



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

October 2, 2020

To: School Committee

Re: Recommendation for appointment of board member of Shrewsbury Media Connection, Inc.

As you are aware, in 2018 the Shrewsbury Media Connection (SMC) transitioned to a nonprofit organization that has its own Board of Directors, and the School Committee has the responsibility and authority to make the appointment of one of the SMC board members given the strong connections between the respective missions of SMC and the School Department. The duties of the SMC, Inc. Board of Directors are to oversee the public access center, hire the Executive Director, approve the Annual Operating Budget, set Policies and Procedures for SMC Inc., and set and implement marketing and fundraising programs.

This seat on the SMC, Inc. Board of Directors began in the fall of 2018 and expires as of December 14, 2020. In 2018, the School Committee appointed Dr. Weichu (Brian) Xu as the recommended candidate for the SMC, Inc. Board of Directors. Dr. Xu is an assistant professor of organic chemistry at Worcester State University who previously worked in the field of pharmaceutical research. He is a longtime resident of Shrewsbury who is well known for his leadership as the Principal and Chair of the Board of the Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School, Inc., which teaches Chinese language and culture during weekend sessions and hosts an outstanding annual celebration of the Chinese New Year at which SPS Mandarin Chinese classes perform each year.

Dr. Xu strongly supports the mission of SMC, Inc., particularly as it relates to educational programming that benefits the community. By all accounts, he has been an excellent member of the SMC, Inc. Board of Directors, and I ask that you vote to appoint him to a second term in this important role at your meeting on October 7, 2020.