



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**February 7, 2024
7:00 pm**

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**February 7, 2024 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

Items

Suggested time allotments

I. Public Participation	
II. Chairperson’s Report & Members’ Reports	
III. Superintendent’s Report	
IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:	
A. One8 Foundation Grant for SHS Engineering Program: Vote to Accept	7:05 – 7:15
B. Social & Emotional Learning & Mental Health State Grant: Vote to Accept	7:15 – 7:25
C. SHS School Improvement Plan: Presentation & Vote	7:25 – 7:55
V. Curriculum	
VI. Policy	
VII. Finance & Operations	
A. Fiscal Year 2025: Superintendent’s Budget Recommendation	7:55 – 8:35
VIII. Old Business	
IX. New Business	
X. Approval of Minutes	8:35 – 8:40
XI. Executive Session	8:40 – 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.	
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”)	



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- 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. (“Purpose 2”)

XII. Adjournment

9:15

Next regular meeting: February 28, 2024



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 02/07/24

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: **02/07/24**
A. One8 Foundation Grant for SHS Engineering Program: Vote to Accept

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Shrewsbury Senior High School has been awarded a grant from the One8 Foundation for Project Lead The Way (PLTW) High School Engineering. The \$40,000 in grant funding will be distributed over three years to help support Engineering programming.

The grant will provide \$16,000 in 2024, \$12,000 in 2025, and \$12,000 in 2026. The funds may be utilized “to offset the costs associated with the Project Lead the Way Engineering program.” This may include equipment, technology, and educator training.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to accept the \$40,000 The Way (PLTW) High School Engineering Grant from the One8 Foundation for Project Lead as presented and use such funds for their intended purpose.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being
Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**
B. Social & Emotional Learning & Mental Health State Grant: Vote to Accept

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Shrewsbury Public Schools has been awarded an FY24 Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health and Wellness Through Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports grant of \$22,855 to support the social-emotional and behavioral health needs of students, families, and educators.

These grant funds will be utilized to provide professional development courses in the Collaborative Problem Solving program through Massachusetts General Hospital and in restorative practices, approaches that address concerning student behavior and that are expected as part of last year's update to the state's school discipline laws. It will also provide coaching in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for clinical staff, as well as curriculum materials designed to support these approaches.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to accept the Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Wellness through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Grant as presented and use such funds for their intended purpose.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

MEETING DATE: 02/07/24

C. SHS School Improvement Plan: Presentation & Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Each Massachusetts public school must have a School Council consisting of faculty, parents, and a community member who advise the principal on the development of a School Improvement Plan. This year, each school's School Council has used the district's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and the district's 2023-2024 Strategic Goals and Action Steps to determine which goals were most important to be emphasized and to develop school-specific goals aligned with a district goal. The plan for Shrewsbury High School is enclosed and Mr. Bazydlo will be available to take questions from the Committee.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to approve the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan for Shrewsbury High School.

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School



SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL 2023-2024 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

District Commitment to Educational Excellence

Shrewsbury Public Schools provides all students access to exceptional educational experiences by leveraging staff development, high-quality materials and technology, data analysis, instructional strategies, and a comprehensive system of support to meet the needs of all learners. Through these efforts, all Shrewsbury Public Schools students will demonstrate academic growth and achievement.

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 1

Ensure High-Quality Teaching and Learning: Provide all students access to high-quality learning experiences in every classroom every day by developing and committing to districtwide expectations for high-quality teaching.

District Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
1.2: Develop collective expertise of PK-Grade 12 instructional leaders to identify and provide feedback on key elements of effective, high-quality teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide professional development opportunities at no fewer than six District Leadership Team meetings focused on instructional leadership strategies that promote students' access to appropriately challenging assignments requiring high levels of student thinking and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment• Members of the District Leadership Team

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 1

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>1.2 The New Teacher Project (TNTP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with consultant from TNTP and develop meeting and classroom observation protocols ● Schedule classroom observations in grade 9 English and Social Science classes ● Analyze the data from the diagnostic visit and apply to continuous learning cycle-Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) ● Identify core areas of focus for improvement ● Develop a plan to address high quality tasks and questions ● Conduct Department Meetings in November to discuss TNTP and finding ● Work to create structures to allow for teacher collaboration ● Review data and make necessary adjustments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment ● SHS Principal ● Director of English ● Director of Social Sciences ● Director of Special Education

District Commitment to Educational Excellence Priority 2

Shrewsbury Public Schools provides all students access to exceptional educational experiences by leveraging staff development, high-quality materials and technology, data analysis, instructional strategies, and a comprehensive system of support to meet the needs of all learners. Through these efforts, all Shrewsbury Public Schools students will demonstrate academic growth and achievement.

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 2

Ensure a Safe and Inclusive Culture: Foster welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning communities where we honor and celebrate diversity, create connections and a sense of belonging for all, and support and engage all students, staff, and family members.

District Strategic Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>2.3: Increase opportunities for Shrewsbury High School students to take advanced coursework in 2024-2025 in order to meet all state accountability system improvement targets in this area, both for all students and for state-designated student demographic groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the course selection process in 2023-2024 to increase participation in courses designated by the state as “advanced courses” for the 2024-2025 school year, focusing on student demographic groups whose participation in advanced courses is below state benchmarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHS Principal SHS Director of School Counseling SHS School Counselors and Teachers

SHS Goal Aligned with Education Excellence Priority 2

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>2.3: Increase opportunities for Shrewsbury High School students to take advanced coursework in 2024-2025 in order to meet all state accountability system improvement targets in this area, both for all students and for state-designated student demographic groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to help frame the issue and brainstorm an approach ● Share State Accountability data with SHSLT ● Meet with SHSLT to create a presentation for staff that will allow for deeper conversations about course placement and student achievement. Staff will also be provided time to articulate potential supports needed to advance student learning ● SHSLT will review state accountability data and review subgroups ● Faculty participate in workshop during staff meeting to discuss course recommendations ● Adjust the course selection process timeline to help ensure teacher recommendations occur after School Counseling presentations about the course selection process ● Hold informational meetings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incoming-grade 9 families ○ Rising 11th and 12th students and families who are interested in AP programming ○ Grade 10 -12 families during Counselor Connections program held on Friday mornings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Superintendent of Schools ● Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ● Principal ● Directors ● Teachers

District Commitment to Educational Excellence

Shrewsbury Public Schools provides all students access to exceptional educational experiences by leveraging staff development, high-quality materials and technology, data analysis, instructional strategies, and a comprehensive system of support to meet the needs of all learners. Through these efforts, all Shrewsbury Public Schools students will demonstrate academic growth and achievement.

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 3

Advance Career and Technical Education: Strengthen all students' postsecondary preparedness by expanding access to career and technical education, evaluating course offerings, and exploring pathway opportunities.

District Strategic Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>3.1: Create career and technical pathways for high school students, including coursework sequences followed by authentic field training experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete planning for expansion of Project Lead the Way courses as Innovation Career Pathway options in the areas of Advanced Manufacturing and Biomedical & Life Sciences for the 2024-2025 school year ● Begin a partnership with the Blackstone Valley Hub where a pilot group of students will access experiential, hands-on technical learning exposing them to multiple vocations ● Seek funding for Innovation Career Pathways initiatives by applying for the DESE's Part B Innovation Career Pathways grant, while seeking additional philanthropic donations for career and technical education efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being ● SHS Principal ● SHS Director of School Counseling ● SHS Director of Science & Engineering ● Designated SHS School Counselors and Teachers

SHS Goal Aligned with Education Excellence Priority 3		
SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
3.1: Create career and technical pathways for high school students, including coursework sequences followed by authentic field training experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement Curriculum Design Team ● Continue to cultivate business partners for internship opportunities ● Create Advisory Board to oversee Innovation Career Pathway programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal ● Director of School Counseling ● Director of Science and Engineering ● Members of the Curriculum Design Team

