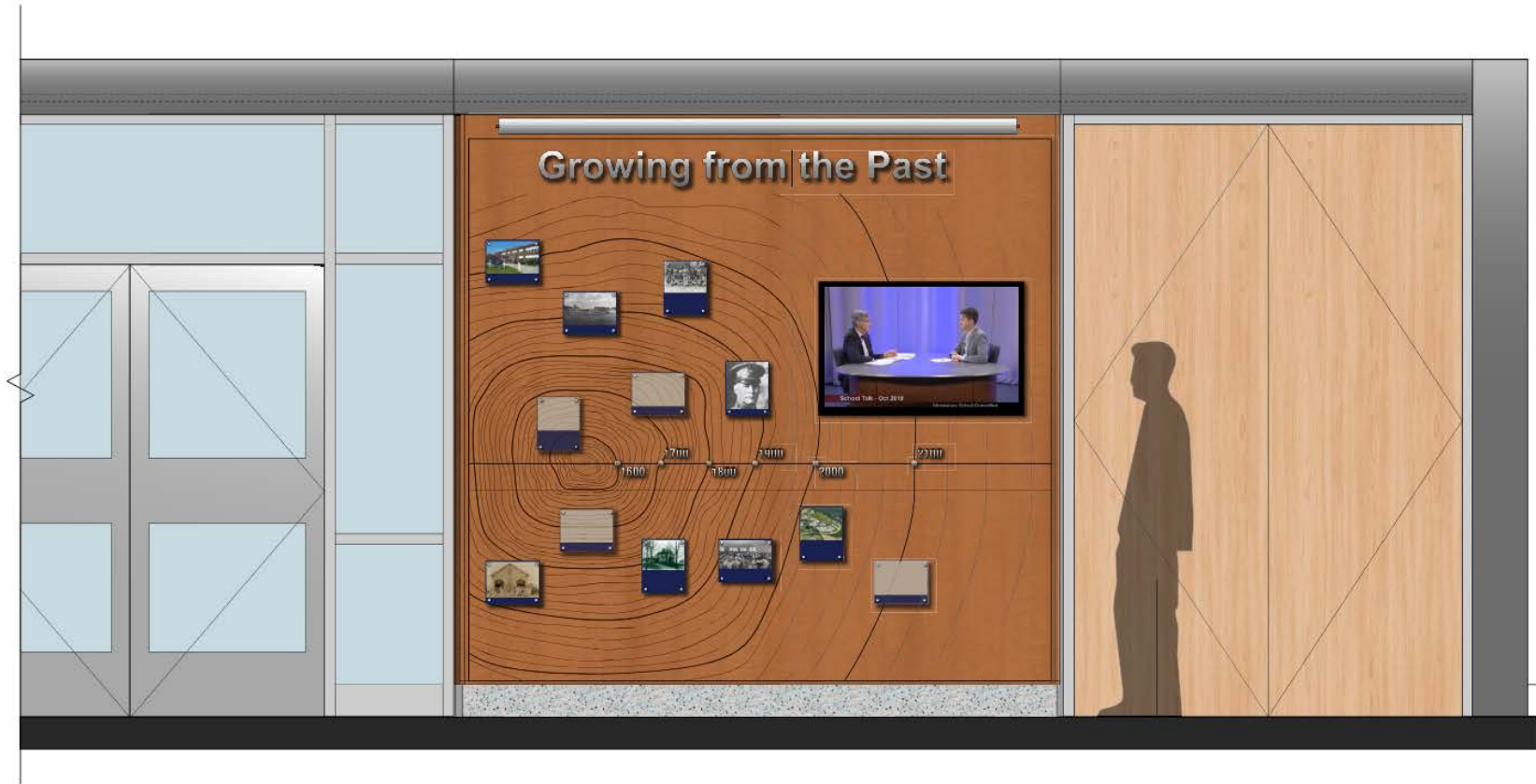
MAIN LOBBY



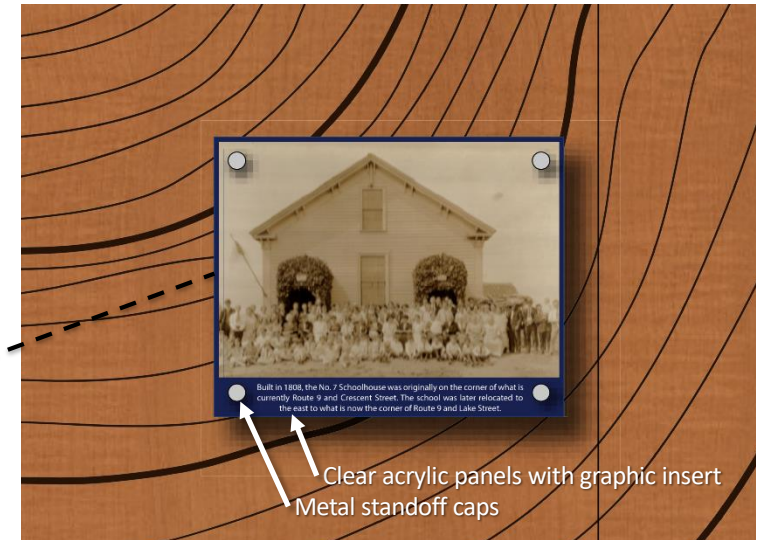
MAIN LOBBY



HISTORY WALL



HISTORY WALL





1918 | Reunion photo was taken of former students in front of the No. 7 School. Originally built in 1808 on Crescent Street, the No. 7 School was later relocated to what is now the corner of Route 9 and Lake Street.



Circa 1920's | View of the Major Howard W. Beal Junior-Senior High School Lunch Room. This space was also utilized as an Art and Mechanical Drawing Classroom.

