

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP
April 14, 2021
Shrewsbury Town Hall**

Start: 7:00 PM

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.

Discussions

Discussion regarding whether or not we should prepare and vote two separate budgets: one for a “yes” vote on the upcoming Override and one for a “no” vote. The sense of the Committee was that we present and vote one budget: that anticipating a “yes” vote. We will need to regroup post Override vote if the Override does not carry.

The group discussed the pros and cons of bringing up the fact that if the Override does not pass and the new Beal school does not open as planned there may be legal and financial consequences for the town that could be in the millions of dollars. Although the exact amount and the timeline for repayment is not known, the town is in possession of a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) stating that not opening per plan would be a violation of the conditions of their support. In addition, there may be repercussions going forward for future applications to the MSBA if Shrewsbury does not prove to be a trustworthy partner.

Messaging and tone for the Override were discussed to include the fact that a “no” vote would affect all town departments and not just the schools.

Executive Session

Ms. Fryc 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”) - 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.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session: Mr. Palitsch; second: Mr. Wensky. Roll Call: Mr. Palitsch: yes; Ms. Heffernan: yes; Dr. Magee: yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; Ms. Fryc: yes.

Regular Session adjourned to Executive Session at: 8:06 PM

Motion to adjourn Open Meeting: Mr. Wensky. Second: Mr. Palitsch. Vote: Mr. Palitsch: yes; Ms. Heffernan: yes; Dr. Magee: yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; and Ms. Fryc: yes.

Open meeting adjourned: 8:25PM