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 3		
Advance Career and Technical Education: Strengthen all students' postsecondary preparedness by expanding access to career and technical education, evaluating course offerings, and exploring pathway opportunities.		
District Strategic Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
3.2: Expand opportunities for career exploration, job shadowing, and internships so that at least 25% of SHS students are engaged with a career exploration experience by June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further develop partnerships with area businesses, organizations, and individuals (including alumni) to increase high school student job shadowing, internships, and career exploration opportunities for career and technical education efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being ● SHS Principal ● Director of School Counseling ● Director of Alumni Development and Community Relationships

SHS Goal Aligned with Education Excellence Priority 3

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>3.2: Expand opportunities for career exploration, job shadowing, and internships so that at least 25% of SHS students are engaged with a career exploration experience by June 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further develop partnerships with area businesses, organizations, and individuals (including alumni) to increase high school student job shadowing, internships, and career exploration opportunities ● Continue to hold career fairs for students, one in winter and one in the spring ● Communicate opportunities to students and families via Parentsquare and Schoology ● Continue with “Lunch and Learn” meetings for students to meet with community members who work in a variety of careers ● Implement MyCAP (My Career and Academic Plan) for all students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Counselors attend training ○ Embed MyCAP into course selection and career counseling sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being ● SHS Principal ● Director of School Counseling ● Director of Alumni Development and Community Relationships

District Commitment to Educational Excellence

Shrewsbury Public Schools provides all students access to exceptional educational experiences by leveraging staff development, high-quality materials and technology, data analysis, instructional strategies, and a comprehensive system of support to meet the needs of all learners. Through these efforts, all Shrewsbury Public Schools students will demonstrate academic growth and achievement.

2023-2027 Educational Excellence Priority 4

Develop a Districtwide Data Culture: Continue to systematize and fully implement a cycle of inquiry to inform decision-making to ensure all students have access to the support and resources needed to accelerate their growth towards goals and outcomes.

District Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
4.2: Analyze student attendance data to examine root causes of chronic absenteeism, and develop a systematic plan of action to improve student attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review absence data to identify causes and trends overtime ● Review attendance policies and consider updates where warranted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment ● Members of the District Leadership Team

SHS Goal Aligned with Education Excellence Priority 4

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
4.2: Analyze student attendance data to examine root causes of chronic absenteeism, and develop a systematic plan of action to improve student attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review absence data to identify causes and trends overtime ● Review attendance policies and consider updates and adjustments where warranted ● Student Support Team will refer chronically absent students to adjustment counselors and social worker to conduct follow up communication with families and home visits ● Continue to communicate to students and families the importance of attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal ● Assistant Principals ● Student Support Team

District Commitment to Enhanced Well-Being of All

Shrewsbury Public Schools prioritizes the social, emotional, behavioral, mental, and physical health of all students and staff by creating safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments. This is accomplished by intentionally providing learning opportunities where all Shrewsbury Public Schools students and staff feel valued, supported, and empowered.

2023-2027 Well-Being Priority 1

Ensure a Safe and Inclusive Culture: Foster welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning communities where we honor and celebrate diversity, create connections and a sense of belonging for **all**, and support and engage **all** students, staff, and family members.

District Strategic Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>1.3: Increase the percentage of students districtwide who respond “favorably” to the Panorama survey in the category of “Belonging” by 5% from fall of 2023 to spring of 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement academic and social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum experiences and school activities to focus on building relationships between staff and students and to promote a sense of belonging for students (including use of the advisory model at SHS and Oak Middle School and class meeting models in grades PK-6) ● Analyze and report out on the Panorama survey data in the aggregate and by student demographic groups to identify differences in perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being ● Principals & Assistant Principals ● District Social and Emotional Learning Leadership Team ● All Educators who lead advisories and social and emotional learning lessons