BUILDING WALK-THROUGH



MAIN ENTRANCE



MAIN LOBBY



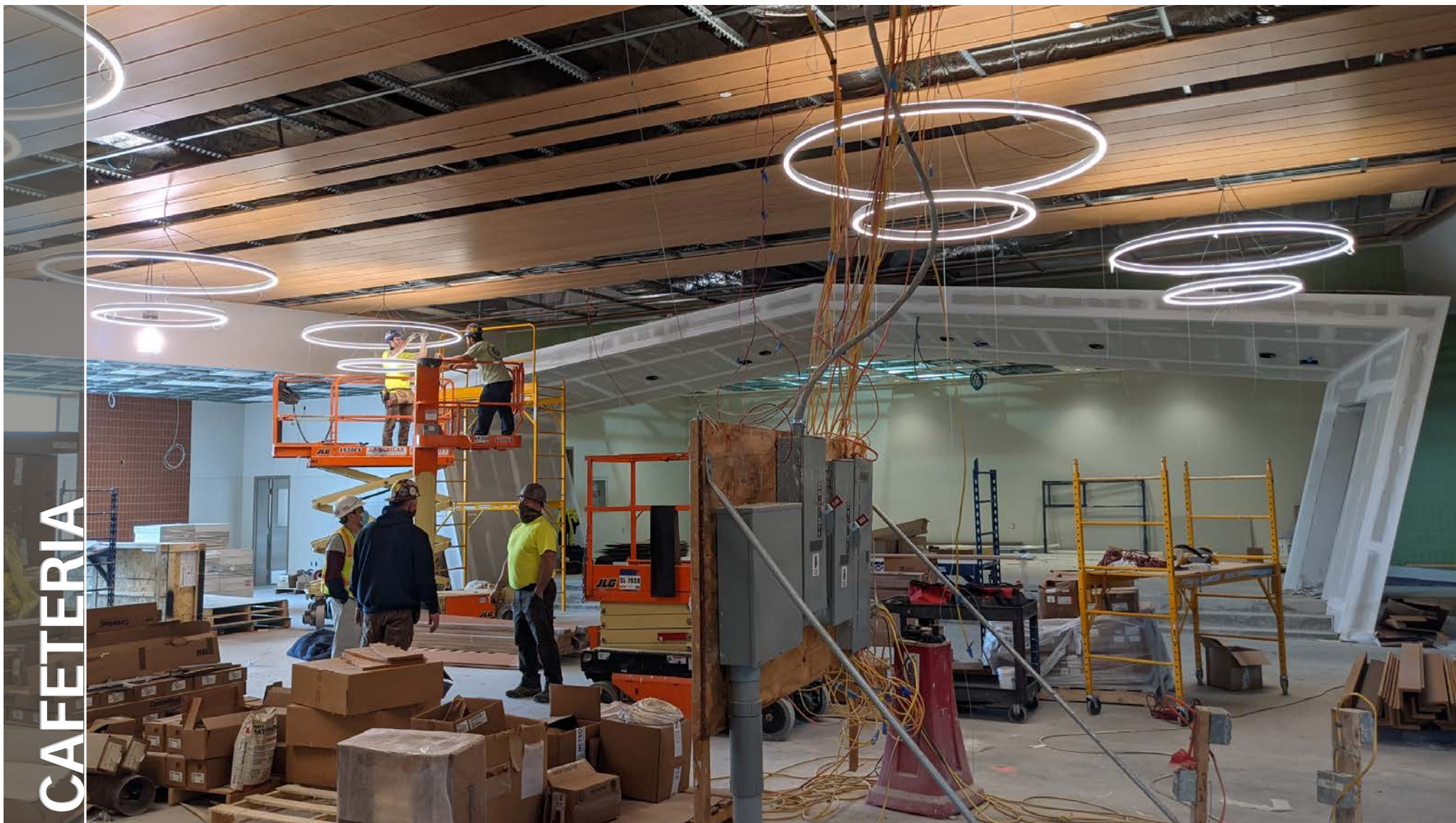
MAIN LOBBY



MAIN ENTRANCE



CAFETERIA



SITE VISIT



MEDIA CENTER



MEDIA CENTER



MEDIA CENTER



MAIN COURTYARD



COMMON ROOM



ACADEMIC CORRIDOR



STUDENT DROP-OFF



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

A. Resolution in Favor of Operational Override Question: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On Friday, March 26, 2021, the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen voted to place the following question on the May 4, 2021 Annual Town Election ballot:

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to assess an additional \$9,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding municipal and school operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand twenty one?

The School Committee is asked to consider approval of the enclosed resolution in favor of the operational override question - "Question 1" - on the May 4, 2021 Annual Town Election ballot.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

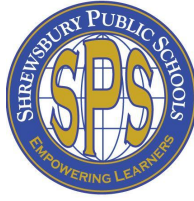
That the School Committee vote to support the proposed resolution in favor of the operational override question - "Question 1" - on the May 4, 2021 Annual Town Election ballot.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

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



April 7, 2021

DRAFT FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

**Resolution by the Shrewsbury School Committee in Support of the
Operational Override “Question 1” on the May 4, 2021 Ballot**

The Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to place the following ballot question before Shrewsbury voters at the May 4, 2021 town election:

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to assess an additional \$9,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding municipal and school operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand twenty one?

A “Yes” vote on this question will be a significant benefit to our town for the following reasons:

- 1) The additional revenue generated for municipal and school operating expenses will address our town’s structural deficit problem and will provide financial stability to our town government. This fiscally responsible approach is illustrated by the joint commitments made by the School Committee and Board of Selectmen to exercise fiscal discipline and provide quality services without any additional Proposition 2 ½ override questions for at least the next four years, as illustrated in the [Override Statement to the Residents of Shrewsbury](#).
- 2) The School Department will have sufficient resources to maintain or improve the quality of educational services that our community expects by:
 - a) maintaining current staffing and programming;
 - b) adding the staff necessary to properly open the new Beal School;
 - c) providing tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for all; and
 - d) incrementally restoring positions, programming, and supports that have been cut in previous years.
