



# PARENT/CAREGIVER FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

## Shrewsbury School District

I am a Shrewsbury Public Schools PARENT or CAREGIVER


### Q1 What thoughts and questions do you have regarding the proposed Shrewsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2023-2027?

**I hope school lunch continues to be free moving forward.** Helps with learning, huge savings for families

4.0  (12 )  
Ranked #1 of 47



**I see that the current draft strategic plan shows many Sample Action Steps and Sample Measures of Impact.** When will the draft be updated with actual Action Steps and actual Measures of Impact for the stakeholders to review?

3.9  (4 )  
Ranked #2 of 47



**Appreciate the prioritization of student and staff wellness.** Students and teachers are doing their best. Compassion and understanding works better than punishment or judgment.

3.8  (26 )  
Ranked #3 of 47



**I agree with the proposal of bringing the technical or trades education piece back to SHE** This is very important for all students to be exposed to hands on jobs and other career opportunities.

3.8  (26 )  
Ranked #4 of 47

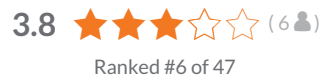


**Less focus on MCAS please** It's obvious kids are being "taught to the test"

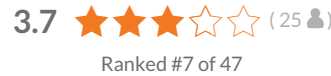
3.8  (12 )  
Ranked #5 of 47



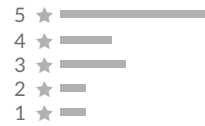
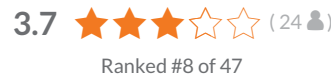
**Please fix the fence at Coolidge school. There has been Police caution tape hung up for two years with a broken fence. It makes Coolidge school look trashy.**



**Our strategy needs to focus on making sure there is equality in our schools. Everyone has the same opportunities. But outcomes won't always be equal. Outcomes will depend on hard work by students and support where needed. Excellence should be encouraged.**



**The presentation all sounds nice, but seems like a lot of fluff and buzz words and a template roadmaps that's been reused for other districts. We probably spent a lot of money for a consultant to provide us with nothing innovative or specific to Shrewsbury**



**It's already difficult for students to get the SHS electives they want; too few sections. I'm concerned that pathways will make it harder. All students deserve exploration & hands on learning, with or without a formal pathway. Don't ask students to specialize too early.**



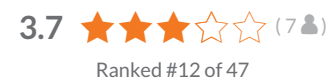
**Please don't overwhelm staff and administrators with too many initiatives. Aim for quality over quantity. Focus on 5 things and do them well. Stay focused and truly implement meaningful change, not fluffy work that makes a good sound bite.**





**Benchmark against the best schools in the country, not just the neighboring districts. Its important to measure against and work unto very high standards.**



**I think the feedback solicitation process should include more two-way communication between community stakeholders and the eventual decision makers. The community will see their thoughts are valued and not just requested to give the appearance of inclusion if decision makers post viewable responses**





**Where does accessibility fit into this? It is an issue & came up during meetings/focus groups. I don't see that word anywhere in any of the materials. We have a very recent ADA Evaluation pointing out many accessibility shortcomings in our schools (playgrounds are just one example).**

3.6  (26   
Ranked #13 of 47





**Feels like you've been doing this for years - define the SPS' elements of high-quality teaching and learning - and some teachers won't implement** It's maddening to hear one thing from leaders but experience another in classroom. Also creates inequities in learning/outcomes for students.

3.6  (20   
Ranked #14 of 47





**I like the goal optimizing resources and addressing space issues at the HS; however, I think this should be accelerated. I don't believe it is fair to current HS and MS students to take 5 years to address space issues. Temporary solutions should be explored.**

3.6  (20   
Ranked #15 of 47





**We will need to expand occupancy of our schools** This is a great opportunity to build to modern and clean standards with heat pumps and solar panels.

3.6  (11   
Ranked #16 of 47





**The homework policy.** I feel strongly that 60-90min of homework per night for my child's age after a long school day is inappropriate.

3.6  (7   
Ranked #17 of 47





**Financial stability needs to be provided people choose to live in Shrewsbury for the schools that is #1 reason we can not lose that reputation** Town would be broke if schools don't maintain high quality

3.5  (27   
Ranked #18 of 47





**As a focus group member I'm disappointed not to see any of my feedback incorporated in the strategic plan re: overuse of iPads/heavy backpacks, etc** Students physical bodies can't be well if they are in front of iPads a LOT according to my kids, and with backpacks that weigh 1/4 of their body.

