

**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**September 8, 2021
7:00 pm**

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**September 8, 2021 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

Items

Suggested time allotments

Special Opening	7:00 - 7:05
I. Public Participation	7:05-7:10
II. Chairperson’s Report & Members’ Reports	
III. Superintendent’s Report	
IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:	
A. Opening of the 2021-2022 School Year & Pandemic Response: Report	7:10 – 7:45
B. American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund: Discussion & Feedback re: Potential Uses	7:45 – 8:10
V. Curriculum	
VI. Policy	
VII. Finance & Operations	
VIII. Old Business	
IX. New Business	
A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report	8:10 – 8:20
B. Appointment of Superintendent as Representative to Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors: Vote	8:20 – 8:25
X. Approval of Minutes	8:25 – 8:30
XI. Executive Session	8:30 – 9:00
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.	



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- 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.

XII. Adjournment

9:00

Next regular meeting: September 22, 2021



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Special Opening

MEETING DATE: 9/08/21

Under the direction of Mr. Michael Lapomardo, Music Teacher, Shrewsbury High School (SHS), the SHS A Cappella Choir performed the National Anthem at the Opening Program for Shrewsbury Public Schools staff on Monday, August 25. The performance was recorded and will be presented at tonight's meeting via video recording.

This is the roster of students (including grade level) who performed:

Soprano

12 Deeptha Ganesh
12 Reeya Kansra
11 Grace Kasten
12 Allison Sawyer
11 Elaine Stameris

Alto

12 Anna Cardani
11 Rachel Harvie
12 Saniha Kumar
12 Olivia Manxhari

Tenor

12 Jackson Bachini
11 Seamus Callahan
10 Chase Kinsky

Bass

12 Shakthi Annamalai
11 Ronan Cox
12 Richard Milord
12 Amit Shenoy
12 Pranav Vadlamudi



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 9/08/21

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
Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson
Ms Sandra Fryc, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary
Dr. B. Dale Magee, 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.



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ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**
A. Opening of the 2021-2022 School Year & Pandemic Response: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and members of the leadership team will provide a report on the opening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year, and on the district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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: 9/08/21

**B. American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
Fund: Discussion & Feedback re: Potential Uses**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will present a report regarding the requirements for application for the third round of federal pandemic response funding for education.

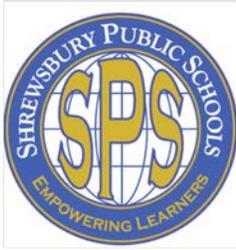
ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and provide feedback regarding priorities for the use of these funds.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

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



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 3, 2021

To: School Committee
From: Joe Sawyer
Re: ESSER-3 Federal Grant Funding: Process for Determining Use

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund provides a third round of federal funding for our school district for use to address various needs related to educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic. ESSER-1 funding, which was part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, totaled \$162,060; ESSER-2 funding, which was part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRSSA) Act, provided \$557,280. These funds were allocated for a variety of purposes related to managing through the demands placed upon our schools during the pandemic. ESSER-1 funds were spent entirely on personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 surveillance testing. ESSER-2 funds were used for additional PPE, procuring additional furniture, furniture storage, tents, technology hardware, and providing required special education compensatory services for students.

This third round of funds, known as ESSER-3, is a larger apportionment of funding at \$1,229,980, and it comes with many more requirements for approved use, as illustrated by [this 50-page FAQ](#) from the U.S. Department of Education. A more digestible explanation of preparing to apply for these funds from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, who is responsible for distributing these federal funds to local districts, is found [here](#). The funding may be used this year once approved and can be extended through September 30, 2024 as a final deadline for spending.

You will see that outreach to stakeholders is an important part of the process. The district received feedback from families and staff in August through two separate ThoughtExchange online information exchanges, and in the coming week we will be soliciting additional, specific information from the required stakeholder groups, including students, families, staff, collective bargaining unions, and community groups as noted in the requirements. This feedback will inform the recommendations we will bring forward to the School Committee for approval at your September 22 meeting, so that the district can prepare and submit its application for fund use by the deadline of October 4.

