

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; Mr. Christian Girardi, 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. Fryc at 7:00pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer expressed appreciation to the Shrewsbury Department of Public Works for its efforts around plowing/snow removal and school building maintenance during recent heavy snowfall and rainfall.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Crew Team: Recognition of State Championship

Jason Costa, Athletic Director at Shrewsbury High School (SHS), introduced Crew Coaches Beatrice Sims - Head Boys Coach; Michael 'MJ' Lesofsky - Boys Novice Coach; and Mitch McManus - Rowing Director and Head Girls Coach (Varsity & Novice). Mr. McManus discussed highlights of their successful season, which culminated with a Fours Team Point Score Trophy for the Boys Fours Team and seven Gold Medalists at the 2023 Massachusetts Public School Rowing Association (MPSRA) Fall Championship: Novice Girls 1st 4+; Novice Girls 2nd 4+; Novice Boys 1st 4+; Novice Boys 2nd 4+; Varsity Boys 2nd 4+; Varsity Boys 3rd 4+; and Varsity Girls 3rd 4+. Boys Captains James Hess, James Bruschi, Jack Christman, and Bodhi Vohora; and Girls Captains Shally Albert, Anna Rosenkrantz, Hannah Reddick and Sowbernika "Niki" Rajesh (Captain elect for Spring 2024), shared remarks about their personal experiences on the team. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer congratulated the team on their successful season and invited the Captains up to be recognized and presented with certificates.

B. Acceptance of Gift: Vote

Dr. Sawyer provided information on a gift of \$10,000 from former Shrewsbury Public Schools Principal Ms. Jayne M. Wilkin that is intended to provide up to \$1000 each year for the recipient of the award in Ms. Wilkin's name to utilize to advance their work in the school district. Dr. Sawyer advised that the 2023-2024 Jayne M. Wilkin Award winner is Director of English Language Learning Ms. Christina Manos, and that Ms. Manos would be the first award recipient to be able to use these funds. Dr.

Sawyer expressed appreciation for the gift and recommended that the Committee vote to accept it. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a gift of \$10,000 from Jayne M. Wilkin for the purpose of providing up to \$1,000 annually to the recipient of the Jayne M. Wilkin Award that school year, for the purpose of procuring goods or services to enhance the work of that staff member in their school and/or department, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year recipient, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

C. Elementary School Improvement Plans: Presentation & Vote

Kristen Gasper, Principal, Major Howard W. Beal School; Tiffany Ostrander, Principal, Calvin Coolidge School; Lisa McCubrey, Principal, Floral Street School; Scott Mulcahy, Principal, Walter J. Paton School; and Bryan Mabie, Principal, Spring Street School, gave the report. Ms. McCubrey noted the two goals around literacy and closing gaps that are shared across all five elementary schools, detailed actions relative to those goals, and provided associated data snapshots by grade level. Each of the five principals presented information on their own school-specific Improvement Goal and noted how it relates to the district's Strategic Priorities, and they collectively acknowledged their school-based councils for their support.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the format of the report, the elementary schools' shared focus on literacy, the data presented, and the ability to identify student-specific data via Panorama surveys.

V. Curriculum

A. Shrewsbury High School Program of Studies Proposed Changes: Report

Principal Todd Bazydlo presented the SHS course selection timeline, noted action steps around courses and course selection relative to the district's *Commitment to Educational Excellence* Strategic Priority, and detailed existing and proposed Innovation Career Pathways. Assistant Principal Maureen Monopoli described changes proposed for the following departments: English; English Language Education; Technology, Media, & Business; Performing Arts; Visual Arts; and World Languages. Director of Physical Education, Health, and Family Consumer Sciences Dr. Erica Pratt detailed proposed changes to Family Consumer Science and Physical Education, and Director of Science and Engineering Dave Hruskoci described proposed changes to Science and Engineering.

Additional information was provided in response to Committee questions on topics including the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program (Grades 9 and 10 are the entry point for students who want to complete full program sequences, but students can take individual courses later if there are seats available), and on differences between PLTW (a national organization that produces curriculum for different content areas) and Innovation Career Pathways (a designation from the state of Massachusetts that is connected to grant funding). Dr. Sawyer noted that the proposed SHS Program of Studies draft would be posted for public viewing in advance of a vote by the Committee at their next meeting.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Grant Funding Acceptance: Vote

Mr. Girardi advised that the district was awarded a competitive \$10,000 Project Lead The Way Engineering Grant applied for by Mr. Hruskoci, and recommended that the Committee vote to accept the grant funds. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Project Lead The Way Engineering Fiscal Year 2024 Grant for \$10,000 as presented and use such funds for their intended purpose.

B. FY24 Budget Update: Report

In his update on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, Mr. Girardi provided a status to date on: the Town Meeting Appropriated General Budget; projected variances in certain budget categories (and noting the report should reflect 47 Shrewsbury Public School students currently attending Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, not 46 students as listed); the Circuit Breaker Fund; and COVID funding (ESSER-1, -2, and -3 grants). Mr. Girardi advised he expects the district will fully expend its FY24 General Fund Appropriation and will continue to monitor all costs and update projections during the course of the year.

In response to a question from Ms. Fryc regarding the potential for 9C cuts and grant funding reductions, Mr. Girardi reported the district had been advised by the EOHLA (Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities) that funding for Emergency Homeless Shelter students would be provided through the end of Fiscal Year 2024.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on December 13, and the School Committee Meeting held on December 20, 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 M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(1) – “[t]o discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.” (“Purpose 1”) - Open Meeting Law complaint, 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. Sharifipour, 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 9:08pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Sharifipour, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:11pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Sharifipour, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr.

Wensky, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

2023-2024 Elementary School Improvement Plan

2023-2024 Elementary School Improvement Plan Slide Presentation

SHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies Memo

SHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies Draft

SHS 2024-2025 Program of Studies Slide Presentation

Project Lead The Way Engineering FY24 Grant Memo

Project Lead The Way Engineering FY24 Grant Information

Updated FY24 Grants Spreadsheet

FY24 Budget Update Report

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above