3.5  (26   
Ranked #19 of 47





**This fails to meet even the very low expectations I had. A waste of resources and of my time participating in a focus group that clearly wasn't heard.** Very little substance here, which will be well-received by a district whose leadership already feels they're doing everything right.

3.5  (26   
Ranked #20 of 47





**I would like to see an update on the teacher diversification project and see if the teachers that were hired have meet the expectation of SPS** We need to be hiring the most qualified teachers

3.5  (25   
Ranked #21 of 47





**I like the three commitments the district is making.** These are clear goals that summarize the district's core priorities.

3.5  (19   
Ranked #22 of 47





**We need to improve the technology and communication systems to drive real time engagement** Our tools should reflect the high standards Shrewsbury places on academic excellence, community and student wellbeing

3.5  (19   
Ranked #23 of 47





**Strong plan; however, the overuse of technology was not included** Health and well-being of our children and educators

3.5  (14   
Ranked #24 of 47





**Learning via hands on team and group projects is essential** Prepares kids to work with others in the future

3.5  (12   
Ranked #25 of 47





**I would like renovations and new construction to take into account climate change and the need to eliminate fossil fuel emissions. Our students will be learning in a warmer climate so we would benefit from installing heat pumps, which provide cool or warm air as needed.**

3.5  (10   
Ranked #26 of 47





**My child needs to have time after school to focus on physical activity, socializing, volunteering and quality family time.**

3.5  (6   
Ranked #27 of 47





**I would like to see initiatives focused around top problems/opportunities the students will encounter in their lives such as climate change and AI. It is important for students to have the opportunities to grow their interest in areas where they would want to develop their careers.**

3.4  (13   
Ranked #28 of 47





**Make deliberate efforts to be a feeder district to top tier institutions. It is important for students to feel they have a fair shot at top 25-30 institutions, regardless of if they choose to go vs not.**

3.4  (11   
Ranked #29 of 47





**What is the current strategic plan that is guiding the district and how can I review it for comparison to this newly proposed plan?**

3.4  (5   
Ranked #30 of 47



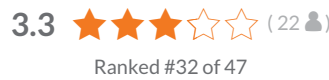
**Schools should create enhanced (extra)curricular opportunities & guidance to help more students get into competitive/ivy colleges post high school Shrewsbury students have potential and at par with other top school districts around, and sometimes all it needs is enhanced opportunities & exposure**

3.3  (22   
Ranked #31 of 47



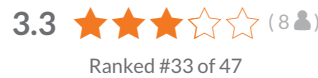
**Teachers are placing undue and unnecessary stress on students with inconsistent grading processes that are not communicated well.**

Teachers are creating undue stress and anxiety by changing what counts toward a grade 1 week before the end of the quarter. Too much stress.



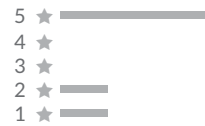
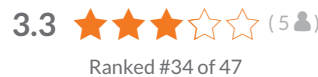
**The recently completed equity audit identified a lack of staff diversity and tokenism among staff of color as issues to address to be inclusive**

What are we doing to increase diversity of teachers/admin (especially since our district leadership doesn't include even a single person of color)

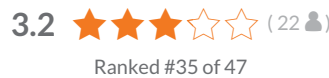


**Efforts to diversify the district do not require us to artificially create someone's idea of a perfectly diverse community cross-section.**

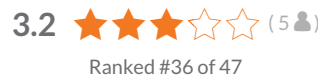
Our schools will naturally reflect the diversity of our community. And that's okay, whatever that looks like.



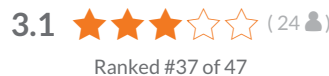
**Need consistent and clear grading policies. There is no such thing as a non graded honors (or any level) class.** All work a student submits should be evaluated when deciding on quarter and semester grades. There is no such thing as a gradeless classroom.



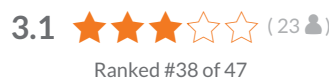
**I would like to see the addition of Fostering Local, State, and National Patriotism as a Strategic Priority.** Shrewsbury Public Schools includes "an appreciation of our democratic tradition" in its Mission Statement.