- 3) Without sufficient local revenue, the school district will need to make major cuts to personnel and programming and will not be able to properly open the new Beal School, which will severely compromise our schools’ ability to meet our students’ needs at a critical time when they need our strong support. Severely reducing our schools’ resources next year will compound the negative effects of the pandemic on our students’ well-being and academic progress.

For these reasons, the School Committee strongly encourages all Shrewsbury voters to vote YES on Question 1 at the annual town election, either on May 4th or during the designated Early Voting period. A YES vote will provide our schools with the resources they need to ensure that our town’s children receive an excellent education.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

A. Fees & Tuitions for the 2021-2022 School Year: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the meeting on March 24, 2021, Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer presented information on fees related to transportation, and athletics/activities, along with full-day kindergarten tuition and preschool tuition rates, for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Sawyer will make a recommendation on fees and tuitions for the 2021-2022 school year to be approved by the Committee.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to approve the fee and tuition rates for Fiscal Year 2022 as illustrated in the Superintendent's recommendation memo.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

April 7, 2021

To: School Committee
Re: Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022 Fees & Tuitions

At your last meeting on March 24, Mr. Collins presented information regarding fees and tuitions that families pay for various services, programs, or activities that are optional in some manner. At that time, I indicated that I would be making my recommendations for adjustments for your April 7 meeting, and this memorandum contains these recommendations. Please refer to the materials from your March 24 meeting for additional information regarding these fees.

Given that families are being asked to increase their local property tax through the proposed operational override question on the ballot for the May 4 Annual Town Election, I do not believe it is wise to also require an increase in fees or tuitions. As such, my recommendation is to maintain Fiscal Year 2022 fees and tuitions at the rates that were originally established for Fiscal Year 2021, prior to the pandemic. As you know, because of the circumstances of the pandemic, some fees and tuitions were adjusted or eliminated this year, but since we anticipate a more normal situation next school year, it makes sense to return to the established rates in order to offset costs as expected per our budget plan.

The one exception to this recommendation is to eliminate the tuition for full-day kindergarten, in anticipation of the opening of the new Beal School and making good on the commitment to establish tuition-free, full-day kindergarten once the new school provided adequate space for all students to access it. However, if the operational override were to fail at the ballot, I believe the School Committee would need to revisit this and determine whether to maintain some level of tuition given the deep budget cuts that would be required with a "No" vote.

