



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**May 24, 2023
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall -100 Maple Avenue
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**May 24, 2023 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

Items

Suggested time allotments

- | | |
|--|--|
| I. Public Participation | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">7:00-7:05</div> |
| II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports | |
| III. Superintendent's Report | |
| IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: | |
| A. Student Recognition: United Way Youth Volunteer of the Year - SHS Class of 2023 | 7:05 – 7:20 |
| B. Student Recognition: SHS Senior Scholars | 7:20 – 7:55 |
| C. Middle Level Unified Programming: Report | 7:55 – 8:10 |
| D. Acceptance of Gift: Vote | 8:10 – 8:15 |
| E. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report | 8:15 – 8:40 |
| V. Curriculum | |
| VI. Policy | |
| VII. Finance & Operations | |
| VIII. Old Business | |
| IX. New Business | |
| X. Approval of Minutes | 8:40 – 8:45 |
| XI. Executive Session | 8:45 – 9:15 |
| 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"), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes. | |



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(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” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association
- C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” – non-union clerical and support staff and/or administrators including the superintendent of schools. (“Purpose 2”)

XII. Adjournment

9:15

Next regular meeting: June 7, 2023



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

ITEM NO: II. Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson of the School Committee and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

School Committee Members

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Committee Member

Ms. Rachel Sharifipour, Committee Member

ITEM NO: III. Superintendent's Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: 5/24/23
A. Student Recognition: United Way Youth Volunteer of the Year -
SHS Class of 2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Class of 2023 collectively received the 2023 United Way of Central Massachusetts Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. Assistant Principal for Student Activities Mr. Jeff Lane will attend the meeting along with student representatives from the Class of 2023 to talk about their community service work and the honor of having received the award.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee recognize the SHS Class of 2023 as recipients of the 2023 United Way of Central Massachusetts Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal
Jeff Lane, SHS Assistant Principal for Student Activities
SHS Class of 2023 Students:
Tiffany Asumeng and Hann-Emily Riviere



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: 5/24/23
B. Student Recognition: SHS Senior Scholars

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Each year the School Committee recognizes the ten senior students with the highest grade point averages in their class. A brief biographical sketch of each is provided in the enclosed report. The Senior Scholars will be introduced **in alphabetical order** and will briefly comment on their school experience.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee recognize the SHS 2023 Senior Scholars.

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School
Students (in alphabetical order):
Nicole Carvalho Aredes
Sohani Dion Curtis
Aditi Dosi
Alia Haytham
Elena Yueqi Li
Jamie Xiaoyu Li
Charles David Prince
John Yuming Qiu
Carlos Miguel Picazo Reyes
William Zhiyuan Wu

Shrewsbury High School Senior Scholars - Class of 2023

(in alphabetical order)

Nicole Aredes

Nicole Aredes is an exceptionally talented student who makes the most of her opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Nicole has spent her high school career balancing our most rigorous of course offerings with several part-time jobs, academic enrichment and extracurricular activities. Nicole's dedication to her studies is reflected in her appointment into the National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, and as the current Vice President of the National Latin Honor Society. She serves as the Co-Captain of the Shrewsbury High School Quiz Team and has represented Shrewsbury High School twice in the High School Quiz Show Final Competitions, televised on WGBH Boston. Throughout her time at SHS, she has shared her enjoyment of crocheting by joining our Needlework Club. Outside of school, she volunteers at the Teen Room in the Shrewsbury Public Library, holds a job at a local entertainment center, and is an active member of her family. Next fall, Nicole will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst Honors College with a major in civil engineering.

Sohani Curtis

Sohani is an incredibly accomplished young woman in and out of the classroom. She is a curious and self-motivated student. She has a love for learning new material and is excited for all the possibilities that come with new information. She has challenged herself over the years by taking a demanding course schedule. Through her success she has been able to become a member of the Tri-M, French, and National Honor Societies. Outside of the classroom Sohani has been involved with ballet, tutoring, playing the double bass, and volunteering throughout the community. One of her proudest accomplishments has been serving as an ambassador for the WooServes program. Volunteering has really opened her eyes and created this desire to help make a positive impact on someone's life. Sohani will be attending Williams College in the fall and plans to study Political Economics and Biology.

