

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Present: 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. 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/video recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Fryc at 8:01pm, who offered condolences to the parents, brother, family, and friends of student Zoe Wolfus, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Class of 2022, who recently passed, and requested a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Wolfus. Dr. Sawyer also offered condolences and noted a number of steps taken by SHS in response to the loss to support the student and parent communities.

I. Public Participation

None. Ms. Fryc noted that anyone wishing to participate in public participation should reach out to the School Committee via email.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer reported that Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) staff returned to work on August 31 for ten days of training to prepare for reopening of schools to students on September 15, and thanked staff and the district leadership for their work around reopening.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Update on Reopening Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year: Report

Dr. Sawyer presented a summary of key messages; current public health data (state and local); a description of recent work conducted by staff; information on HVAC system analyses at schools; updated data on family choices relative to remote or hybrid learning programs; and staffing, operational, capacity and program challenges. Ms. Karen Isaacson, Director of Extended

Learning, presented updated data on program enrollment (noting recent withdrawals and the reasons for them) and a revised budget projection (noting overall revenue loss), and recommended that operation of the program be suspended until schools re-open at 100% capacity. Dr. Sawyer added that no action was required by the Committee, but noted that the information was being presented to notify families as soon as possible. Committee members lamented suspension of the program but noted it was critical to advise families early so they could plan accordingly.

V. Curriculum

A. Remote Learning Program for SHS Cohort D: Report

In their report, Ms. Clouter and SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo emphasized that students in the fully remote learning model (Cohort D) are SPS students who will remain connected to the school community. They provided information on standards and third-party platforms being utilized; presented data on participation; illustrated lesson content and provided a sample schedule; described the rationale for selecting the Edgenuity platform and listed its course offerings; provided a list of Advanced Placement (AP) courses available; detailed costs for the third-party providers; provided detailed information on the role and responsibilities of Cohort D Coordinators (comprised of SHS educators) who will work with students; noted expectations for students and opportunities for them to engage with peers and advisors; and detailed potential scenarios for a) the district going to an all-remote model, and b) students wishing to switch to the cohort model.

Additional information was provided to Committee members in response to clarifying questions on the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) review process of the Edgenuity platform; Cohort D Coordinators; support for struggling students, students on Individualized Education Programs, and English Language Learners; and utilizing different educators for hybrid and remote students. Dr. Sawyer added that the district wants organizational success and is providing support so Cohort D - and all SPS students - will have a good educational experience.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Vote to Ratify a Memorandum of Agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A re: Hybrid Education Model

Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation for the Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA) Unit A Leadership Team, Ms. Fryc, Mr. Wensky, and the administrative team for their work developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) addressing working conditions relative to the hybrid learning model at SPS; recommended that the Committee ratify the MOA; and noted SEA Unit

A members voted the prior week to ratify the MOA. Ms. Malone, Ms. Fryc, and Mr. Wensky commented on the good working relationship enjoyed by all parties who contributed to developing the MOA.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to ratify the enclosed Memorandum of Agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A, regarding the Hybrid Education Model at Shrewsbury Public Schools.

X. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Fryc requested that the following corrections be made to the minutes provided to the Committee: the spelling of Mr. Chalmers' name in the School Committee Minutes dated August 6, 2020; Mr. Wensky's title be changed from *Assistant* Chairperson to *Vice* Chairperson in the School Committee Minutes dated August 8, August 18, and August 25, 2020. Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meetings held on August 6, August 18, August 19, August 25, and August 26, 2020, and the School Committee Workshop held on August 8, 2020 were accepted as amended.

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.

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; 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 Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers, 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 Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes, and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 9:30 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Reopening Update Slide Presentation
2. HVAC Audit Report High School
3. HVAC Audit Report Spring Street & Paton
4. HVAC Audit Report Sherwood
5. HVAC Audit Report Parker
6. HVAC Audit Report Coolidge & Floral
7. HVAC Audit Report Oak
8. Extended School Care Update Slide Presentation
9. Remote Learning Program for SHS Report
10. Remote Learning Program for SHS Slide Presentation
11. SEA Unit A & School Committee Hybrid Model MOA
12. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above