My recommendation is for fees and tuitions to be set at the following rates that were originally established for Fiscal Year 2021 as the rates for Fiscal Year 2022, with the exception of Full-Day Kindergarten tuition:

Transportation Fee:

\$320 per student. The fee would continue to apply to students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 who reside two miles or less from their assigned school and to all students in Grades 7-12, with no change to the family cap of three bus fees and the late fee of \$50 per student (with a family cap of three late fees).

Athletic Fees

Shrewsbury High School: \$325 per sport per season. A family cap of no more than three athletic fees for high school students in the same family per school year would remain in effect.

Oak Middle School: \$100 per sport with a family cap of no more than three athletic fees per Oak family per school year.

A late fee of \$50 for each high school athletics registration and a \$25 late fee for each Oak athletics registration beyond the established deadline for that season.

Activity Fees

Shrewsbury High School: \$110

Oak Middle School: \$75

Sherwood Middle School: \$55

Music Lesson Fees

One semester of 14, 30-minute lessons: \$426

One semester of 14, 45-minute lessons: \$617

One semester of 14, 60-minute lessons: \$809

\$50 late fee

Preschool Tuition

Program	Annual Rate
Two Half Days/Week	\$2,239
Three Half Days/Week	\$2,910
Four Half Days/Week	\$3,507
Five Half Days/Week	\$4,292

\$100 non-refundable registration fee

Use of Mass. Dept. of Early Ed. & Care State Median Income Chart for financial assistance eligibility

10% sibling discount

\$25 fee for late monthly payment

Full-Day Kindergarten Tuition

If the new Beal School opens as planned, full-day kindergarten will be provided for all students with no tuition required.

Extended School Care Tuition

	Before School Care - Monthly	After School Care - Monthly
Two Days/Week	\$56	\$122
Three Days/Week	\$82	\$184
Four Days/Week	\$112	\$244
Five Days/Week	\$138	\$306

\$20 non-refundable registration fee

\$25 fee for each early release day

\$25 fee for late monthly payment

Financial assistance eligibility based on subsidized lunch eligibility



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state law governing educational collaboratives requires periodic updates each year to member school districts. This update includes the Assabet Valley Collaborative's annual report and a message from its Executive Director regarding the pending dissolution of a different collaborative, with reassurances that the Assabet Valley Collaborative's fiscal position remains strong. Both of these documents are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear an update on the status of the Assabet Valley Collaborative 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



28 Lord Road, Suite 125
Marlborough, MA 01572
P 508.460.0491
F 508.460.0493
www.avcollaborative.org

Message from Executive Director

Dear Assabet Valley Collaborative Community Members,

As per M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E and CMR 603 CMR 50.00, AVC is required to publish an annual report that includes the following:

- Information on the programs and services provided by the collaborative.
- Discussion of the cost-effectiveness of all programs and services.
- Progress made toward achieving the objectives/purposes set forth in the collaborative agreement.

This annual report covers the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Below are some of the highlights of the priorities addressed during that period:

- Continued efforts to advance educational equity within AVC and externally
- Hiring Interim Business Manager
- Completion of a comprehensive Technology Audit
- Design Teams met to identify needs and develop new job descriptions to address those needs: Director of Educational Technology, Director of Facilities, Director of Finance.
- Facilities rentals increased with new partners including MASS, DPH, and Boston University
- Increased enrollment and utilization of AVC's programs
- Redesigning all of AVC's services to operate remotely during the COVID-19 closures
 - Acquiring and deploying technology to students and staff
 - Developing systems to operate all services and systems virtually
 - Deliveries of office supplies, technology, school supplies directly to homes of community members
 - Virtual meeting platforms (Zoom and Google Meet)
 - Training of staff to utilize new tools and to deliver services virtually
 - Research and communications related to COVID-19 responses and safety
- Board of Directors voted to approve AVC's leadership team's proposal to adopt a shared leadership model

Sincerely,
Cathy Cummins
Executive Director

MISSION

The Mission of the Assabet Valley Collaborative is to provide effective and efficient services to meet the current and evolving needs of member communities to promote student success and community integration. It is also the mission of the Assabet Valley Collaborative to jointly conduct programs and/or services in a cost-effective manner which shall complement and strengthen those provided by member school committees and to increase equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for children and young adults.

FOCUS

The focus of AVC is the development and delivery of high quality programs and services to member districts which shall complement and strengthen those provided by member school committees. .