Aditi Dosi

Aditi derives joy and happiness through learning. She always tries to look at the positive side of life and keeps moving forward regardless of what obstacles present themselves. Aditi is driven and focused on her future studying medicine. She is very passionate about all things Biology. I am very impressed with her desire to learn and level of maturity. She stays humble and treats everyone with kindness. She is one of the most genuine students that I have had the pleasure of working with. She has earned a number of academic as well as extracurricular recognitions and the following are just a few examples: National Qualifier for Speech and Debate, Presidential Service Award, Finalist at the SEVA International Dance Competition, Finalist for the Regeneron Science and Engineering Fair, recipient of the Dartmouth Book Award, and

recipient of the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction in Spanish. Aditi will be attending Tufts University in the fall and plans to study pre-medicine.

Alia Haytham

What makes Alia stand out amongst her peers is her genuine kindness and generosity. Teachers have applauded her friendliness and encouragement of others in the classroom all four years of her high school career. She notices the small things and goes out of her way to personalize her interactions with all ranging from personalized gifts to her everyday conversations. Academically Alia is a very strong student as she is part of multiple Honor Societies including National, Chinese, English, and Tri-M. Outside of the school day Alia is very passionate about music and spending time with her family. Her sense of adventure and travel with her family have helped her find a passion of hers, helping others in need. She volunteers her time at United Way of Central Massachusetts where she is an ambassador of the WooServes program. Alia can also be found serving her community at Girls Inc. in Worcester. She is a difference maker and we all cannot wait to see what she is going to accomplish in her future. She will be attending Northeastern University and is undecided on her major.

Elena Li

One of the things to admire most about Elena is her varied interests outside of academics. Elena loves the creative process and enjoys pursuits like: origami, clay sculptures, playing piano, and building keyboards from scratch. Her teachers agree that Elena is a problem solver who thrives on conceptualizing topics. Her acumen has been recognized by membership in multiple Honor Societies: National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Secretary of Latin Honor Society, and an officer of English Honor Society. As a junior, Elena received the Cornell Book Award. In 12th grade, Elena earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Latin and recently received the award for Most Outstanding student in Latin. Additionally, Elena earned distinction as an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar and has been recognized for Outstanding Achievement in World Civilizations and the Most Outstanding student in English. On top of Elena's academic achievements, she's also Captain of the Math Team, and member of Varsity Swim Team. She is excited to pursue her studies further at Carnegie Mellon University next fall, studying Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Jamie Li

Jamie is an exceptional student and her teachers consistently remark on her depth of knowledge and intelligence in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, Jamie is a Varsity swimmer for the high school and participated in a club team. She serves as Treasurer for both National Latin Honor Society and Tri M, the music national honor society, and is an accomplished musician. Jamie can play the violin, piano, bass, guitar, and she sings. She shares her many musical talents with our United Sound program, serving as Co-President. When she's not creating beautiful music, Jamie can be found volunteering as a tutor. Jamie is a

dynamic and passionate student, who will attend Boston University in the fall, where she plans to major in Classical Studies.

Charles Prince

Charlie is an extraordinary student with a curious, reflective and analytical mindset. Charlie doesn't shy away from learning new things or taking on challenges. His teachers have remarked on their appreciation for his ability to look for deeper meaning in what he learns, ability to fully grasp nuanced ideas with great clarity, and determination for finding new ways to challenge himself. Charlie's curious nature is also reflected in his extracurricular activities, such as when he started volunteering at the Worcester County Food Bank and other community food pantries after learning about and researching food insecurity. Charlie tutors other students as part of the National French Honor Society, participates in Cross Country and on the Track Team, and is the Vice President of the National Honor Society. His next step will be enrolling at Case Western University where he plans to major in Cognitive Science.

John Qiu

John is the type of person who challenges himself with high standards, makes a sincere effort to help others, and has shown perseverance over the years to get to where he is today. This is reflected in his academic work by taking nine AP courses during his time at SHS and his continuous pursuit of musical prowess by improving his skills and attending competitions. He has been elected the class president since his sophomore year, has been a member of Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra since 2017 and his current position is one of the fixed four stands in the first violin section among over 40 violinists in the orchestra. He was selected as a finalist in the 2022 Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition at the Boston Pops. He participated in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad Competition after self-studying chemistry in 2020. John was also a co-captain of the state champion SHS E-Sports team. John will pursue a pre-med track when he attends Brown University in the fall.