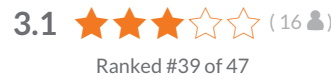
**The strategic plan helps in improving the educational system**



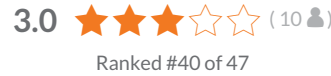
**Very General basically Vanilla**



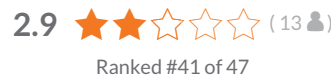
excellent idea very good to improve standards



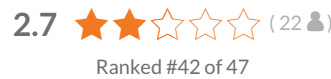
We need to ensure that the school buses our children use are electric traditional school buses create harmful emissions that cause climate change, and endanger the health of passengers and those who live on bus routes.



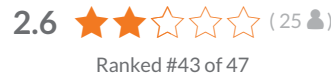
It looked fine to me.



Make the study of the space in school more pu. Because the reports state the only school that has space is the new Beal will there be another OVERRIDE



We need to stop with the DEI and have high expectations of all our students



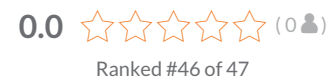
I don't think forcing students to do a Civil Action Project for a whole quarter is a good use of school time. I am very disappointed in the Civil Action project and wondering what part of US History is being ignored to create little activists.





Why are we changing school class hours This is no good for the district



It shows that the students and staff are being considered and cared.



none at this time.

0.0  (0 )  
Ranked #47 of 47

- 5 
- 4 
- 3 
- 2 
- 1 



# STAFF FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

## Shrewsbury School District

I am a Shrewsbury Public Schools STAFF MEMBER


### Q1 What thoughts and questions do you have regarding the proposed Shrewsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2023-2027?

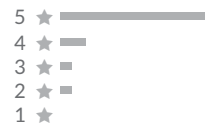
**To retain excellent para support they need to be paid competitive wages.** Para's are an integral part of a teacher and student's day. Some of the teaching models need support. Pay competitively to retain them.

4.4  (12 )  
Ranked #1 of 25



**To retain staff, ask current staff why they are leaving** They will be honest in a way no current staff member would ever be. There are real issues that lead to excellent educators leaving the district.

4.2  (15 )  
Ranked #2 of 25



**We need a partnership with voc/tech schools for students who want to enroll in high school** Not all students are planning on college and we need to make sure students know different post secondary pathways

4.1  (21 )  
Ranked #3 of 25



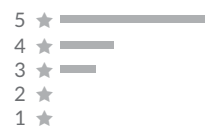
**"Commitment to academic excellence" is much too broad--each part of this goal could stand on its own** By stuffing so many initiatives into this, we will do them all averagely, instead of focusing on one curricular overhaul we can do with excellence

4.1  (17 )  
Ranked #4 of 25

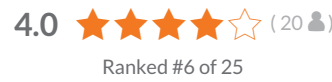


**Staff wellness doesn't seem to be thought through** What else can you do for teachers to help them - AND to attract and retain staff.

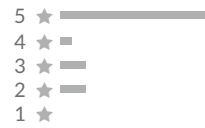
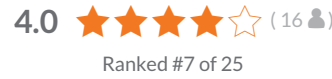
4.1  (13 )  
Ranked #5 of 25



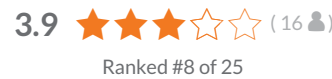
**Mental Health** Students are struggling more than ever. Our systems of providing interventions for and monitoring student mental health need a lot of work.



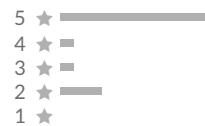
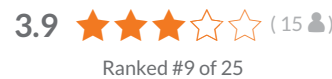
**Enhancing behavioral supports and interventions is important** Let's ensure this means creating disciplinary support and more stringent policies.



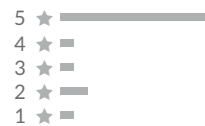
**We have teachers capable of delivering high quality instruction, but there are unnecessary structural impediments that interfere with their potential** Trying to increase minutes that count as "time on learning" does not actually mean learning is happening. There's more to it than that.



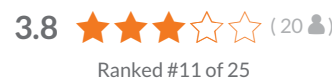
**I'm not sure how to marry the idea of high quality teaching with more and more scripted curricula.** Scripted curricula means we cannot bring our personality, professional expertise, and creativity into the classroom.