Board of Directors	Member Districts	MEMBER SINCE
Ernie Houle	Assabet Valley Regional Vocational	1976
Maryellen Brunelle	Auburn Public Schools	2018
Jeffrey Zanghi	Public Schools of Berlin and Boylston	1976
James Cummings, Chair	Grafton Public Schools	2015
Marco Rodrigues	Hudson Public Schools	1976
Michael Bergeron	Marlborough Public Schools	1976
Mary Jane Rickson	Maynard Public Schools	1976
Gregory Myers	Millbury Public Schools	2011
Brooke Clenchy	Nashoba Regional School District	1976
Gregory Martineau	Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough	1976
Joseph Sawyer	Shrewsbury Public Schools	1976
Amber Bock, Vice Chair	Westborough Public Schools	1976

HISTORY

The Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) was established in 1976.

In Massachusetts, educational collaboratives are public regional multi-service agencies, authorized by state law (Chapter 40, Section 4E) to develop, manage and provide services or programs to public school districts.

According to AVC's founding document, its "Collaborative Agreement," the purpose of Assabet Valley Collaborative is to provide:

- Specialized education programs and services for students ages 3 to 22 and as they transition to adulthood.
- Special education transportation and other transportation services
- Professional development, training and resource sharing
- An array of consultative and direct services
- Cooperative purchasing/procurement services
- Cost-effective responses to needs articulated by member districts
- Services to adults with disabilities subject to authorizing statute, regulations state contracts/approvals and board approval
- Early childhood services to children with disabilities under the age of 3 subject to authorizing statute, regulations state contracts/approvals and board approval

The overall objectives in AVC's Collaborative Agreement include:

- The creation and/or delivery of cost-effective responses to needs articulated by member districts
- The delivery of high-quality, specialized education programs and services for students ages 3 to 22 and as they transition to adulthood.
- The delivery of cost effective and efficient special education transportation services
- The development and delivery of high-quality and cost-effective consultative services
- The development and delivery of high-quality and cost-effective professional development, training and resource sharing
- The provision of effective and efficient cooperative purchasing/procurement services
- Subject to statutory and regulatory authorization, the development of continuous and evolving services that may include leveraging expertise and resources to expand the continuum of services to include young children with disabilities and/or adults with disabilities (22+)

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Receive member discounts

All AVC programs and services are provided to members at membership rates. Nonmember districts may access AVC programs and services at a 12-15% surcharge.

2. Influence and guide decision making

Member districts influence and guide decision-making regarding existing and new programming, improving the quality of services and pooling resources with neighboring districts. In the last decade, member district influence resulted in the opening of SOAR Assessment Center, Evolution, Family Success Partnership, and the expansion of OSA to include grades 5-8 and the addition of music therapy, equity-centered consulting, and a consulting child psychiatrist.

3. Obtain cooperative/volume purchasing advantages

Members have access to Cooperative/Volume Purchasing through collective procurement activities. AVC procures goods and services on behalf of member communities, resulting in more competitive pricing for goods districts need to purchase. In FY19 AVC contracts included office supplies, copy paper, school supplies, and transportation services.

4. Gain access to grant-funded initiatives

Members have access to grant-funded initiatives through collective, collaborative stakeholder groups. AVC seeks to identify areas of need and determine grant funding or other sources of revenue to support the launch of new initiatives.

5. Network and Collaborate with Colleagues

Members have access to Job-Alikes and joint initiatives for district faculty. Through joint initiatives, member districts share expertise, pool resources to increase capacity, collaborate on new regulations and mandates, and launch innovations and projects to improve public education in our region.

PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING PURPOSE

The following table highlight's AVC's progress in 2019-2020 in achieving the purposes articulated in AVC's Collaborative Agreement

Purpose:	Progress in FY20
To provide specialized education programs and services for students ages 3 to 22 and as they transition to adulthood.	AVC continued to provide specialized programs as noted throughout this annual report. Average daily enrollment in specialized education programs in 2020 was: 109. March to June 2020 these services were provided remotely.
To provide special education transportation and other transportation services	AVC transported 485 students in 2019-2020; this was disrupted in March 2020 due to the pandemic.
To provide professional development, training and resource sharing	AVC provided 189 contact hours of professional learning to 422 educators in 2019-2020 until March 2020 when courses and events were canceled. 7 organizations rented AVC's training center 24 days between July 2019 and March 2020. Rentals were canceled after March 12 due to the pandemic.
To provide an array of consultative and direct services	AVC's consulting team provided services to 15 districts/organizations. Family Success Partnership (FSP) delivered wraparound services to 6 districts supporting over 109 students' families.
To provide cooperative purchasing/procurement services	In FY20, AVC conducted joint purchasing for office supplies, copy paper, and school supplies. Bids were collected virtually due to the pandemic.
To provide cost-effective responses to needs articulated by member districts	During 2019-2020, AVC conducted an Equity Audit for a member district; a new service.
To provide services to adults with disabilities subject to authorizing statute, regulations state contracts/approvals and board approval	During 2019-2020, plans to explore adult programming were suspended due to the pandemic.
To provide early childhood services to children with disabilities under the age of 3 subject to authorizing statute, regulations state contracts/approvals and board approval	FSP continues to help families navigate resources related to child care, early intervention, parenting, diapers, nutrition, and other holistic family needs.