Carlos Reyes

Carlos has consistently been an exceptional student while at SHS and excels academically, but he has a particular passion for math and computers. When he was growing up, his favorite toy was a calculator. He has maintained an impressive grade point average while balancing academics with extracurricular activities, such as tutoring, teaching kids to code, performing in and supporting the school play or musical, pursuing independent computing projects, and participating in the Research Science Network (RSN) at Harvard Innovation Labs. Over the years, he has grown to become a resilient, persistent, and creative problem solver, receiving statewide recognition in math competitions and exploring the possibilities of machine learning. However, Carlos wants it to be known that his experience with being a member of the lighting crew in the performing arts department has given him a new passion not related to academics. Carlos would like to thank teachers in the performing arts department for giving him that opportunity and he is eager to continue his education at Purdue University next year.

William Wu

William is not only an outstanding student, leader and entrepreneur but is also a genuine, humble and caring person. He cares for his family, friends and the world around him. He has big, important ideas and he is not afraid to put them into action. William is passionate about equity and fairness for all. William founded covidsschooltracker.com and led a team to help track COVID cases in schools across the nation. As of today, the platform has been featured in the Washington Post's Extraordinary People Series and has been visited by people from 108 different countries. He is also a winner of the 2021 Congressional App Challenge for developing the platform Polynomo, which works to increase civic engagement, address political misinformation, and hinder political polarization. He has been on the Student Council for the past four years, during which he was Treasurer for two years, and is currently President. In this role, has led town meetings alongside the Principal, organized fundraisers to meet community needs, and hosted school-wide events such as the Spirit Rally, and the Student Council has won the Gold Council of Excellence Award for the past three years. William has also been a successful student-athlete as a member of the SHS Swim Team. He is an AP Scholar, has consistently made the High Honors list, and was a recipient of the Harvard Book Award. William will be entering Harvard University in the fall.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: **MEETING DATE: 5/24/23**
C. Middle Level Unified Programming: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Ms. Belsito, Ms. Delaney, and Mr. Ponticelli, along with student participants, will present information on Unified offerings at the Middle Schools, including Unified Basketball, Unified Boosters, and Unified Social Clubs at Sherwood and Oak Middle Schools, and will be available to take questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Courtney Delaney, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Sherwood Middle School
Jason Ponticelli, Social Studies Teacher, Oak Middle School

Students:

Jayden Baez, Grade 8
El Carriveau, Grade 8
Richard Kimball, Grade 8
Luke MacRae, Grade 8
Liv Nolan, Grade 8
Dani Touloupakis, Grade 8

Shrewsbury Middle Schools' Unified Program Updates





Review of the Unified Basketball Season



- We had a very successful 2nd full Unified Basketball Season at the Middle School Level.
- We had so much interest, we were able to field TWO basketball teams this season. Following the lead of SHS, we had a **BLUE** Team and a **GOLD** Team.
- Both team were comprised of students from in grades 5 through 8
- This year Special Olympics and the MIAA were able to help 40 different Middle Schools in Massachusetts participate in a Unified Basketball Season!
- We were told that our Channel 5 News coverage and Channel 5 EyeOpeners helped get more schools involved in Unified Basketball

Review of unified basketball season...

!!Blue team!!



★ Gold
team ★



OAK & SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
2023 UNIFIED BASKETBALL - GOLD TEAM



- Each team had a Home game and an Away game.
 - The Blue team hosted Northbridge Middle School and then traveled by bus to Ashland.
 - The Gold team hosted Ashland and then traveled by bus to Melican Middle School in Northboro
 - It was the inaugural season for all three of those schools and they were inspired by our program and will be creating Booster Clubs of their own, much like ours.
- The Booster Club, which was started by Coach Delaney and Coach Ponticelli last year was handed over to be facilitated by Mrs. Carey Davis and Ms. Brianna Bisceglia, both on 7 Gold.
 - The Booster Club created over 50 posters, one for each Unified Participant, which were displayed at Oak, Sherwood and eventually at SHS.
 - The Booster Club also sold Shrewsbury Unified Bracelets to help raise funds for our program.
- Our Season culminated with our first ever BLUE vs. GOLD game at SHS on April 4th. It was an amazing evening!



UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM
SHREWSBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

WAKE UP
CALL



Unified Basketball Photos...



More Photos...



Even More Photos...



Unified Boosters!!



Oak Middle School Unified Social Club

- Unified Social Club, started by Erin Studivan and Jason Ponticelli met on the first Thursday of every month.
- It was an opportunity for students of all abilities to hang out and have fun.
- Some highlights included Decorating Holiday Cookies and Valentine's Day Cookies, Playing Mario Kart, Played Board Games, and did Arts & Crafts.









Sherwood Unified Social Club

The Sherwood Social Unified club was created to give more students of all abilities an opportunity to participate in after school fun and just get together. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 3-3:45 pm after school. We like to play a game and do a craft of some sort so everyone can take their fun home . Our club has played bingo, made feather turkeys for Thanksgiving, created beaded snowflakes to hang in windows, decorated igloos and penguins and made valentines to share. Bubbles are always a hit!. Our last meeting was this week and we made tie dye t-shirts at a club member's request and he designed the logo.

We are working on giving all students more of a voice and presence in the school . We have done chalk art in the front of Sherwood so the next day everyone coming into school was greeted by our members' messages and pictures. We display our monthly projects in the main hallway display case to decorate for the season. We have a picture in the yearbook this year. Next year we look to increase the club's voice by having some students do a recorded morning announcement . We have used our SEF Grant money to purchase a parachute , kites and active games with plans to just get some outside fun in! Our chalk and bubble day the kids said it best , “ This is a blast and hip hip hooray for Sherwood!"

FUTURE PLANS

We plan on continuing our proud tradition of being **Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools** at Oak & Sherwood

★ **Inclusive Youth Leadership Opportunities**

- Opportunities for youth of all abilities to become agents of change within our Middle Schools

★ **Whole School Engagement**

- Facilitating socially inclusive school climate and engaging the entire school community

★ **Unified Sports**

- Students develop athletic skills while forming friendships, fostering respect for each other and becoming leaders on and off the court/field

We also have tentative plans to be part of the first ever Middle School Unified Kickball or Soccer league with other area Middle Schools.

Mark Fidrych Foundation

The Legacy of Mark Fidrych

THANK
YOU!!!



The Mark Fidrych Foundation is a charitable organization that helps enhance the lives of children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs through and with a focus on sports and sports education.

We were so thankful to form a partnership with this foundation thanks to Ann Fidrych and her daughter, Jess. They were guests at our away game at Melican Middle School and were also honored during halftime at our Blue vs. Gold Game at Shrewsbury High School.

It is with tremendous gratitude that we ask the Shrewsbury Public Schools School Committee to accept the Mark Fidrych Foundation's generous donation to the Shrewsbury Middle Schools' Unified Programs.



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**
D. Acceptance of Gift: Vote

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per School Committee Policy 911, gifts of \$5,000 or more must be formally accepted by the School Committee. The Mark Fidrych Foundation, a charitable organization that helps enhance the lives of children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs through and with a focus on sports and sports education, would like to make a donation of \$5,000 to support Shrewsbury Middle Schools' Unified Programs.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to accept a donation of \$5,000 from The Mark Fidrych Foundation to be used to support Shrewsbury Middle Schools' Unified Programs.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Courtney Delaney, Health and Physical Education Teacher, Sherwood Middle School
Jason Ponticelli, Social Studies Teacher, Oak Middle School



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: **MEETING DATE: 5/24/23**
E. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per statute, the district must have a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (now known as SEPAC). SEPAC is a volunteer organization made up of parents and caregivers whose children receive special education services through Shrewsbury Public Schools. SEPAC board members will provide an update (enclosed) regarding the organization's activities and focus over the past year.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF & GUESTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Ashley Falandys, SEPAC President
Sharleen Doherty, SEPAC Treasurer

Shrewsbury SEPAC

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

May 24, 2023



SEPAC Board 2022-2023

- Laura Cronin
- Sharleen Doherty
- Ashley Falandys
- Katie Poirier

Thank you to Colleen Corbett, Jill DeBender and Blake Poggi for many years of SEPAC leadership and for helping facilitate a smooth transition!

