

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Present: Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Boucher; Ms. Sandra Fryc; 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.

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

The meeting was convened by Ms. Heffernan at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Ms. Heffernan thanked Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) staff, students, families, and PTOs for planning a number of successful end-of-year activities for students.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Baseball Team for earning a berth in the State Division I Final Four, and expressed appreciation to SPS staff for persevering and doing excellent work during a challenging school year.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Student Recognition: Science Fair & Coding Competition Winners

SHS students Alex Kaneko and Arnav Sharma, Class of 2024, discussed their *Snake Runner Game*, a computer coding project they developed that recently received Mass STEM Hub's Student Industry Connects 1st Place High School Computer Science Project award. The students demonstrated the game, answered questions about their prior coding experience, and noted computer science classes they would like to take in the future (including AP Computer Science, which would need to be added to the SHS Program of Studies).

SHS student Nevin Thinagar, Class of 2024, presented information on his Science Fair Project *Reducing the Impact of Wingtip Vortices on Aircraft Through the Use of a Novel Winglet Design*, which won 1st place at the 2022 Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair. After Mr. Thinagar answered questions from the Committee about his inspiration and his collaborations with partners including Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Oak Middle School's Design Lab, all three students were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and presented with certificates.

B. Acceptance of Gift: Vote

Mr. Collins expressed appreciation to the Shrewsbury Middle School PTO for their gift to Oak Middle School to support courtyard improvements, and for purchases including pickleball equipment and

replacement CPR dummies. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a donation of \$16,000 from the Sherwood and Oak Middle School PTO for courtyard improvements and classroom equipment to be used at Oak Middle School.

C. District Response to the Pandemic: Report

In his report, Dr. Sawyer shared current state, local (noting no Town of Shrewsbury data was available yet for the week of June 10, 2022 due to a state reporting issue), and district-specific COVID-19 case data; and provided updated information on student absenteeism in the district.

D. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report

Ms. Heffernan advised that this agenda item would be rescheduled to a future meeting due to a family emergency for one of the presenters.

E. Social Emotional Learning Survey Results: Report

Ms. Clouter began by summarizing the student survey topics and the uses and goals of the data collected. She provided detailed information on student Social-Emotional (SEL) Survey Results by grade span (3-5 and 6-12) and topic (Spring 2021, Winter 2021, Spring 2022), and by grade span, subgroup, and topic (Spring 2022); and student Equity & Inclusion Survey Results by grade span and topic (Spring 2021 (some), Winter 2021, Spring 2022), and by grade span, subgroup, and topic (Spring 2022). Ms. Clouter then detailed Winter 2021 Family Survey Results by topic both in aggregate and by subgroup. Committee members expressed appreciation for the data, asked clarifying questions about the survey and its results, and noted the data collected would help inform decision making going forward in the district.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Electric Vehicle Bus Grant Application Procedure: Update

Mr. Collins provided an overview of the Clean School Bus Program and its associated funding; detailed grant award limits (per bus); noted eligibility and awardee prioritization (SPS would not be a prioritized applicant); shared a grant timeline; and described the district's strategy relative to the program. Committee members asked clarifying questions about vehicle ownership and lifespan, and about any costs associated with the program and vehicle charging.

B. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget: Final Report & Vote on Fund Transfers

In the report, Mr. Collins provided an overview of the FY22 Budget and information on COVID-19-associated funding; detailed those categories of the Town Meeting Appropriated Budget that experienced a variance of 10% or more; and addressed Circuit Breaker funding. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the administration to make budget transfers from the original budget plan as necessary to eliminate deficits and surpluses, with the intent of fully expending the total FY22 appropriation by June 30, 2022 and balancing all accounts.

C. Fiscal Year 2023 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Adjustments: Vote

Dr. Sawyer provided background information on non-represented staff compensation for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022, and detailed the rationale for his Fiscal Year 2023 recommendations that non-represented,

hourly employees be granted a 2.25% cost-of-living adjustment, and that a new top step (2.0% higher than the current top step) be added. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to approve compensation adjustments to non-represented staff for Fiscal Year 2023 as detailed in the memo provided by Dr. Sawyer.

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 June 8, 2022 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Ms. Heffernan 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 – 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 on 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”); 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 Ms. Boucher, on a roll call vote: Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Heffernan, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Science Fair Project Slide Presentation
2. Pandemic Response Slide Presentation

3. Social Emotional Learning Survey Report
4. Social Emotional Learning Survey Slide Presentation
5. Electric Vehicle Bus Grant Application Report
6. EPA Clean School Bus Program Information
7. FY22 Final Budget Report
8. FY23 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Memo
9. FY23 Non-Represented Staff Pay Rate Schedules
10. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above