

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 30, 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. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services (joined meeting at 7:03 pm); 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. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Ms. Fryc: Yes; Mr. Wensky: Yes; Dr. Magee: Yes; Mr. Palitsch: Yes; Ms. Heffernan: Yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 6:31 pm.

The Committee returned to open session at 6:52 pm, and the meeting was recessed. Ms. Malone left the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 PM by Ms. Fryc, with Ms. Belsito joining the meeting.

**I. Public Participation**

None.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

Dr. Magee reported that he and Mr. Palitsch recently completed taping an edition of the *School Talk* program that addresses the history of Beal School as well as early school history in Shrewsbury.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer reported that the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Unified Sports program was one of three state finalists in the Massachusetts Special Olympics Unified School Spirit Contest; provided an update on SHS Athletics playoff competitions; noted Girls' and Boys' Crew teams were the (Fall) MA Public School State Champions at last week's competition; noted Floral Street School recently celebrated Cultural Connections week to honor the rich diversity of their

school community; and advised that a survey to get feedback on communications from the Shrewsbury Public Schools went out earlier in the day to staff and the community.

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

##### **A. SHS Educational Television Studio: Student Presentation**

Ms. Maggie Korab, Shrewsbury High School, Educational Television Studio (ETS) Director, and students Sara Barry, Theodora Chacharone, Max Evers, and Cole Ackerman gave the report. The meeting paused at 7:08 pm for an audio technical issue, and resumed at 7:10 pm. The students and Ms. Korab provided an overview of the ETS program and its course curriculum; showed a brief video clip; described the type of projects they coordinate at the request of faculty, staff, and the community; and discussed the student experience at the Student Television Network Convention in Atlanta, GA, in 2016. Ms. Korab added that ETS' High Definition (HD) broadcast capabilities were made possible by a recent renovation of the High School Television Studio that was funded in part by the Colonial Fund.

##### **B. SHS Educational Television Studio Overnight Travel: Vote**

Ms. Korab provided additional detail on the student experience at the Student Television Network Convention in Atlanta, GA, in 2016, noting the types of competitions and opportunities for collaboration that would be available to students who attend the proposed trip to the upcoming Student Television Network Convention in Washington DC in March 2020.

In response to questions from Dr. Magee, Ms. Korab provided additional information on trip cost estimates, scholarships available for students, student eligibility, and the potential for fundraising opportunities. Several Committee members expressed support for the trip. Dr. Magee noted that he would like the Committee to find a way to address opportunities that may only be available to subgroups of students. Dr. Sawyer expressed support for the trip, citing the positive impact on past student participants, and added that additional financial support might be realized by reaching out to donor partners in the community.

On a motion from Mr. Paltisch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted to approve overnight travel for Shrewsbury High School Educational Television Studio students for a trip to Washington DC to attend the Student Television Network Convention in March 2020. Dr. Magee abstained from the vote.

##### **C. School Nursing & Concussion Data: Annual Report**

In her report, Ms. Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing, provided: statistics on 2018-19 student visits to the health office (by type), and Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screenings for substance use by grade 7 and grade 10 students; an update on how the Comprehensive School Health Services Grant is currently being utilized (*Transitions* "bridge" program at Sherwood Middle School, an equity audit, and Professional Development opportunities); and student concussion data, with breakout historical data for student athletes.

In response to clarifying questions from the Committee and Dr. Sawyer, Ms. Freeman provided additional information on: grant money used for staff salaries; the equity audit (noting it addresses equity relative to areas including achievement gaps, race, socio-economic disparities,

and disabilities); data relative to mental and behavioral health visits; lower concussion statistics; and the efficaciousness of SBIRT screenings.

#### **D. Student Enrollment & Class Sizes: Annual Report**

Dr. Sawyer presented detailed data on preschool through Grade 12 enrollment and preschool through Grade 8 class sizes that included information on key enrollment data points; current enrollment by grade; enrollment history by school and for certain grade levels; special education out-of-district placement; vocational technical school enrollment; School Committee class size guidelines; and class size history for kindergarten through grade 8. Ms. Heffernan asked for information on families on the waitlist for preschool slots (eight families as of October 1), and Dr. Magee requested additional information on vocational students' chosen areas of study, outcomes, and post-secondary choices.

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Mr. Gregory Nevader, Assistant Principal, Shrewsbury High School (SHS), presented information on enrollment, class sizes, and building capacity at SHS. They reported: key enrollment data points; building capacity by department; Teaching full-time equivalents (FTEs) relative to enrollment; average and median class sizes; and school counselor caseloads. In response to clarifying questions from the Committee, Mr. Bazydlo and Mr. Nevader provided additional information on lab science enrollment; best practices around space; courses with lower class sizes; opportunities for students at Quinsigamond Community College; and Virtual High School (VHS) enrollment and costs. Dr. Sawyer added that the eight-year lease for space currently used at SHS for the special education *Evolution* program would not be renewed upon expiration, which would allow the space to be utilized for classrooms going forward.

#### **V. Curriculum**

None.

#### **VI. Policy**

None.

#### **VII. Finance & Operations**

##### **A. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Priorities & Guidelines: Vote**

At the School Committee meeting on October 16, 2019, Mr. Collins presented a draft of Priorities & Guidelines for FY21 that incorporated input from the Finance Subcommittee, which is comprised of Dr. Magee and Ms. Heffernan. The draft was posted after the meeting for public review, and Ms. Fryc advised that the Committee had not received any feedback. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Priorities & Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Development.

#### **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 October 16, 2019, were accepted as distributed.

#### **XI. Executive Session**

Please see above.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 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. ETS Slide Presentation
2. ETS Trip Memo
3. ETS Trip Proposal
4. Nursing Annual Report
5. Concussion Data Annual Report
6. Nursing and Concussion Data Slide Presentation
7. PreK-12 Enrollment/PreK-8 Class Size Report
8. Enrollment Slide Presentation
9. SHS Class Size Report
10. SHS Class Size Slide Presentation
11. FY21 Budget Priorities & Guidelines Draft
12. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above