What is a SEPAC?

Source: <https://www.fcsn.org/what-is-a-sepac>

- Every public school district in Massachusetts is required to establish a SEPAC. Massachusetts state law assigns both an advisory and participatory function to SEPACs. Membership is open to district parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties.
- Duties shall include, but not be limited to:
 - advising the School Committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities;
 - meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs; and
 - cooperating with the District on their annual workshop on the rights of students, parents and guardians under state and federal law.
- The SEPAC is a self-governing public body which creates its own by-laws and operational procedures. A SEPAC is different from other parent groups in a school district such as a PTA, PTO or School Council – a SEPAC does not represent families from one school, but represents all families of children with disabilities from the entire school district.

MassPAC Membership

Massachusetts Association of Special Education Parent Advisory Councils

- Thank you to the District for continuing to fund our membership in MassPAC, a program of the Federation for Children with Special Needs
- MassPAC membership gives us access to:
 - Support and training for board members through FCSN
 - MassPAC office hours
 - Three free registrations to the FCSN Visions of Community conference- one each for a parent/caregiver, student and District staff
 - Workshops and more

SEPAC Mission Statement

We believe in the power of parents working together to make an impact

- Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer organization made up of parents, caregivers and interested Shrewsbury residents
- Shrewsbury SEPAC is registered as a 501c3 nonprofit

2022-2023 Goals

- Connect with our existing membership through consistent meetings and events
- Outreach to potential new members
- Fundraising to enable us to offer high quality workshops and presentations
- Build collaborative relationships with the District and surrounding SEPACs

2022-2023 Event Summary

- 6 General Meetings- 5 held virtually on rotating weekday evenings, alternating between business (elections, planning, specific discussion topics) and support/sharing, 1 held in person with Meg Belsito and Lynsey Heffernan
- 7 “Coffee & Connect” meetings in person on rotating weekday mornings
- 4 workshops/presentations held virtually in the evening
- 1 Strategic Planning forum with Focused Schools
- 2 fundraisers

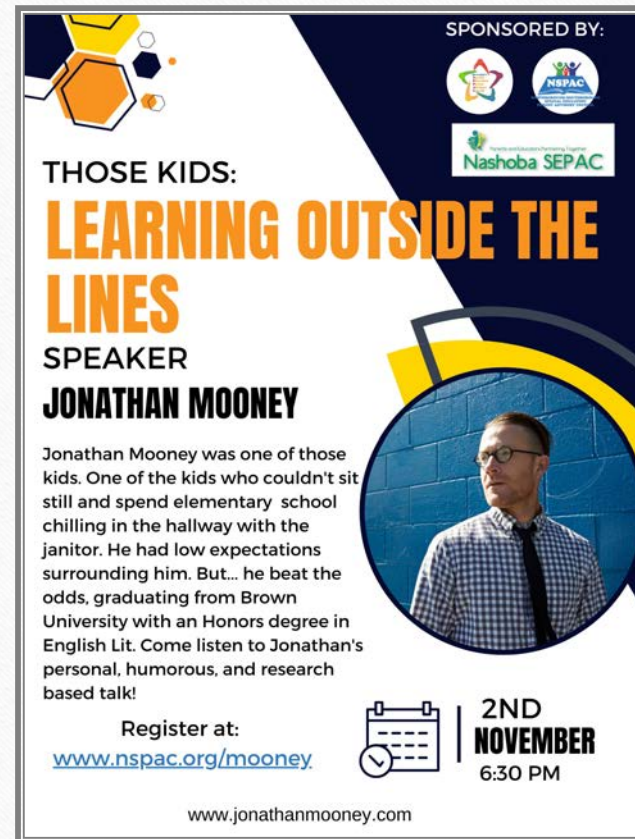
Textile Collection Fundraiser

- October 2022 in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation
- Held at Sherwood Middle School
- Facilitated pickups of donations in the weeks leading up to the event
- Very successful, collected 2927 pounds which provided funding for two presentations that we offered later in the year




