

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; Ms. Barb Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; 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**

Ms. Heffernan expressed appreciation to all Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) staff and volunteers for planning and executing various successful end-of-year activities.

Ms. Fryc congratulated the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Class of 2023 on their graduation the prior week and thanked Shrewsbury Media Connection for their coverage of the event, and congratulated the SHS Boys Crew Team on their participation in a current national competition in Florida.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the SHS Class of 2023 on their graduation; reported that a final leg of the Massachusetts Special Olympics torch run passed through the Oak and Sherwood Middle School campuses the prior day and that SPS was recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School District at the ceremony; and congratulated SHS alumnus Ryan Dixon on being inducted into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. State Science & Engineering Fair: Student Recognition**

Director of Science & Engineering David Hruskoci introduced Grade 10 student Isha Nagireddy, who received a First Place Award at the 2023 MA Science & Engineering Fair for her project *TalkToMe: An Application That Better Detects and Handles Suicidal Situations on Social Media Through ML*. After presenting slides about her project and answering questions, Ms. Nagireddy was invited up to be recognized by the Committee and Dr. Sawyer and presented with a certificate.

Oak Middle School (OMS) Design Lab Teacher Jeremy Mularella provided an overview of Grade 7 student Anoushka Nikumbh's project *CHARGE-Capturing Heat and Regenerating Electricity using Thermoelectric Generators*, which received a Cabot Spotlight First Place Award at the 2023 MA Science & Engineering Fair, since Ms. Nikumbh was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Mularella introduced Grade 8 student Nichelle Thinagar, whose project *Removing Nitrogen and Phosphorus from Water for the Prevention of Eutrophication* received a Cabot Grand Prize Award at the 2023 MA Science & Engineering Fair. After presenting a slide deck about her project and answering questions, Ms. Thinagar was invited up to be recognized by the Committee and Dr. Sawyer with a certificate.

### **B. SHS eSports State Champions and State Finalists: Student Recognition**

SHS Science & Engineering Teacher and Esports Coach Nick Krefting shared information about eSports successful season (the League of Legends SHS Gatekeepers Team won the MSAA eSports Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 State Championships and the Rocket League SHS CEO's Team finished as MSAA eSports Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 State Finalists) and the different skill sets students utilized to be successful. Students John Qiu, Class of 2023 (Captain); Steven Hu, Class of 2023 (Captain); Isaac Wolfus, Class of 2025; and Callan Fitch, Class of 2026 (all League of Legends SHS Gatekeepers) and Alex Anderson, Class of 2023 (Rocket League SHS CEO's) shared their individual perspectives on the teams' successes. After answering questions from the Committee and Dr. Sawyer, the students were invited up to be recognized and presented with team certificates.

Team members not in attendance at the meeting were: League of Legends SHS Gatekeepers - Kenneth Nguyen, Class of 2023, and Yara Nabih, Class of 2023 (Sub); Rocket League CEO's - Robin Oxley-Luyster, Class of 2023 (Captain); Vincent Lam, Class of 2025; and Connor Morin, Class of 2023 (Sub).

### **C. Speech & Debate State Champions: Student Recognition**

SHS Speech & Debate Team Advisor Marc Rischitelli introduced the students and their accomplishments: Vasu Lakshmanan, Class of 2025, Top Individual Speaker in Novice Public Forum Debate; Trisha Madamsetty, Class of 2026, Novice Oral Interpretation of Literature; and Siri Ural, Class of 2024, Impromptu Speaking. Each student had an opportunity to provide a summary of their event and their experience, and then all three were invited up to be congratulated by the Committee and Dr. Sawyer and presented with certificates.

### **D. Staff Recognition: Retirees**

Ms. Malone recognized all nineteen 2023 retirees by noting their names, positions, schools, and years of service. All retirees' names are listed below in the order they were recognized at the meeting; those in bold font were in attendance, those denoted with "\*" gave remarks, and Ms. Malone shared remarks on behalf those denoted with "\*\*\*".

Sheila Dallarosa

Donna Naumiec

**Fazileh Ghazanfari**

Jill Prenier\*\*

Pamela Thompson\*\*

Joan Beall\*\*

Elizabeth Blash

**Gary Chalmers\***

**Kristine Cobb\***

**William Cobb\***

**Charlene Costello**  
**Madeliene del Toro-Cournoyer\***  
Adele Hamilton  
**D’Arcy McCarthy\***  
**Cheryl Mongeon\***  
Wendy O’Neill\*\*  
**Marc Rischitelli\***  
**Patrick Collins**  
**Anne Koertge\***

Committee members and Dr. Sawyer thanked the retirees for their many years of service to the district and invited them up to be recognized and presented with a gift as a token of appreciation.

### **E. Teacher Diversification Project: Report**

Major Howard W. Beal School Principal Chris Girardi gave opening remarks and then the presenters introduced themselves: Christina Manos, Director of English Language Learning; Nga Huynh, Assistant Principal, Shrewsbury High School; Maura Egan, English Teacher, Oak Middle School; Kristen Minio, Adjustment Counselor, Oak Middle School; Maria Macedo-Wood, Media and Language Lab Aide, Shrewsbury High School; Lindsey Stasiowski, Human Resources Manager; Robert Dunn, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Middle School; Felicitie Boisvert, Social Worker, District; Ms. Malone; and Denise Satterfield, Mathematics Teacher, Shrewsbury High School. Their report included information on project goals, and detailed data (noting some of the challenges associated with self-reported data) on student enrollment by race/ethnicity, staff by race/ethnicity, new staff hires (past two years) by race/ethnicity, and all candidates (full hiring season completed December 2022) by race/ethnicity. They described the three subgroups that compose the team, detailed current recruitment efforts and 2023-2024 goals, and shared the Professional Development subcommittee’s goal and actions steps for 2023-2024. The Committee asked clarifying questions about staff retention and recruitment, and there was consensus among the members that small but impactful positive changes relative to staff diversity had been realized in the initial two years of this long-term initiative.

### **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 24, 2023, were accepted as distributed.

## **XI. Executive Session**

Ms. Fryc 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”), 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. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, on a roll call vote: Ms. Sharifipour, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:40 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Sharifipour, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

Science & Engineering Fair Student Project Slide Presentation - Shrewsbury High School

Science & Engineering Fair Student Project Slide Presentation - Oak Middle School

2023 Retirees Report

Teacher Diversification Project Report

Teacher Diversification Project Slide Presentation

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above