

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; 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. Fryc at 7:00 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

None.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer reported attending Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Awards Night the previous week and commended and congratulated all award and scholarship recipients, and noted that Commemoration, the Faculty Student Reception, and Graduation for the SHS Class of 2023 would be held the following week.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. Student Recognition: United Way Youth Volunteer of the Year - SHS Class of 2023**

In their report, Mr. Jeff Lane, SHS Assistant Principal for Student Activities, and Class of 2023 students Cathy Nguyen and Hann-Emily Riviere shared information and photos from community service learning trips undertaken to multiple entities, including Pernet Family Services and Community Fridges, to provide assistance. Their community service was recognized with a 2023 United Way of Central Massachusetts Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, which was awarded collectively to the SHS Class of 2023. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation to the Class of 2023 for their community service work and congratulated them on the award, and invited the presenting students up to be recognized by the Committee and to receive certificates on behalf of the Class of 2023.

**B. Student Recognition: SHS Senior Scholars**

After brief introductory remarks by SHS Principal Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Dr. Sawyer presented biographical sketches of the ten senior students with the highest grade point averages in Class of 2023 *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

Each student had an opportunity to present remarks after being introduced, and all expressed appreciation to the multiple stakeholders (including Shrewsbury Public Schools staff and administration, family, and friends) who contributed to their success. Dr. Sawyer and the Committee congratulated the students and invited them up to be recognized and to receive a gift acknowledging their achievement.

### **C. Middle Level Unified Programming: Report**

Courtney Delaney, Sherwood Middle School Health and Physical Education Teacher; Jason Ponticelli, Oak Middle School Social Studies Teacher; and Grade 8 students Jayden Baez, El Carriveau, Richard Kimball, Luke MacRae, Liv Nolan, and Dani Touloupakis gave the report, which comprised a review of the middle level Unified Basketball season (including a *Wake Up Call* video clip from WCVB ABC Channel 5), Unified Boosters, Unified Social Clubs, and future plans at the middle school level. Mr. Ponticelli described The Mark Fidrych Foundation and its recent partnership with the Unified program, and noted the foundation wanted to make a donation of \$5,000 to support middle level Unified programs at Shrewsbury Public Schools. Committee members and Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation for the presentation and support for continued expansion of the Unified programs.

### **D. Acceptance of Gift: Vote**

Please see agenda item IV.C. On a motion from Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a donation of \$5,000 from The Mark Fidrych Foundation to be used to support Shrewsbury Middle Schools' Unified Programs. After the vote the student presenters from agenda item IV.C. were invited up to be recognized by the Committee.

### **E. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report**

In their report, Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) President Ashley Falandys and SEPAC Treasurer Sharleen Doherty acknowledged past and present SEPAC Board members; expressed appreciation to the district for funding SEPAC's membership in the Massachusetts Association of Special Education Parent Advisory Councils; shared SEPAC's 2022-2023 goals and provided details on 2022-2023 events (including fundraisers, presentations, and meetings); noted frequently discussed topics (including areas that are going well and opportunities for improvement); summarized future plans; and shared contact information for SEPAC. Dr. Sawyer, Committee members, and Ms. Belsito expressed appreciation to the SEPAC for the critical work it does, and for facilitating important parent-to-parent connections.

### **V. Curriculum**

None.

### **VI. Policy**

None.

**VII. Finance & Operations**

None.

**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 May 10, 2023, were accepted as distributed.

**XI. Executive Session**

None.

**XII. 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; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes, and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

SHS Class of 2023 United Way Youth Volunteer Award Slide Presentation

Shrewsbury High School Senior Scholars 2023

Middle Level Unified Program Slide Presentation

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Report Slide Presentation

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above