

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 25, 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; 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 attending the MA Beijing Chinese Language School's (MASS BCLS) successful Lunar New Year Celebration at Shrewsbury High School.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer reported attending the MASS BCLS Lunar New Year Celebration and noted Mandarin classes from Oak Middle and Shrewsbury High School (SHS), St. John's High School, and MASS BCLS participated; expressed appreciation to the Shrewsbury Highway Department for its ongoing communication with SPS relative to weather-related impacts to schools; congratulated Mr. Ian Butterfield, SHS Physical Education Faculty and Track/Field Coach, for being named 2021-2022 Coach of the Year for MA by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA); provided a status on the search process for the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations position at SPS, noting the district is partnering with New England School Development Council, NESDEC, and that former SPS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Bent is the consultant leading the search; and advised that information had been provided to stakeholders in the district on opportunities to provide feedback regarding SPS' next Strategic Plan.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Proposed Changes to 2023-2024 School Day Start and End Times: Vote

In his report, Dr. Sawyer provided background information on the rationale for addressing sleep hygiene and school start times in the district and provided an overview of the work done by the Sleep Health Advisory Committee (SHAC). He summarized SHAC's recommended "Modified Option A" and its benefits (including sleep time, logistical, and fiscal benefits); provided detailed start and end time comparison data for "Modified Option A" with other districts by level (high,

middle, and elementary); summarized challenges/drawbacks associated with the recommendation; noted additional considerations that include promoting other elements of sleep hygiene in the district and monitoring the impact of any schedule change that is adopted; and recommended that the Committee vote to change school start/end times as presented in the “Modified Option A”. Committee members presented their detailed individual perspectives in turn, and all expressed support for the recommended “Modified Option A”. Dr. Sawyer added that he would reach out to the teachers’ association regarding questions about scheduling from staff at the middle school level.

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to change the start and end times of the student academic day as presented in the “modified Option A” recommended by the Sleep Health Advisory Committee.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Program of Studies: Vote

Ms. Heffernan and Dr. Sawyer reported that no feedback had been received from parents regarding the proposed changes to the 2023-2024 SHS Program of Studies (POS) presented by Principal Todd Bazydlo at the January 18 meeting. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to approve the SHS POS presented.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Shrewsbury High School 2023-2024 Program of Studies as presented.

B. Class of 2022 Seal of Biliteracy: Report

Ms. Heffernan advised that this agenda item would be moved to the meeting on February 15, 2023.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Outcomes in Languages Other than English Grant: Vote

Ms. Heffernan provided background information on the Seal of Biliteracy Program and on a competitive grant secured by Director of World Languages Mr. Kenneth Almeida to cover costs associated with Seal of Biliteracy testing. Dr. Sawyer provided detailed information on how SHS students can earn the Seal of Biliteracy and recommended that the Committee vote to approve the grant funding.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Proficiency-Based Outcomes in Languages Other than English Grant in the amount of \$9,460 to be used for its intended purpose.

B. Enrollment Projections for 2023-2024 School Year: Report

Mr. Collins began the report by noting the importance of enrollment projections and describing the two methods utilized - the Town Manager Projection and the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Projection. Mr. Collins shared projection comparisons for one- and five-year outlooks, by grade span, and for the 2023-2024 school year; and provided historical projections versus actuals for the current school year. He noted very limited impacts to SPS enrollment from the Edgemere Plaza and Lakeway Commons housing developments, and then summarized highlights from the projections (a predicted small enrollment decrease and low likelihood that additional teaching staff will be needed for 2023-2024 to address enrollment). In response to a question from Ms. Heffernan, Mr. Collins advised that the Kindergarten enrollment process for 2023-2024 was targeted to begin in February.

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 January 18, 2023, 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. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) (“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 8:36 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 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:

Superintendent's Recommendation Slide Presentation - School Day Start & End Times

SHS Program of Studies

Enrollment Projections Report

NESDEC Enrollment Projections Report

Town Manager's Enrollment Projections Spreadsheet

Enrollment Projections Slide Presentation

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above