

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Present: Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Ms. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this meeting was not open to physical attendance by the public, but was broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29 & 329 and streamed live on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website.

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Dr. Sawyer at 7:02 pm in advance of the election of officers.

I. Election of Officers

Dr. Sawyer requested and accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the School Committee. Dr. Magee nominated Mr. Wensky for Chairperson, and Ms. Fryc seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Wensky Chairperson of the Committee. As the elected Chairperson of the School Committee, Mr. Wensky requested nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson; Mr. Palitsch nominated Ms. Fryc and Dr. Magee seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Fryc Vice Chairperson. Mr. Wensky requested nominations for the position of Secretary; Ms. Fryc nominated Ms. Heffernan and Mr. Palitsch seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Heffernan Secretary.

II. Public Participation

None.

III. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Committee members expressed appreciation to voters, community members, families, school and town boards, volunteers, Town Manager Kevin Mizikar, and a number of individual stakeholders for supporting passage of the operational override on May 4, 2021 to benefit Shrewsbury Public Schools and the Town of Shrewsbury. They also thanked Ms. Fryc for serving as Chair of the Committee during two particularly challenging consecutive terms. Mr. Wensky expressed gratitude to voters for re-electing him to serve on the School Committee and for their support of the operational override.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Mr. Wensky on his re-election to the School Committee and also expressed appreciation to all parties who contributed to the successful passage of the operational override. Dr.

Sawyer acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Day/Week (May 4/May 3-7); National School Nurse Appreciation Day (May 12) and the work of Director of School Nursing, Noelle Freeman; National Police Week (May 9-15); and wished a happy Eid al-Fitr holiday to those families who celebrate.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments:

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

Dr. Sawyer presented a summary of key messages, information on district case counts (by week, school, and grade) and current state and local public health data. Dr. Sawyer also provided an update on the return to full in-person learning at Shrewsbury Public Schools, including the recent successful return of students to Shrewsbury High School on May 3.

B. Elementary School Redistricting & Kindergarten Update

In his update on elementary school redistricting, Mr. Collins provided a brief review of the process, presented a map illustrating the new 2021-2022 school year elementary school zones, described the implementation schedule going forward, and noted resources available to parents. Mr. Collins also provided an update on the 2021-2022 Full Day Kindergarten program relative to space, program details, locations, and the registration process.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on kindergarten registration, teacher assignments, and parent notification, and noted the importance to the community of opening the new Beal School and making tuition-free Full Day Kindergarten available to all students. Dr. Sawyer added that the candidate search for the Assistant Principal at the new Beal School was currently underway.

VI. Curriculum

A. Summer Programming Update: Report

Ms. Clouter began the report by providing an overview of summer support for students through both community (Shrewsbury Public Library, Parks & Recreation Department) and school programs (general education and special education). Ms. Clouter addressed general education programs by describing supports for all students by tiers; detailing summer classroom instruction for all students and for English Learners; illustrating the proposed grouping/staffing model for invited students; and describing opportunities for students at the Shrewsbury Public Library. Ms. Belsito addressed Extended School Year (ESY) services for students with disabilities by describing ESY's purpose, detailing definitions for student eligibility, estimating the number of students who qualify, and noting key program factors - including COVID Compensatory Services - for 2021.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on identifying students on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who qualify for the program; program details, capacities, and funding; coordination with community programs; and differentiation from Summer Enrichment programs traditionally offered in the district but that are not available in 2021.

VII. Policy

None.

VIII. Finance & Operations

None.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on April 28, 2021 were accepted as distributed.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Wensky 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. On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:31 pm.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Pandemic Response Update & Plans for Reopening Full/In-Person - Slide Presentation
2. Elementary School Redistricting & Kindergarten Update - Slide Presentation
3. Summer Programming Update Memo
4. Summer Programming Update Slide Presentation
5. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above