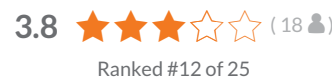
**Well Being for All.** Physical Education is in direct line with this part of the plan. Keep phy.ed. at the high school 3 out of 7 days yearly. Do not decrease it.



**I am happy to see plans for sustained attention to learning gaps.** Academic excellence for all students is critical to belonging and equity.





**It seems overwhelming.** It's easy to talk about well-being and Jane and others are taking concrete steps, but other goals are too high to obtain.





**There are inefficiencies in how we run day to day operations of the high school that might alleviate overcrowding and other concerns**

An expansion of the high school is many years away, so we need to more efficiently structure our allocation of classroom space and staff

3.8  (16   
Ranked #13 of 25




**Goal 2: Enhanced well being of all : does that truly mean all, or just the students and families, while educators get stuck with even more responsibilities? Teachers have been undermined, blamed and abused by families, students and administration. This job is no longer recognizable.**

3.8  (15   
Ranked #14 of 25



**I think some teachers and administrators need to learn how to interpret data. Data can inform decision-making, but we need to respond to the actual data and not a biased view of the data that already confirms what we thought.**

3.8  (15   
Ranked #15 of 25





**Promoting staff wellness is nice to put in the strategic plan, but we don't need school provided wellness programs, we need you to listen. Teachers are increasingly burned out by an ever increasing number of initiatives, student behaviors, and added pressures - relieve some of them.**

3.8  (14   
Ranked #16 of 25



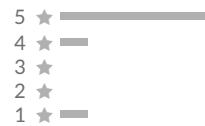
**In order to "close gaps", we need to "close gaps" for ALL students. Lots of students have lots of different gaps for various reasons. We need to provide this instruction no matter where the student is.**

3.8  (13   
Ranked #17 of 25





**Do NOT reduce Physical Education time in schools. Scientific studies have proven that consistent physical activity is critical for growing childrens' mental, emotional, and physical well-being.**

3.8  (7   
Ranked #18 of 25





**The pressure to increase academic rigor and create a data culture directly competes with the goal of enhanced well being of all** We can't continue to pile more demands on students and teachers if we want to also attend to their social emotional wellbeing

3.8  (4   
Ranked #19 of 25





**Equity initiatives need to be continued** It's a journey that we need to persevere with and continue to learn about. The data shows it.

3.7  (16   
Ranked #20 of 25





**Goal 1: educational excellence. If we truly mean that, we have to stop the dumbing down of all our expectations for students' effort and product** the pandemic was tough, but let's be honest, our standards have been lowering and lowering for years. Students today cannot do the minimum

3.6  (16   
Ranked #21 of 25





**The staff wellness goal seems like a throwaway concession** Having more flexibility to attend to family needs would make teachers more present for students

3.6  (6   
Ranked #22 of 25





**I appreciate that Shrewsbury is trying to better the schools** We need improvement

3.5  (19   
Ranked #23 of 25



**I value the wellbeing for all strategic plan.** Retaining skilled staff is critical for maintaining high levels of student health, and wellness. When we support teachers, we support students.

3.5  (5   
Ranked #24 of 25



**I accept it** We have to have a plan, a direction, a vision

3.1  (2   
Ranked #25 of 25





# COMMUNITY MEMBER FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

## Shrewsbury School District

I am a Shrewsbury COMMUNITY MEMBER



### Q1 What thoughts and questions do you have regarding the proposed Shrewsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan for 2023-2027?

There needs to be an urgent, short term plan to get vocational training to today's students, this should be included in the 2024 budget an obligation of the schools to a group of students is not being met

3.5  (3 )  
Ranked #1 of 4





vocational Ed. Everyone does not need college

3.4  (3 )  
Ranked #2 of 4



You've clearly put a lot of work into it. The percentages of students who feel connected to school is lower than I would hope/expect. In large schools, like Shrewsbury Public Schools, building community and connections takes on increased importance. Connection builds engaged students

3.3  (2 )  
Ranked #3 of 4



RE: Infrastructure Improvements - as we're looking to upgrade and improve our school buildings, we should prioritize indoor air quality. MERV filtration, UV sterilization and increasing air exchanges improves academic performance and decreases student and staff absences from illness.

0.0  (0 )  
Ranked #4 of 4