Those Kids: Learning Outside the Lines

- November 2023 in partnership with Northborough/Southborough and Nashoba SEPACs
- 85 registrants, approximately 20-25 from Shrewsbury
- Engaging and insightful presentation by Jonathan Mooney about his lived experience
- Big takeaway: “Accommodation over Remediation”




SPONSORED BY:




THOSE KIDS:
LEARNING OUTSIDE THE LINES
SPEAKER
JONATHAN MOONEY

Jonathan Mooney was one of those kids. One of the kids who couldn't sit still and spend elementary school chilling in the hallway with the janitor. He had low expectations surrounding him. But... he beat the odds, graduating from Brown University with an Honors degree in English Lit. Come listen to Jonathan's personal, humorous, and research based talk!



Register at:
www.nspac.org/mooney



**2ND
NOVEMBER**
6:30 PM

www.jonathanmooney.com

Photo Shoot Fundraiser

- November 2023 in partnership with local photographer Tom Godfrey, who donated his time to complete seven mini sessions with SEPAC families
- Held in a board member's fenced backyard
- Very successful fundraiser which also helped make family photos accessible to our members
- Funded one of our presentations later in the year, and will cover at least one next year



**Basic Rights:
Understanding the IEP**
A Free Virtual Workshop
for Parents and Professionals

presentation will delve
 the Individual Education
 ram (IEP) document, its
 elopment, the
 kdown of each section
 understanding how the
 ment will support a
 lent.

Workshop Topics:

- Why the IEP is Important
- Who is eligible for an IEP
- How the IEP is Developed
- Strengths and Concerns
- Vision Statements
- IEP Sections including PLEP A & B, Annual Goals and Service Delivery Grid
- Differences between Accommodations and Modifications
- Response, Placement and Consent
- Procedural Safeguards and more!



About Your Host:
 The Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer organization made of parents and caregivers whose children receive special education services through the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The SEPAC advises the school district on matters related to the education of students with disabilities, and provides a forum for parents and caregivers to share experiences and exchange information. We are excited to offer this workshop and hope you will join us to learn more about this process.

Date: Monday, December 5, 2022
Time: 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom
Registration Link:
https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwjsiHdRm7xe_4X4kTeGuJb8AvkST

For more information about the educational workshops available from
 The Federation for Children with Special Needs,
 please visit us at fcsn.org/pttc/workshops or email: workshops@fcsn.org

Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP

- December 2022 in partnership with the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN)
- This is a free workshop that meets the district requirement and provides families with information about their rights
- Well-attended and very informative

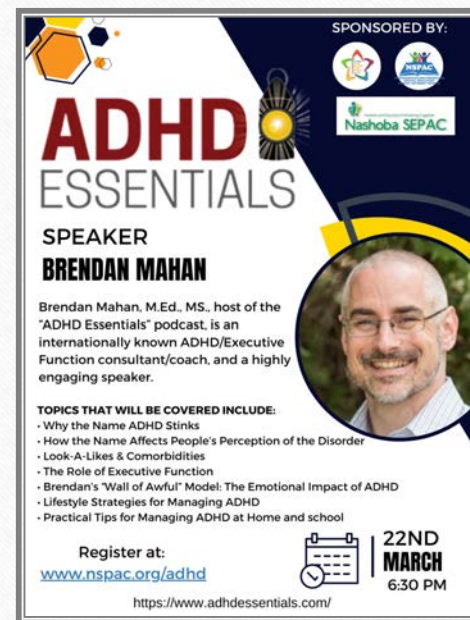
Collaborative Problem Solving Workshop

- February 2023 in partnership with Northborough/Southborough and Nashoba SEPACs and presented by Karen Kraut
- 81 registrants, approximately 20 from Shrewsbury
- What is Collaborative Problem Solving? (source: thinkkids.org)
 - “Kids with challenging behavior are tragically misunderstood and mistreated. Rewards and punishments don’t work and often make things worse. Thankfully, there’s another way. But it requires a big shift in mindset.
 - Helping kids with challenging behavior requires understanding why they struggle in the first place. Our Collaborative Problem Solving approach recognizes what research has pointed to for years – that kids with challenging behavior are already trying hard. They don’t lack the *will* to behave well. They lack the *skills* to behave well.”