The staff and family feedback solicited in August indicated that student mental health and well-being is seen as a significant priority and need. Other areas that the district will be asking for specific feedback for the potential investment of these funds is the provision of reading and mathematics support for students to address the educational impact of the

pandemic, along with the continuation of targeted learning supports for students in the summer of 2022. It is important to note that 20% of the funds must be used “to address lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups:

- low-income children or students,
- children with disabilities,
- English learners,
- racial and ethnic minorities,
- students experiencing homelessness, and
- children and youth in foster care”

When we present this information to you at your meeting on September 8, School Committee members are invited to ask questions and share your perspectives regarding these potential uses of the ESSER-3 funds along with any other district needs that you believe these funds could address.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**
A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

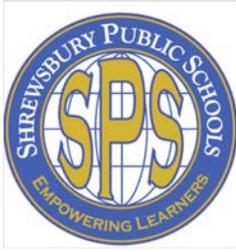
The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy adopted in December 2010 indicates that the superintendent or a designee shall report annually to the School Committee regarding the frequency of bullying behaviors during the prior school year and to update the Committee regarding steps being taken in the schools to minimize such behaviors while promoting the continuous improvement of learning environments. The report is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee accept 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



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 3, 2021

To: School Committee
Re: Bullying Prevention and Intervention – Annual Report

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy adopted in December 2010 indicates that *the superintendent or a designee shall report annually to the School Committee regarding the frequency of bullying behaviors during the prior school year and to update the Committee regarding steps being taken in the schools to minimize such behaviors while promoting the continuous improvement of learning environments.* This report satisfies this policy requirement.

Frequency of bullying behaviors

It is important to note that, in order for behavior to be deemed “bullying,” it must involve *repeated* behaviors that cause physical and/or emotional harm. Therefore, only situations that meet this standard are reported as “bullying.” There are, of course, many times where students do not treat each other according to our school communities’ expectations, but these are usually not scenarios where the same aggressor repeatedly acts inappropriately towards the same target, thereby qualifying as “bullying.”

There were no incidences of defined bullying at the preschool and elementary levels, one at the middle level, and none at the high school level. The following tables provide statistics for grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year and, for comparison, the statistics for the previous year. You will see that the statistics - except for *Allegations of Bullying* - are lower than the prior year, and they continue to show very low rates of bullying overall. It is important to note that with some cohorts of students attending school either remotely or as part of the hybrid learning model due to the pandemic, there were fewer opportunities for in-school bullying behavior.

2020-2021	Allegations of Bullying	Qualifying as Bullying	Aggressors	Targets
Elementary Level	2	0	0	0
Middle Level	5	1	1	1
High School Level	3	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

2019-2020	Allegations of Bullying	Qualifying as Bullying	Aggressors	Targets
Elementary Level	1	0	0	0
Middle Level	4	3	2	3
High School Level	4	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>

