

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Present: Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Boucher; Ms. Sandra Fryc; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; 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 Ms. Heffernan at 7:00 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Palitsch reported that he would not be a candidate for re-election to the School Committee in the upcoming May 2, 2023, election. Ms. Fryc reported that she would seek another term on the School Committee in the upcoming May 2023 election.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation to Mr. Palitsch for his service to the School Committee; reported that the Reaching Independence through Structured Education (RISE) Program lease with Chacharone Properties had been finalized for a property on Main Street in Shrewsbury, and noted the RISE Program was featured recently on the local podcast *Center Pieces*; reported that Town Manager Kevin Mizikar hosts his own podcast; and expressed appreciation for the high level of collaboration among the town government's department heads, who met recently.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Sleep Health & School Start Times Survey Results: Report

Dr. Sawyer began the report by reviewing the objectives of the Sleep Health Advisory Committee, current school start and end times, and the guiding principles utilized to develop the proposed School Start Time Options; summarized and compared the proposed options; and noted additional considerations for elementary start time relative to another potential option that was ultimately deemed not viable. Dr. Lizotte provided detailed data from surveys on Sleep Health & School Start Times by stakeholder group (students, families, staff) that comprised: feedback on Option A (including by grade span); feedback on Option B (including by grade span); preferences on ranking options (including by grade span); feedback themes supporting, opposing, or questioning school start time change; and summarized key takeaways from the resultant survey data. Dr. Sawyer provided a timeline for work on Sleep Health & School Start Times going forward.

B. Sleep Health & School Start Times FAQ: Report

Parents and Sleep Health Committee Members Cynthia Murphy and Dr. Toral Parikh gave the report and addressed the frequent themes and most pressing questions identified by survey feedback, including: the rationale for considering school start time changes; if/how much sleep deprivation is experienced by Shrewsbury High School (SHS) students; exploring other mechanisms for improving student sleep health; impacts from school start time changes; later school start times in high school relative to future college and “real world” experiences; all schools starting at the same time; earlier start times for elementary students; potential scheduling, logistical and child care challenges resulting from changes; impacts to the Extended School Care (ESC) program; traffic; and electronics and sleep health.

C. Sleep Health & School Start Times: Public Hearing on Proposed Options

Ms. Heffernan opened the Public Hearing at 7:57pm.

Tony Marciello, Floral Street School (FSS) parent and spouse of a FSS teacher, shared his perspective that there would be no positive impact to the elementary program from any of the proposed school start time change options; noted his concerns relative to recommended hours of sleep for all age groups, extracurricular activities, and comparisons with other districts; and provided materials to the Committee. Rebecca Quinn, parent of two kindergarten students at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS), expressed support for moving high school start times later, but not if it would result in elementary students arriving home later at the end of the school day.

Ms. Heffernan closed the Public Hearing at 8:08pm.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Testing: Annual Report

SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo and SHS Director of School Counseling Angie Flynn began the report by providing an overview of the standardized tests administered at SHS and noting recent College Board test administration and score reporting changes. They provided detailed data on: SAT score scales, score histories (SHS-Massachusetts-US), participation rates over time, and scores by gender and by race/ethnicity; PSAT National Merit Scholar and Scholarship historical data (six years); Advanced Placement (AP) Course highlights, participation rate history, exam scores and comparisons (SHS-Massachusetts-US), score data by sub groups, and AP Scholars; and summarized the type of information included in the School Profile for SHS provided to college admissions offices.

In response to questions from the Committee, additional information was provided on National Merit Scholarships (fixed at \$2500 for many years, but can be matched by colleges and corporations), AP self-study courses (colleges do not look at self-study scores), and the appropriate grade level(s) for AP courses (grades 11 and 12 at SHS, which is reflected in the SHS School Profile). Mr. Bazydlo advised that more information would be provided under separate cover at a later time to Dr. Sawyer on the data presented for AP scores by sub groups in response to a question from Ms. Heffernan.

B. State MCAS Testing: Annual Report

Ms. Heffernan advised that this agenda item would be addressed at the next School Committee meeting.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Designated Person for School-Based Asbestos Management: Vote

Mr. Collins reported that Public Buildings Division Manager William Tuttle, who oversees the asbestos management program in Shrewsbury, recently completed an 8-hour training session in December 2022 for Asbestos Coordinator/LEA Designated Persons, and provided a brief description of Mr. Tuttle's responsibilities around managing asbestos-containing materials in school buildings. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. William Tuttle the designated person for school-based asbestos management for all of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

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 December 14, 2022, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Ms. Heffernan 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") – 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) ("Purpose 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" - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association; and

C. Purpose 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 Ms. Boucher, on a roll call vote: Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; and Ms. Heffernan, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:56 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Heffernan, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

Start Times Survey Results Report Slide Presentation

Start Times Survey Data - Staff
Start Times Survey Data - Students
Start Times Survey Data - Parent/Caregiver
Start Times FAQ Report
Start Times FAQ Slide Presentation
Public Hearing Participant Letter
SHS Testing Report
SHS Testing Slide Presentation
AHERA Designated Person Documentation
Set(s) of minutes as referenced above