Orchard Street Academy (OSA) and SOAR Assessment Center

Orchard Street Academy offers academic and clinical services to students in grades five through twelve. Programming includes:

- Small instructional groups
- Integration of academics, expressive therapy and transition skills
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) & Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

Within OSA, SOAR Assessment Center is a short-term stabilization and diagnostic assessment program for middle and high school students (grades 5-12). Our team collaborates closely with parents and districts to identify appropriate academic and clinical supports for students with social/emotional difficulties. Program features include:

- Customized educational and clinical assessments
- Individualized academic and clinical services
- Comprehensive reports and recommendations

Value

OSA's expressive therapy programs and high-interest electives add value to our comprehensive academic and therapeutic setting. Our educators, clinicians, school psychologists and child psychiatrist support the academic and clinical needs of a wide range of students.

2019-2020 Highlights

- Continued growth of Middle School
- Digital drawing class
- Piano, Electric Drum, Electric Guitar, Songwriting and recording
- Socktober - community service project
- College visits
- Student art on exhibit at Worcester Art Museum and the Marlborough Public Library
- One-to-one technology provided to address remote learning required due to COVID-19 school closures
- School work and supplies delivered to students as needed

	FY20 Member Tuition	FY20 NonMember Tuition	Membership Savings
Middle School	\$62,280	\$68,508	\$6,228
High School	\$54,631	\$60,095	\$5,464

REACH

REACH provides a multidisciplinary approach to meet the varied and complex academic, therapeutic and healthcare needs of students with multiple disabilities between the ages of 5-18. REACH infuses social communication throughout programming with a particular emphasis on assistive technology and augmentative communication. Classes include:

- Embedded speech/language, physical, occupational, vision and music therapies
- Comprehensive nursing support
- Inclusion opportunities with typical peers
- Art, cooking, adaptive physical education, music and animal-assisted activities
- Educational and assistive technology

Value

AVC's REACH program provides a high-quality, cost-effective alternative to enrollment in private schools that are further away from our students' home communities. REACH classrooms are housed in public school settings, which add the value of inclusion opportunities with peers in the host school community as well as being able to participate in home community activities.

2019-2020 Highlights

- REACH I found a new home at Woodward Elementary School in Southborough
- REACH II planned to perform with peers from Trottier Middle School in a play
- REACH III participated a variety of community service activities
- One-to-one technology provided to address remote learning required due to COVID-19 school closures
- School work and supplies and equipment delivered to students as needed

FY20 Member Tuition	FY20 NonMember Tuition	Membership Savings
\$79,865	\$91,050	\$11,185

Evolution

Evolution is located in Shrewsbury and Marlborough. This transition program is designed for students ages 18-22, who continue to be eligible for educational services as they transition to adulthood. Evolution blends educational opportunities within real-world settings in the community. Our programming includes:

- Transition assessment, job development and job coaching
- Community-based instruction – Travel training, fitness: YMCA, college coursework, shopping, and recreation
- School-based instruction – healthy relationships, cooking, finance, laundry, and hygiene
- Work experiences in a variety of locations based on student interests

Value

The transition to adulthood looks different for each Evolution student. The team at Evolution works with each student and their team to support the development of rigorous and attainable transition goals and plans. Students have access to a wide range of opportunities to prepare for their transition to adulthood.

2019-2020 Highlights:

- Annual Art and Music Show
- Garden-to-table activities
- Activities of daily living - cooking, independence, social skills
- YMCA membership - fitness, recreation, social
- College experiences, Internships, and Work Experiences
- One-to-one technology provided to address remote learning required due to COVID-19 school closures
- School work and supplies and equipment delivered to students as needed

	FY20 Member Tuition	FY20 NonMember Tuition	Membership Savings
Tier 1	\$35,175	\$40,100	\$4,925
Tier 2	\$52,174	\$59,485	\$7,307
Tier 3	\$79,865	\$91,050	\$11,185

Specialists and Consultants

AVC responds to the unique requests of our member and non-member districts to fill gaps in program development, student assessments and student interventions. Consultants provide a variety of related services that include:

- Programs designed to address specific students' needs
- Consultation to educators, parents, providers
- Assessment/Evaluation
- Strategic Planning and Equity Audits
- Collaborative and flexible scheduling and consultation

Types of Services:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Child Psychiatry
- Transition
- Home-based tutoring/educational case management
- Evaluations/Assessments
- Leadership coaching; Equity coaching
- Improvement planning facilitation

