



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

September 12, 2018

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

As you are aware, the Shrewsbury Media Connection is transitioning to a nonprofit organization that will have its own Board of Directors, and it has been determined that the School Committee will make the appointment of one of the 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 starts on Oct. 1, 2018, for a three-year term to expire on Oct. 1, 2021.

After publicizing this opportunity through district listserv emails and our website, I am pleased to recommend 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 indicates that he strongly supports the mission of SMC, Inc., particularly as it relates to educational programming that benefits the community. He also has strong experience working with the SMC personnel regarding the recording and broadcast of the Chinese New Year event. Having interacted with Dr. Xu on many occasions and knowing his reputation, I am confident he will be an excellent member of the new SMC, Inc. Board of Directors, and I ask that you vote to appoint him to this important role.