

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Present via virtual participation: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; 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 participation by the public, but was broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29 & 329 and streamed live on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website. A complete audio/video recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Fryc at 7:01 pm, who requested a moment of silence to remember Ms. Marge Clark, former Calvin Coolidge School Principal, who passed away recently.

I. Public Participation

Ms. Fryc advised that public participation was suspended due to the meeting being virtual, but noted viewers could email questions and comments to the School Committee.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Wensky expressed appreciation to everyone involved in planning "The Last Ride" event at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) to recognize the Class of 2020.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked all contributors to the recently held Commemoration ceremony and "Last Ride" events, and listed upcoming celebrations planned for the SHS Class of 2020; noted a Virtual K-12 Art Show was available online for viewing by the community; offered condolences to the family of Ms. Clark; and discussed the current national crisis and the killing of George Floyd, including Shrewsbury Public Schools ongoing work to teach students about racism. Mr. Palitsch commended Dr. Sawyer for his statement regarding the current national crisis, adding he felt it was important that the Committee also go on record and that he would present a resolution to the Committee for its consideration at the next meeting.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Recognition: Award from the Mass. Assoc. of School Business Officials

Margaret Driscoll, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) described the Donald J. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award, summarized the nomination application submitted by Mr. Collins, and presented Dr. Sawyer (virtually) with a plaque. Mr. Doug Peters, Regional Vice President, VOYA Financial, congratulated Dr. Sawyer, and noted that VOYA was proud to partner with MASBO to provide support for the award. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins expressed appreciation to MASBO and VOYA, and noted that a number of individuals and groups contributed to SPS being recognized with the award, including Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; Co-Coordinator of Development and Volunteer Activities Michelle Biscotti and Kathleen Keohane; the Turf4Shrewsbury Committee and donors; and contributors to the Colonial Fund.

B. Update Regarding the School District's Response to the COVID-19 School Closure: Report

Dr. Sawyer provided an update on remote learning in the district; noted that planning for fall was underway pending additional guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), with a variety of options being explored in the interim; and advised that Special Education programming for summer - in a remote manner - was moving forward, with the potential for some in-person services to be available in the future. Mr. Collins advised that planning for transportation services for fall was in a holding pattern pending information from the state on reopening schools and protocol relative to transportation.

V. Curriculum

A. Use of Adaptive Software Technology Platforms for Remote Learning & Summer Skill Retention: Report & Vote to Accept Grant

Noting the enhanced importance of retention during summer in light of current remote learning, and the potential for future resumption of remote learning, Ms. Clouter detailed the need for additional resources to be able to provide differentiated support to all students, especially in reading and math. Ms. Clouter advised that eight technology platforms had been reviewed; provided details on two new recommended platforms for use - Freckle and ST Math; and recommended expanding use of the existing Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) platform at SPS to rising eighth and ninth grade students. She added that families would be provided with a single QR code that would allow for easy access to information and links to these resources.

The Committee inquired about the potential for additional summer resources for students on topics relating to the current national crisis, and expressed appreciation for the creative gamification strategy employed by the proposed software. Dr. Sawyer provided clarifying information on costs for the new and expanded technology platforms, and recommended that the Committee vote to accept a grant for the ST Math platform.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a grant from the One8 Foundation for providing access to the ST Math learning software

program, which is estimated to be worth between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on May 27, 2020 were accepted as distributed.

XI. 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 Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.

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 support staff members (including secretaries, clerical workers, information technology support staff, Extended School Care staff, and other support staff); and/or non-represented administrators as a group (including assistant superintendents, Executive Director of Human Resources, principals, Director of Information Technology, Assistant Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services, and the Director of Extended Learning)

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 Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers; 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 support staff members (including secretaries, clerical workers, information technology support staff, Extended School Care staff, and other support staff); and/or non-represented administrators as a group (including assistant superintendents, Executive Director of Human Resources, principals, Director of Information Technology, Assistant Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services, and the Director of Extended Learning), 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.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:20 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch: yes; Mr. Wensky: yes; Ms. Heffernan: yes; Dr. Magee: yes; and Ms. Fryc: yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. MASBO - D. Johnson Award Application
2. Remote Learning Resources Report
3. ST Math Grant Information
4. Remote Learning Resources Slide Presentation
5. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above

