

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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; 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 opened at 6:30 PM and Ms Fryc immediately requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association – Unit B, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 6:30 pm.

The Committee returned to open session at 6:53 PM, and the meeting was recessed.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 PM by Ms. Fryc.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer noted that a successful Community Celebration of the improvements to the Shrewsbury High School athletic complex was held the previous weekend and included the dedication of the David J. Adams Memorial Field at Central One Federal Credit Union Stadium, and advised that a Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council anti-bullying workshop would be held October 3rd.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Unified Sports National Banner Designation: Recognition

Ms. Belsito introduced a number of presenters affiliated with the Unified Program at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) who spoke about their experiences and the positive impact that the program has had for students and the greater school community both on and off the playing field.

Speakers included:

Meghan Wallace, Special Education Teacher & Unified Club Advisor, SHS

Mario Gonzales, Special Education Teacher & Unified Track & Field Coach, SHS

Kevin O'Connor, ABA Technician, and Jessica Rigber, Social Science Teacher; Unified Basketball Coaches, SHS

Colleen Hall, English Teacher & Unified Track & Field Coach, SHS

SHS Students:

Unified Club - Theodora Chacharone '21, Njeri Mayanja '21, Natalie Davis '21, Tim Fitzpatrick '20, Cole Ackerman '20

Unified Basketball - John West '20, Justin Wentzell '20

Unified Track & Field - Kevin Orifice '19, Chris Liu '19

Parent: Mrs. Michele Wentzell

Members of the Committee and Dr. Sawyer praised the students and staff for building Unified Sports into a highly successful program that exemplifies the district's core values and aspirations.

B. Beal School Building Project: Update & Vote on Proprietary Items

In his report, Mr. Walter Hartley, Project Manager, PMA Associates, provided an overview of the Massachusetts Building Authority process, a general project update, a description of the two recommended proprietary items, and an estimated construction cost estimate reconciliation as of September 4, 2019. Ms. Kathryn Crockett, President, LPA/A, provided a design overview that included detailed information on the entrance sign, display areas, external materials, main entrance, courtyard, play area, lobby, cafeteria, media center, and classrooms. Mr. Hartley and Ms. Crockett answered clarifying questions from the Committee on the potential for changes to bids relative to tariffs (the low bidder for steel advised the price would not change if there were a change in tariffs), and the impact of winter conditions to the timeline. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to approve the two proposed proprietary items.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to approve that the following items be included in the Beal Project bid specifications as proprietary items as it is in the best interest of the School Department, Town, and public to have these specific items in the Beal School for integration of systems across all schools and/or to match existing systems and allow for seamless and cost-effective maintenance and repairs in the future:

- Johnson Control FX for HVAC controls
- Axis video surveillance cameras

C. Future Redistricting of Elementary School Attendance Zones: Discussion & Potential Vote on Decision-Making Process

In his report, Mr. Collins provided historical background on redistricting at SPS, the rationale for the size and grade configuration of the new Beal School, and options for the decision-making process (noting all school districts in a recent survey hired outside consultants to assist in the enrollment and housing growth studies and to more quickly and visually formulate options using GIS tools). He gave examples from other districts for the development of Guiding Principles, provided a Major Milestones and Timeline draft, stressed the level of resources that would be required (including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expertise), and addressed some Frequently Asked Questions.

Committee members gave their perspectives in turn, with support among all for the use of external consultants and for the creation of an ad hoc committee to oversee the process. Some members requested that additional clarity on the Guiding Principles and the roles and responsibilities of members be provided in advance of soliciting individuals for the committee. Although specific content of ad hoc committee guidance was not to be decided with this vote, members again expressed interest in aligning redistricting and potential start time changes.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the School Committee voted unanimously to establish an ad hoc committee on redistricting, consisting of two members of the School Committee, the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, two elementary school principals, and one parent representative each from the Beal, Coolidge, Floral Street, Paton, and Spring Street schools who will be selected by the School Committee chair after a review of applications; further, that this ad hoc committee will be provided with guiding principles by the School Committee and will apply those principles when considering information, reviewing options, and making recommendations to the School Committee for the redistricting of elementary school attendance zone boundaries for grades Kindergarten through Grade 4, to take effect when the new Beal School opens.

D. State Representative Hannah Kane: Legislative Update

Rep. Kane gave a comprehensive report to the Committee on her work on behalf of the school district and community at the state and local level relative to a variety of issues and legislation including: a bill that would create a statewide women's rights history trail; FY19 and FY20 state budgets; Circuit Breaker funding; Chapter 70 Aid and the "hold harmless" provision; school transportation issues (non-resident pupil transportation and out-of-district student transportation - including a proposal that Shrewsbury students who attend Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School pay the same fee that SHS students pay for busing); the Education PROMISE Act Bill; co-sponsorship of a bill for an Education Mandate Task Force; the Shrewsbury Board of Health vote to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult only establishments; funding for Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services (SYFS); and an upcoming fundraiser to support the Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education (SCAPE).

The Committee and Dr. Sawyer thanked Rep. Kane for her advocacy on behalf of our students, schools, and community, and for her work on a variety of important issues, including those relative to the public health of young people.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report

In his annual report, Dr. Sawyer provided the specific, legal definition of “bullying” used for the report; supplied detailed statistics on the frequency of bullying behavior (showing data for both 2018-2019 and 2017-2018); noted that the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website contains comparison data with other districts’ bullying statistics; and described ongoing work in the district to minimize bullying, including the recent addition of an incident reporting feature that appears on the SPS district website where “school safety tips” - including bullying behaviors - can be submitted anonymously.

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

Ms. Fryc noted that the Committee must vote annually to appoint the Superintendent as Representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) Board of Directors. Dr. Sawyer added that AVC is a strong organization that provides a number of benefits to SPS.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools, as its representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2019- 2020 school year.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on September 4, 2019 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Please see above.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Unified Program Report
2. Unified Program Slide Presentation
3. Beal Project Update Slide Presentation
4. Beal Proprietary Item Determination Correspondence
5. Elementary Redistricting Slide Presentation
6. 2019 Bullying Memo
7. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above