2019-2020 Highlights

- Continued contracts for OT and PT in Northborough, Southborough, Berlin, Boylston, Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, Maynard, and Advanced Math and Science Academy
- Transition consultation in Auburn
- Child psychiatrist consultation and professional development
- Pivot to remotely delivered services due to COVID-19

	FY20 Member Rate	FY20 NonMember Rate	Membership Savings
Licensed Professionals	\$95.35	\$108.70	\$13.35
Therapy Assistants	\$63.55	\$72.45	\$8.90
Consulting Psychiatrist	\$281.71	\$321.15	\$39.44

Family Success Partnership (FSP)

Family Success Partnership (FSP) is a family-centered wraparound program designed to support students and their families who have needs that fall outside of school that have not yet been met by community or state agency services. Family Support Counselors help each family develop goals and identify resources needed to achieve those goals. FSP helps families navigate the intricate process of health care insurance, state agency applications and waitlists – assisting schools in addressing the non-academic needs of students that impact student outcomes.

Value

FSP wraparound is a strengths-based, student-centered, collaborative support that assists schools in addressing barriers to learning. In collaboration with district administration and school counselors, FSP supported over 100 families to access:

- Medical care
- Counseling
- Housing and essential resources
- Insurance

2019-2020 Highlights.

- New contract with nonmember district - Acton Boxborough
- READS Collaborative continued to partner with AVC on replication project.
- Through a grant, clinicians became certified in QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond) suicide predention trainers.
- Marlborough Coalition Monthly Meetings
- CBHI-System of Care Meetings
- Assist families with navigating pandemic-related needs
- Pivot to remote services due to COVID-19 closures;

Service	FY20 member rates	FY20 Non-member rates	Membership Savings
Phase I	\$33,063	\$37,692	\$4,629
Phase II	\$66,126	\$75,384	\$9,258
Phase III	\$99,189	\$113,075	\$13,886
Phase IV	\$132,252	\$150,767	\$18,515

Professional Development

AVC provided 189 contact hours of professional learning to 422 educators in 2019-2020 until March 2020 when courses and events were canceled due to the pandemic.

The following districts funded participants in PD at AVC:

- Maynard Public Schools
- Worcester Public Schools
- Hudson Public Schools
- Shrewsbury Public Schools
- Holliston Public Schools
- Grafton Public Schools
- Marlborough Public Schools
- Auburn Public Schools
- Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough

Service	FY20 member rates	FY20 Non-member rates	Membership Savings
3-Day Course @AVC	\$550/person	\$625/person	\$75
3-Day Course @district (max 25 participants)	\$6,960/course	\$7,935/course	\$975

Facilities Rental

In 2019-2020, AVC experienced an increase in requests to rent space in our training center. Until we closed due to the pandemic, AVC rented the training center 24 dates to 7 entities. AVC's rentals include access to white board painted walls, projectors, screens, sound and a variety of furniture configurations for up to 100 participants.

Service	FY20 member rates	FY20 Non-member rates	Membership Savings
Room Rental	\$250/room	\$285/room	\$35

Transportation

Purpose & Value

AVC provides special education transportation services by contracting with a vendor on behalf of our member school districts. Our contract requires vendors to employ well-trained drivers and monitors and that the fleet of vehicles used are well-equipped and maintained. AVC leverages volume from many districts; transportation vendors submit competitive rates to AVC resulting in cost savings for special education transportation. In addition, AVC monitors the quality of the services provided, to save districts valuable time and to capitalize on an economy of scale. While pricing is an important element of the transportation offered, our districts rely on AVC to provide services with vendors who are committed to safe, high-quality and reliable transportation.

