

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Present: Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Mr. Jon Wensky; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; 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. Palitsch at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer acknowledged a successful Spirit Week and Homecoming celebration at Shrewsbury High School (SHS); attended the home-opener of the SHS Unified Basketball Team; noted an upcoming Family Fall Festival at Beal Early Childhood Center; noted an upcoming Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention & Education (SCAPE) and Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. (SYFS) event for families at Oak Middle School (OMS) addressing public health issues; thanked Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO) for arranging a recent visit by the C-SPAN bus at SHS; and noted that the American Studies program at SHS had recently hosted guest speakers on a variety of topics.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Superintendent's Awards: Student Recognition

Dr. Sawyer recognized SHS students Chi Ki "Keith" Chan and Ian Chandra, the two currently highest ranked students in the senior class, with Superintendent's Awards for Academic Excellence from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and seniors Carolyn Lynch and Christopher

Matthews with Awards for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning (new this year) from the New England School Development Council. Dr. Sawyer provided highlights of each student's achievements, and they were invited to make remarks. The students acknowledged family members and school personnel who have supported them throughout their educational careers at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS). The students were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and presented with award certificates.

B. Beal Building Project: Update

Dr. Sawyer began his report by thanking Town Meeting members for voting to authorize the debt for the Beal Building Project with overwhelming support at the recent Special Town Meeting. Dr. Sawyer provided background information on the current Beal School; gave a project overview of the proposed new school that included information on the educational program and building design; noted how the new school would meet space needs across the district; gave information on costs and Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursement; and recommended that the community vote "Yes" to approve passage of the upcoming ballot question relative to the Beal School Project. Mr. Palitsch added that the Committee had previously voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of the Beal building project.

C. Student Enrollment & Class Sizes: Report

Dr. Sawyer's report on preschool through grade 12 enrollment and preschool through grade 8 class sizes noted key data points; included enrollment history by grade, by school, for Special Education Out of District Placements (noting the district continues to work to create programming that allows students to be educated in the district), and for Vocational Education (which increased slightly this year); and provided kindergarten data that included the percent of students attending a full day program (59%) noting opportunities for full day kindergarten are limited by lack of space in the district. Committee members asked clarifying questions on space challenges at the middle schools, and about areas of study for vocational students from the district (they are spread across the 17 programs) and how often they return to Shrewsbury Public Schools without finishing their vocational education program (estimated at 5-10 students per grade).

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Mr. Gregory Nevader, Assistant Principal, Shrewsbury High School, presented an overview of Shrewsbury High School enrollment and class size, and gave detailed information on class size; class size relative to School Committee guidelines; co-taught English Language Learning (ELL) and Special Education courses; building capacity (98% of rooms are utilized on average) and shared classrooms; increasing school counselor caseloads (noting Mr. Bazydlo and assistant principals are assisting by overseeing students in the new work study program given the high demand on the school counselors for the other aspects of their roles); and future considerations. The Committee asked clarifying questions about access to electives and cut sports (an E-sports team is being added at SHS and additional unified sports opportunities like unified bocce and bowling teams are being considered) relative to high enrollment, stress related to the college search, and the challenges associated with shared classrooms and the resultant moving of materials.

D. Student Health Survey Data: Report

Dr. Sawyer began by describing the Shrewsbury Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC) and its work, and noting that Dr. Magee represents the School Committee on SWAC. Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing, reported that separate student health surveys (which are a joint venture between the district and the Worcester Department of Public Health) were given in June 2017 at Oak and in December 2017 at SHS. The surveys provided a tremendous amount of data, and in her presentation Ms. Freeman highlighted these areas of concern: emotional health; future plans; top issues reported by students (stress rated highest); vaping and marijuana; and physical activity and screen time. Dr. Sawyer again noted the upcoming SCAPE and SYFS event at Oak Middle School (OMS) on November 13 that will address related topics including vaping and marijuana. The Committee noted that stress can result from a variety of factors that may or may not be school-related and that it may be difficult to tease out normal from abnormal responses given individual student differences. Dr. Sawyer noted the district's continued focus on social and emotional wellness, and cited the increased level of vulnerability around the responses of LGBTQ students to survey questions on emotional health as warranting additional attention.

E. Nursing & Concussion Data: Annual Report

In her annual report, Ms. Freeman provided information on student visits to the Health Office by category; Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screenings (which are optional) of students in grades 7 and 10; student 504 plan development; and concussions (noting the SHS Transitions Program as a valuable resource), which included historical data for student athletes. Ms. Freeman provided additional information to the Committee on data privacy, time spent on mental/emotional health issues (4% of visits were for mental health issues, but more than 4% of staff time was spent addressing them), and sharing best practices with other districts. Dr. Sawyer noted the level of complexity of student medical needs is increasing, and acknowledged the work of Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, in helping to meet the complex needs of students.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2020 Priorities & Guidance: Draft

Mr. Palitsch noted that he and Dr. Magee, who are on the Fiscal Projections Subcommittee, had reviewed the draft of Fiscal Priorities & Guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2020 being presented. Mr. Collins advised that an initial Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar was presented at the last meeting. In his report Mr. Collins listed the priorities of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget; detailed assumptions inherent in it; and described how it would provide guidance in allocating resources to support the goals and strategic priorities of the district. Ms. Fryc liked the priority of reviewing the level of administrative support to

ensure the needs of the district are being met. Dr. Sawyer noted that the draft reflects what the district is trying to achieve with its strategic goals and priorities, and welcomed feedback in advance of the Committee's votes on the Fiscal Priorities & Guidelines and the Budget Calendar for FY 2020 at its November 14 meeting.

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 10, 2018 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

A. For the purpose of reviewing and acting upon student residency issues

B. For the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association

C. For the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and acting upon student residency issues; for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association, 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 Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:54pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. PreK-12 Enrollment/PreK-8 Class Size Report
2. Enrollment Presentation Slides
3. SHS Class Size Report
4. SHS Class Size Slide Presentation
5. Beal Building Project Update Slide Presentation
6. Student Health Survey Data Report
7. Student Health Survey Data Slide Presentation
8. Student Health Survey Data Summary Sheets
9. 2017 SHS Youth Health Survey
10. 2017 OMS Youth Health Survey
11. Nursing Annual Report
12. Concussion Annual Report
13. Nursing & Concussion Slide Presentation
14. FY 2020 Priorities & Guidelines Draft
15. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above