ADHD Essentials Presentation

- March 2023 in partnership with Northborough/Southborough and Nashoba SEPACs, presented by Brendan Mahan
- 210 registrants, approximately 25 from Shrewsbury
- Very popular and well-received presentation which included information about the role of executive function, the emotional impact of ADHD and practical strategies for home and school



ADHD ESSENTIALS

SPEAKER
BRENDAN MAHAN

Brendan Mahan, M.Ed., MS., host of the "ADHD Essentials" podcast, is an internationally known ADHD/Executive Function consultant/coach, and a highly engaging speaker.

TOPICS THAT WILL BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- Why the Name ADHD Stinks
- How the Name Affects People's Perception of the Disorder
- Look-A-Likes & Comorbidities
- The Role of Executive Function
- Brendan's "Wall of Awful" Model: The Emotional Impact of ADHD
- Lifestyle Strategies for Managing ADHD
- Practical Tips for Managing ADHD at Home and school

Register at:
www.nspac.org/adhd
<https://www.adhdessentials.com/>

22ND MARCH
6:30 PM

SPONSORED BY:

Nashoba SEPAC



Coffee & Connect

- Our Coffee & Connect events were popular this year, and a great way to connect in person and support one another
- Average attendance was approximately 6 people
- Many supportive and productive conversations were had, relationships formed and there is continued interest in offering these
- Holding similar events in the evenings is a consideration for next year

Frequently
Discussed
Topics-

Positives

SPS Teachers and Staff

Transportation and
Staffing

RISE Program

Frequently
Discussed
Topics-

Opportunities

Referrals for initial
eligibility evaluations

Accessibility and inclusivity of
school playgrounds and
facilities

Supporting students and
teachers/staff around
disability-related behaviors

Looking Ahead

- Continue offering high quality presentations and workshops on areas of interest to our members, and continue fundraising to support these
- Meet regularly with the District to talk about frequently discussed topics
- Continue to provide opportunities for in person connection while maintaining the accessibility that comes with virtual meetings and events
- Survey our membership to identify areas of need and to gather feedback
- Improve our communications (website, newsletters, brochures etc.), with a particular focus on reaching a wider range of families



Connect with SEPAC

- <http://www.shrewsburysepac.org>
- shrewsbury.sepac@gmail.com
- Facebook: Shrewsbury SEPAC (private group)



Thank You!



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **5/24/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on May 10, 2023, are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on May 10, 2023.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; Ms. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Dr. Sawyer at 7:00 pm in advance of the election of officers. He congratulated Ms. Fryc on her re-election to the School Committee, and Ms. Sharifipour on her election to the School Committee.

I. Election of Officers

Dr. Sawyer requested and accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the School Committee. Ms. Heffernan nominated Ms. Fryc for Chairperson, and Ms. Boucher seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Fryc Chairperson of the Committee. As the elected Chairperson of the School Committee, Ms. Fryc nominated Ms. Boucher for the position of Vice Chairperson and Ms. Heffernan seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Boucher Vice Chairperson. Ms. Boucher nominated Mr. Wensky for the position of Secretary, and Ms. Sharifipour seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Wensky Secretary.

II. Public Participation

None.

III. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Ms. Boucher congratulated Shrewsbury High School (SHS), Oak Middle School (OMS), and United Sound students and staff on outstanding recent spring concert performances. Ms. Fryc reported attending the MOVE (Mobile On-Site Vocational Education) luncheon on May 5 and expressed appreciation to all contributors.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated: the SHS Esports Rocket League Team on finishing second at the MA State Championships and for qualifying to participate in the National Championships, and the SHS League of Legends Team for winning the MA State Championship; the SHS Class of 2023 for being recognized by the local United Way with their *Youth Volunteer of the Year* service award; SHS Science & Engineering Teacher Jennifer Cuddy for receiving an *American Association of Immunologists High School Teachers Program in Immunology Award*; SHS Performing Arts, Music & Choral Teacher Michael Lapomardo on being considered for the national *GRAMMY Music Educator Award* (he is currently a quarterfinalist); and

Little Colonials Preschool Teacher Sarah Monica on being a semifinalist for the *2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year*.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Student Advisory Committee (SAC) members Laura Lee, Nicole Shen, and Siri Ural gave the report and advised that members Shalini Biju (Chair) and Aanya Gupta were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Their report included updates on student life (Advanced Placement courses, student elections, etc.), co-curricular activities (sports, DECA Business Club, Health Occupation Students of America, etc.), and events (Spirit Week, senior events, etc.) at SHS. Senior students Laura Lee and Nicole Shen shared their future plans, and then all students were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and Dr. Sawyer and presented with certificates.