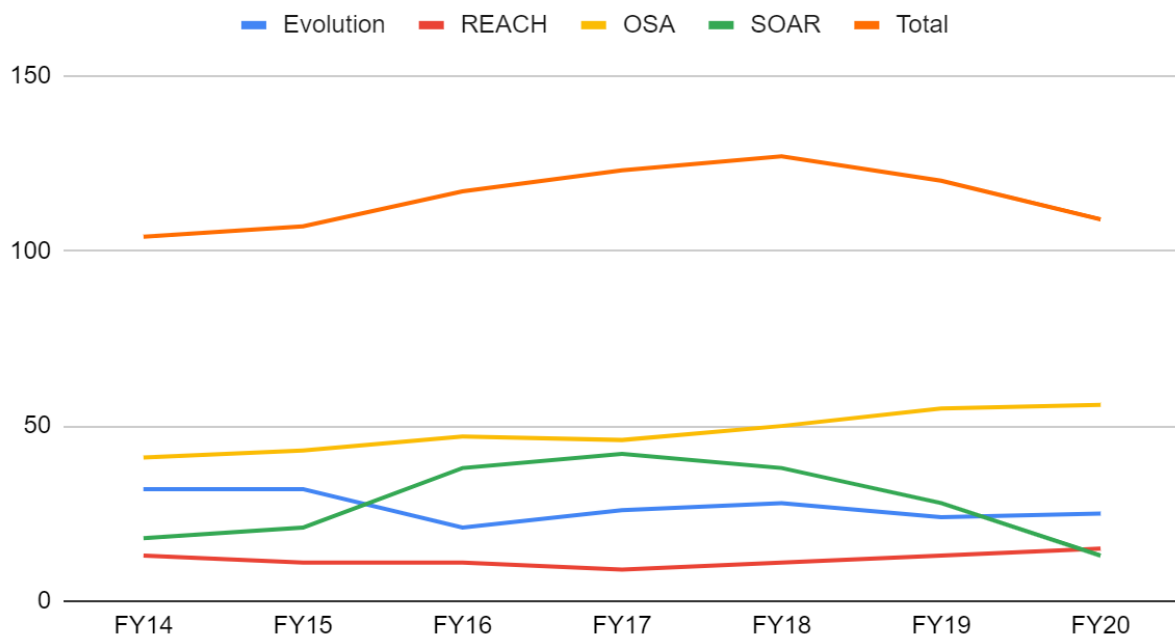
Services include:

- In-district and out-of-district McKinney Vento, field trips, community-based instruction, and after school services
- Monitored two-way radios, GPS and video monitoring
- Pre-screened CORI and SAFIS (Statewide Application Fingerprinting Identification Services) and specially trained drivers and monitors

Transportation	Member Rate	Nonmember Rate	Membership Savings	Savings per route for 180 Day school year
Single district route: 7D vehicle within collaborative communities	\$119.15	\$133.45	\$14.30	\$2,574
Single district route: 7D vehicle outside collaborative communities	\$146.20	\$163.74	\$17.54	\$3,157
Single district route: Wheel Chair vehicle within collaborative communities	\$238.85	\$267.51	\$28.66	\$5,159
Single district route: Wheel Chair vehicle outside collaborative communities	\$243.60	\$272.83	\$29.23	\$5,261

Average Daily Enrollment in School Programs							
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Evolution	32	32	21	26	28	24	25
REACH	13	11	11	9	11	13	15
OSA	41	43	47	46	50	55	56
SOAR	18	21	38	42	38	28	13
Total	104	107	117	123	127	120	109

Average Daily Enrollment in School Programs FY14-FY21



Memo:

February 26, 2021

To: AVC Board of Directors and School Committees

Re: EDCO Collaborative Dissolution

As you may be aware, another collaborative - EDCO - is undergoing the process of dissolution. The EDCO Collaborative Board of Directors voted recently to initiate dissolution of their Collaborative due to financial concerns about the organization's viability. The process now requires the school committees of member districts to vote on dissolution.

I am confident the issues leading to this difficult decision at EDCO are not of concern for Assabet Valley Collaborative for the following reasons:

- AVC's Cumulative Surplus as of the June 30, 2020 Audit was \$3,950,431 - exceeding the allowable threshold of 25% by \$193,827 which will be disbursed back to member districts by June 30, 2021
- AVC has established an irrevocable OPEB Trust and has been gradually funding the Trust; AVC transferred \$75,000 to the Trust in 2020 and currently has 4 retirees.
- Our current and past annual audits illustrate that we are a solvent organization. Subsequently, we have had no findings for the past several years.
- AVC's revenue has been stable for the past several years - resulting in the healthy cumulative surplus
- AVC's property purchases (2 business condominiums at Lord Road) were executed with healthy down payments (together totaling \$648,000) that accelerated equity and favorable mortgage terms.
- AVC does not have debt - other than mortgage payments for the Lord Road condominiums as noted above. AVC does not have credit cards.

While AVC has achieved financial stability in the last several years, there are some FY21 vulnerabilities we face that we are actively working to address.

- 1) Finance Director vacancy -
 - a) AVC has had a vacancy in the financial leader role since December; after an unsuccessful first effort to fill the position, it was reposted. AVC is contracting with TMS for financial leadership while we undergo a rigorous search process.
- 2) COVID-related revenue loss
 - a) The pandemic has significantly impacted revenue from Transportation, professional development, facilities rentals, and has limited referrals for our programs.
- 3) COVID-related growth deceleration
 - a) AVC had planned to expand services - including the opening of an elementary therapeutic school in FY21; this has been postponed.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meetings held on March 10 and March 24, 2021, will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meetings held on March 10 and March 24, 2021.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **04/07/21**

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.

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”) - non-represented administrators.

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”) - non-represented administrators, 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**