Goal Aligned with Well-Being Goal

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
<p>1.3: By June 2024, reduce the number of students reporting less than favorably (overall red or yellow) on the Panorama SEL competencies (self-efficacy, social awareness, and emotional regulation) by 10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze fall 2023 Panorama data to identify students reporting less than favorably overall to the SEL competencies (self-efficacy, social awareness, and emotional regulation) ● Identify and implement a system of support for each of these students, including SOS, check-ins, regulation resources ● School Counselors review data and meet with individual students who identify as needing support in the competencies of self-efficacy, social awareness, and emotional regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal ● Assistant Principals ● Members of the Student Support Team (Counselors, Psychologists, Nurses, and Assistant Principals)

District Commitment to Optimization of Resources

Shrewsbury Public Schools maximizes student success by equitably allocating resources according to student needs while maintaining a fiscally sound budget, building efficient and effective systems to align efforts, and strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders. This work guarantees that all students can access the programs and services offered throughout Shrewsbury Public Schools.

2023-2027 Optimization Priority 5

Strategically and Equitably Allocate District Resources: Equitably distribute financial and other resources to maximize opportunities for all students.

District Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
5.1: Seek remedy to high school overcrowding and academic space limitations by working to advance the application process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the potential expansion of Shrewsbury High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with school and town officials to complete all components of the Eligibility Module following a potential invitation into the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s pipeline for an expansion of Shrewsbury High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent of Schools Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations SHS Principal & Assistant Principals Partnership with Shrewsbury Public Buildings

Goal Aligned with Optimization of Resources

SHS Goal	Action Steps	Staff Responsible
5.1: Continue work to resubmit expansion proposal to the MSBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with school and town officials to resubmit the complete all components of the Eligibility Module to the MSBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent of Schools Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations SHS Principal & Assistant Principals Partnership with Shrewsbury Public Buildings



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

A. Fiscal Year 2025: Superintendent's Budget Recommendation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Girardi will present the Superintendent's initial recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2025 School Department Budget. The Fiscal Year 2025 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation document will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

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

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on January 24, 2024, are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on January 24, 2024.

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, January 24, 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; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; 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

Mr. Wensky reported that he would run for re-election to the School Committee in May 2024. Ms. Sharifipour congratulated Sherwood Middle School on the successful presentation of their school play *The Most Epic Birthday Party Ever*, and expressed appreciation to the Music Department for successful Grade 4 Chorus Concerts at all elementary schools, including the concert she attended at Maj. Howard W. Beal School.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer reported that a link to Shrewsbury High School's (SHS) virtual 2024 Winter Art Exhibit was available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) website and in the electronic SPS Community Bulletin; expressed appreciation to Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union for displaying student art in their facility; and advised that the SHS Career Fair that will be held on February 6 is seeking representatives from a wide variety of professions.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Students Siri Ural (Chair), Aanya Gupta, and Caroline Strickland gave the report; Mr. Andrew Smith, SHS Teacher and Faculty Advisor to the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), was in attendance at the meeting. SAC student members Noah Csank and Venkata Duggireddy were unable to attend the meeting. In the report, the students provided updates on student life, co-curricular activities, and events at SHS. The students indicated that one topic from the schoolwide town meeting they would like to see addressed further is the potential provision of menstrual products in school restrooms. In response to questions from the Committee and Dr. Sawyer, the students advised that: feedback on new start times from the majority of students at the SHS Town Hall meeting was neutral or positive, overcrowding in school hallways is

problematic, and the addition of a fourth lunch period had helped - but did not eliminate - overcrowding at lunchtimes; and provided insight on their experience (Ms. Ural) in the Capstone Program.