B. World Language Student Trip to Martinique: Vote

After noting the proposed trip to Martinique would be the second for SHS students and staff (the first was in 2019) Principal Mr. Todd Bazydlo and French Teacher Ms. Heather Leger provided trip details; discussed aspects of the prior student visit relative to culture, Service Learning, language immersion and authentic interactions; noted how the experience helps educate students; highlighted possible excursions; and shared a cost estimate. In response to questions from the Committee, additional information was provided on the potential for other world language student trips (staff willingness and global security are determining factors) and financial assistance for students in need (donations, fundraising profit-sharing with student volunteers, scholarships). All Committee members and Dr. Sawyer expressed support for the trip.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the Committee voted unanimously to approve travel by Shrewsbury High School French students to Martinique in April 2024.

VI. Curriculum

A. Career Technical Education & Career Exploration: Report

Grade 12 students Adam Harris and Luiza Saldanha began the report by sharing their personal experiences with Career Technical Education opportunities provided through SHS (Mr. Harris with the MA Fire Academy and Ms. Saldanha with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union). Dr. Lizotte, Mr. Bazydlo, and Director of School Counseling Ms. Angie Flynn presented information on: advancing Career Technical Education opportunities relative to the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan; enrollment in the six Student (career) Pathways offered to rising Grade 9 and 10 students (initially those who applied to Assabet Valley Technical Regional High School and then to all students); potential programs and partnerships; increasing access to *Project Lead the Way*; and increased student demand for business courses (acknowledging challenges relative to space, equipment, personnel, transportation, and student engagement). Director of Alumni Development & Community Relationships Ms. Kathleen Keohane described various opportunities for student career exploration; detailed types of support received from local businesses and alumni; and noted financial support provided by the Colonial Fund and its donors.

Additional information was provided in response to questions from the Committee on limited student participation in the six Student Pathways (some parents noted they were looking for more vocational opportunities); uses for potential MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) grant funding (student programming similar to that provided by entities like Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development); the role of community colleges (Quinsigamond Community College Fabrication Studio, dual enrollment programs); and additional relevant staffing (the proposed budget

would potentially allow for this). Committee members expressed support for the SHS Student Pathways, outreach to alumni, and exploration of opportunities like the Blackstone Valley Hub (while noting additional staff might be needed to support student access to such opportunities).

VII. Policy

None.

VIII. Finance & Operations

None.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update

Noting he is the representative from Shrewsbury Public Schools on the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) Board of Directors, Dr. Sawyer reported the Board recently voted to set Fiscal Year 2024 tuition rates and that most reflected a 4% increase. He felt the rationale for the increases was reasonable in the current environment, noted Shrewsbury receives a discount as a member community, and added that the rates were factored into the FY24 School Department Budget being presented at Town Meeting.

XI. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on April 26, 2023, were accepted as distributed.

XII. Executive Session

None.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Sharifipour, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

Student Advisory Committee Agenda

Martinique Student Trip Documentation

Martinique Student Trip Slide Presentation

Career Technical Education, Career Exploration, and Community Partnerships Report

Career Technical Education, Career Exploration, and Community Partnerships Slide Presentation

Assabet Valley Collaborative FY24 Tuitions & Fees

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: XI. Executive Session

MEETING DATE: 5/24/23

- 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”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – 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) “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” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Units A and/or B, the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association, and/or the Cafeteria Workers Association**
- C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” – non-union clerical and support staff and/or administrators including the superintendent of schools. (“Purpose 2”)**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Executive Session is warranted for these purposes.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Request 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”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – 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) “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” (“Purpose 3”) - 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) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” – non-union clerical and support staff and/or administrators including the superintendent of schools (“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.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources
Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**