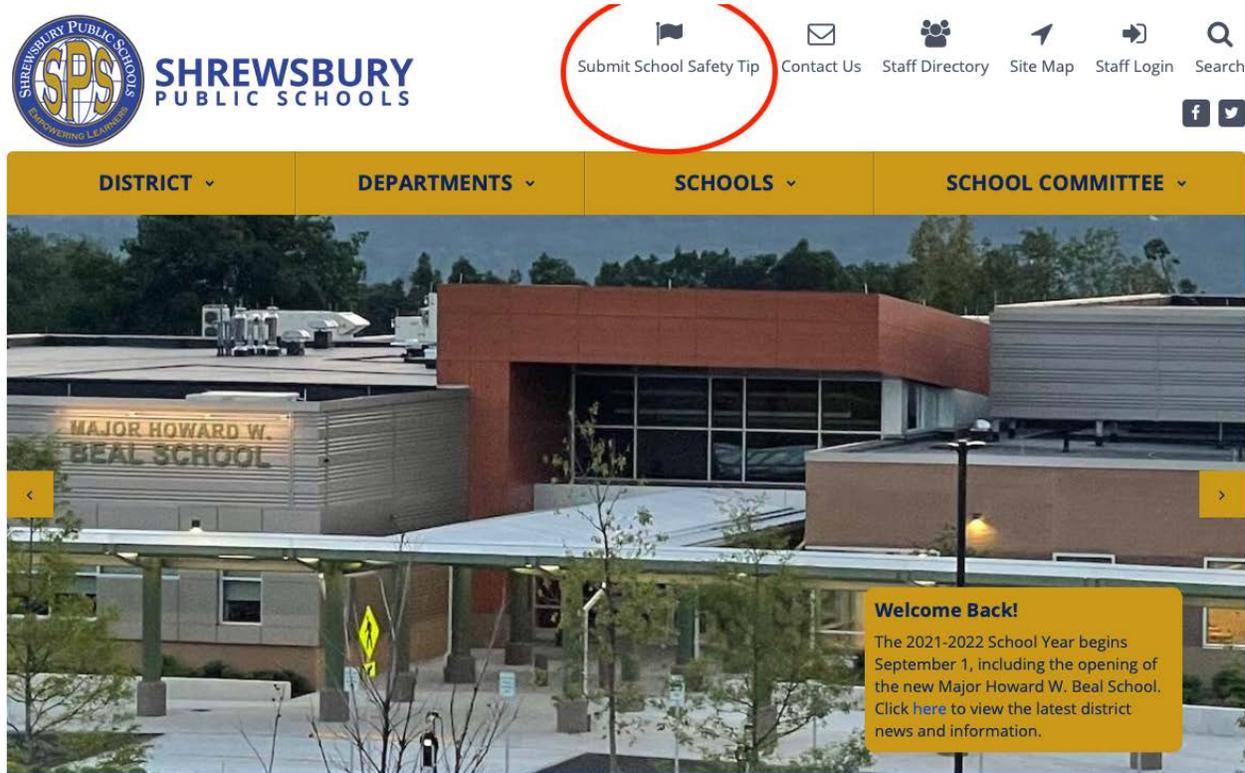
The following table shows the type of incidents and locations that were documented as bullying in the past year (some incidents were included in more than one category).

2020-2021	Verbal	Physical	Cyber	At School	Outside School
Elementary Level	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Level	1	0	0	1	0
High School Level	0	0	0	0	0

Ongoing work to minimize bullying

The very small number of situations that qualified as “bullying” (one) can be viewed as very positive data regarding our schools’ cultures and climates and how students treat one another. That said, we are always looking to minimize behaviors that are hurtful or harmful, even if they don’t technically constitute bullying. This year, we will continue our focus on the themes of inclusion and belonging and providing various social emotional learning experiences to students, such as through advisories at Oak Middle School and Shrewsbury High School that will use the *CharacterStrong* program while using the companion *Purposeful People* materials with our elementary students.

As a reminder, we added an anonymous incident reporting feature three years ago that appears with a flag symbol at the top center of each of our website's pages (see image below) where students can report a "school safety tip." We have advertised this through email messages in the past and will do so again during this opening phase of the school year. While it has not been used frequently, we have received 32 reports total with 11 submitted since my report last year. A few were related to bullying in a general sense, and all were investigated and resolved to the extent possible based on the information provided.



We continue to seek ways as a school district to provide support to students to address their social and emotional needs while promoting school cultures of belonging that are safe, positive, and productive places of learning for our students and staff.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

**B. Appointment of Superintendent as Representative to Assabet Valley
Collaborative Board of Directors: Vote**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The mission of the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) is to provide effective and efficient services to meet current and evolving needs of member communities to promote student success and community integration. The AVC Board of Directors meets monthly during the school year and more often as needed. Each year the Committee must vote to appoint the Superintendent as Representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to appoint Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools, as its representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: X. Approval of Minutes

MEETING DATE: 9/08/21

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on September 1, 2021 will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on September 1, 2021.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson

Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **9/08/21**

- 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.**

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; and

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, 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 Operation



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**