

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Present: Mr. Jon Wensky, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; 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 was convened by Mr. Wensky at 7:01pm.

I. Public Participation

Board Members Colleen Corbett and Blake Poggi read a statement together from the Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC), and then each shared their own personal remarks, in support of paraprofessionals in the district.

Mr. Wensky encouraged interested parties to review the *Shrewsbury School Committee Statement regarding Negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association* dated October 5, 2021 for detailed information including the planned use of federal and override funding. He advised that the most recent offer included wage increases of greater than 2% and added that the district values its relationship with paraprofessionals.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer acknowledged National Education Support Professionals Day, and noted that Shrewsbury High School's (SHS) F.I.R.S.T Robotics Team was currently hosting a fundraiser.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Accept Gift from WIN Waste Innovations: Vote

Dr. Jane Lizotte introduced Mr. Donald Musial, Vice President, Ash Monofills at WIN Waste Innovations, and presented information on a donation from WIN to the Colonial Fund in the amount of \$35,000 in 2021, and an additional \$35,000 in 2022, to support enhanced career exploration opportunities for students. Mr. Musial provided background information on the donation, summarized the historical and ongoing relationship between WIN (formerly Wheelabrator) and the Shrewsbury community, and noted potential career exploration opportunities, including job-shadowing and internships, for students.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a gift to the Colonial Fund of \$70,000 from WIN Waste Innovations that will be used to support enhanced career exploration opportunities for students.

B. District Response to the Pandemic: Report

Dr. Sawyer provided updated information on Shrewsbury Public Schools' (SPS) response to the pandemic that included current data on state, local, and district-specific COVID-19 cases; data on "breakthrough" cases in students and staff; and updated information on the Test and Stay and Routine Safety Testing programs in the district. Committee members noted a relationship between mitigation strategies, low spread/positivity rates, and preserving student learning days, and advised that having information on hospitalizations/serious outcomes would help with decision making going forward that is informed by local data.

D. Special Education Transition Programming to Age 22: Report

Mr. Wensky advised that this agenda item was being taken out of order.

Ms. Meg Belsito; Ms. Meghan Bartlett, Assistant Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services; and Ms. Meghan de Leon, Director, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Special Education Department, gave the report. They presented information on creating an in-district program to support the age 18-22 student population with disabilities that included program objectives; educational and financial drivers for its implementation; an out-of-district cost analysis based on anticipated demand; next steps and a timeline for 2021-2022; and examples of space layouts from Westborough Public Schools "Sugar Shack" program. Grade 12 SHS student Ryan Love addressed the Committee on his current student experience, as well as on his personal vision for post-secondary employment and independent living opportunities.

Committee members asked clarifying questions about the vocation skills necessary for students, and on the program's business plan development, sustainability, staffing models, and relationship to the existing Mobile On-Site Vocational Education (M.O.V.E) program.

C. SHS Class of 2021 Future Plans: Report

This agenda item was taken out of order. Please see above.

Ms. Angela Flynn, Director of School Counseling, and Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Shrewsbury High School Principal, provided data on the future plans of the SHS Class of 2021. Their report included information on future plans, and historical trends, relative to: 4-year colleges/2-year colleges/other; public and private 2- and 4-year matriculations; and gender. They provided detailed data on college applications, acceptances and enrollments; illustrated matriculation by geographic region; and provided data on the future plans of students who received special education services.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Flynn provided additional information on helping students navigate school selectivity information and the application process to find schools that are a good fit; the Scoir college planning tool; the weight of self-study Advanced Placement (AP) courses to colleges (they are not heavily weighted by admissions offices); trends in "other plans" for students; the importance of soft skills; and caseload management in the School Counseling office.

E. PreK-12 Enrollment & Class Size Report

Dr. Sawyer began the report by sharing key enrollment data points, enrollment by grade level for 2021-2022, and ten year enrollment history for preschool-Grade 12. He provided enrollment history by grade level and school; noted all kindergarten students currently attend school full-time and tuition-free; detailed out-of-district placements and vocational technical school enrollment; and provided class size histories at the elementary and middle levels in the context of School Committee class size guidelines. Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Nga Huynh, Assistant Principal for Student Services, presented current and historical enrollment data for Shrewsbury High School; illustrated building capacity by presenting a visual representation of academic hallways and showing available rooms; provided current and historical

data on average class sizes by department; and detailed past/present counselor caseload information. There were no questions from the Committee.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

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 November 10, 2021 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Wensky 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;

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; and

C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (“Purpose 2”), 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 Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 9:04 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Pandemic Response Slide Presentation
2. SHS Class of 2021 Future Plans Report
3. SHS Class of 2021 Future Plans Slide Presentation
4. Special Education 18-22 Program Development Report
5. Special Education 18-22 Program Development Slide Presentation
6. PreK-12 Enrollment & PreK-8 Class Size Report
7. PreK-12 Enrollment & PreK-8 Class Size Slide Presentation
8. SHS Class Size Report
9. SHS Class Size Slide Presentation
10. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above