B. Middle School Improvement Plans: Presentation & Vote

In their report, Sherwood Middle (SMS) School Principal Jon Kelly and Oak Middle School (OMS) Principal Hallie Burak presented information, action items, and data to date on the two shared improvement goals at the middle level relative to the district's commitments to *Educational Excellence* and closing achievement gaps, and *Enhanced Well-Being of All* and increased student belonging. Mr. Kelly shared information and action steps on the SMS-specific goal to maximize family and community partnerships; Ms. Burak shared information and action steps around the OMS-specific goal to ensure a safe and inclusive culture; and both expressed appreciation to their School Councils and PTOs for their insights and support. Additional information was provided in response to questions from the Committee on the frequency of data meetings (three times per year); Explorations Period (first period for Grade 8; second period for Grade 7; ranges from Band/Chorus/Orchestra, to total interventions, to structured reading, to various tiered levels of student support); and OMS Advisory Program frequency (biweekly on Team).

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plans for Sherwood Middle School and Oak Middle School.

C. State of the District: Report

Utilizing a new format this year, Dr. Sawyer presented his report by summarizing insights he would share about Shrewsbury Public Schools with someone considering moving to Shrewsbury who asked about the district.

Insights from Dr. Sawyer included:

- students benefit tremendously from being members of the school community (giving examples)
- the district has a skilled leadership team and staff
- SPS enjoys a strong level of trust from the community
- the district and Town of Shrewsbury have enjoyed a high level of stability in governance over time
- an appreciation for the community's level of acceptance for human differences (including the LGBTQ community)

He also noted challenges around:

- living in a fraught time and the associated impacts to the school community
- supporting students and staff in difficult times
- national political instability and rancor
- use of social media
- mental and behavioral health emergencies
- dangerous student behaviors
- the threat of school violence
- complex impacts from Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Dr. Sawyer added that the district is focused on the right things, needs resources to do this important work, and aspires for all students to get what they need both educationally and to be well. Committee members shared their perspectives in turn, acknowledged the need for appropriate tools to address the

more intense challenges and achievement gaps in the current environment, and expressed appreciation for the content, transparency, and format of the report.

V. Curriculum

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

Ms. Fryc advised that no feedback had been received by the Committee on the proposed changes to the Shrewsbury High School Program of Studies that was posted after being presented at the January 10, 2024, School Committee meeting. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Shrewsbury High School 2024-2025 Program of Studies as presented.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Future Budget Projections: Report

Mr. Girardi and Dr. Sawyer began the report by presenting financial data for the district's Town Appropriated Budget that included historical: increases/decreases; recommended vs. received increases; trend data over various time periods; and budget changes as a range (high, median, low). They noted flattening Chapter 70 State Aid and proportionally less State Aid as part of required education expenditures over time; shared historical and current per pupil expenditures in Shrewsbury vs. the state and comparison districts; and provided data on the district's spending beyond the State Foundation Budget Minimum compared to other districts (currently), and historically in the district since FY 2000.

Performance data for the December 2020 Forecasting Model was shared (actuals vs. forecasts for three years and 4.25% and 4.75% projections for FY25 and FY26) prior to presentation of a five-year projection based on the current override agreement range of 4.25-4.75%, along with an additional projection that incorporated recent trends for student and program needs. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Girardi concluded the report by detailing the assumptions inherent in the five-year projection and summarizing key points.

Committee members shared their perspectives in turn, noting that additional funds for Strategic Priorities were not included in the projection.

VIII. Old Business

A. Elementary School Improvement Plans: Vote

Ms. Fryc noted that due to an oversight a vote was needed on the Elementary School Improvement Plans presented at the School Committee meeting on January 10, 2024. There were no questions from the Committee. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plans for Major Howard W. Beal School, Calvin Coolidge School, Floral Street School, Walter J. Paton School, and Spring Street School.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on January 3, and the School Committee Meeting held on January 10, 2024, 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; and

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, 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 9:08 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Heffernan, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 pm. 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:

SHS Student Advisory Committee Agenda

2023-2024 Middle School Improvement Plan

2023-2024 Middle School Improvement Plan Slide Presentation

Future Budget Projections Report

Future Budget Projections Slide Presentation

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **02/07/24**

- 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. (“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. (“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. Chris Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**