

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, 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/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Fryc at 7:01 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

None.

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

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer reported that Parker Road Preschool Principal Lisa Robinson will be out on medical leave for the remainder of the school year and will leave the district after the school year to pursue other opportunities, and expressed appreciation to Ms. Robinson for her work in the district. Dr. Sawyer noted that Team Chair Bridget Nichols would step into the role of Acting Director of Parker Road Preschool for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Sawyer reported that 135 applications were received from individuals wanting to serve on the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) mascot ad hoc study group, and advised he hoped applicants would be notified of their status sometime the following week.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. Update on Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report**

In the report, Dr. Sawyer presented a summary of key messages, the current district case count, current local and state public health data, medical literature regarding in-school transmission risk, and updated state guidance around the decision-making process for determining changes to educational programs. He also addressed differences between district and state data reporting, factors relative to maintaining stability in the district, and reasons to be both thankful and concerned. Committee members asked clarifying questions about possible staff shortages and how they could assist in alleviating the current level of stress being experienced in the district, and discussed the potential for recalibrating and/or reexamining timelines around the district's strategic priorities and goals in light of the current environment.

## **B. SHS Class of 2020 Future Plans: Report**

In their report, Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling, and Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Shrewsbury High School Principal, presented: Class of 2020 future plans in aggregate, by gender, and broken out for students receiving special education services; data on public and private two- and four-year matriculations; application information; acceptance and enrollment data by geographic region; and information on school selectivity. Committee members asked clarifying questions about the number of applications being submitted by students and school counseling relative to applications, increased anxiety, scholarships and financial aid, and obtaining general profiles of financial aid from schools.

## **V. Curriculum**

### **A. SHS Testing: Annual Report**

Ms. Huynh and Mr. Bazydlo reviewed standardized tests by category: SAT (administration and score reporting changes, redesigned scales, mean scores, gender trends, Subject Test mean scores); PSAT/NMSQT recognition and scholarship opportunities; ACT participation and a participation comparison with SAT; and AP - Advanced Placement - Courses (exam participation overall and by grade, exam scores, scholars). They also addressed SHS's school profile information for college admissions, and strategies for maintaining and improving student scores. Committee members asked clarifying questions about changing SAT and ACT participation rates, how colleges use SAT scores, and stress relative to some school's shift to a holistic approach to admissions, and noted that SHS students are very well-prepared for college.

### **B. Star Assessment for Grades K-8: Report**

In her report, Ms. Clouter addressed the rationale for implementing a universal assessment tool to identify at-risk students, multi-tiered systems of support, and how the assessment aligns with the district's Strategic Goals; described the assessment tool and what students will experience; detailed how data derived from the assessment will be utilized; and provided a timeline for test administration going forward. Ms. Clouter provided a live demonstration of the Star assessment for the Committee. Additional information was provided on correlation of the assessment with MCAS testing in response to questioning. The Committee acknowledged the timeliness of garnering additional student data at present, and noted the importance of communicating thoughtfully with students and families around implementing the new assessment to minimize stress.

## **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 18, 2020 were accepted as distributed.

### **XI. Executive Session**

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. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, 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 9:23 pm.

### **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes, and Dr. Magee, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. 2020-21 School Year Reopening Update Slide Presentation
2. SHS Class of 2020 Future Plans Report
3. SHS Class of 2020 Future Plans Slide Presentation
4. SHS Testing Results Report
5. SHS Testing Results Slide Presentation
6. Star Assessment Report
7. Star Assessment Slide Presentation
8. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above