



**School Committee  
Meeting Book**

**September 6, 2023  
7:00 pm**

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**September 6, 2023 7:00pm  
Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room  
100 Maple Avenue**

**Items**

**Suggested time allotments**

Special Opening 7:00 – 7:05

I. Public Participation

7:05 – 7:15

II. Chairperson’s Report & Members’ Reports

III. Superintendent’s Report

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Acceptance of Donation for Oak Soccer Program: Vote

7:15 – 7:25

B. School Facilities Summer Maintenance: Report

7:25 – 7:40

C. Homeless Students: Report

7:40 – 7:55

V. Curriculum

VI. Policy

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Capital Planning Update: Report

7:55 – 8:10

B. Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Grants: Report & Vote to Accept Grants

8:10 – 8:25

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report

8:25 – 8:35

X. Approval of Minutes

8:35 – 8:40

XI. Executive Session

XII. Adjournment

8:40

**Next regular meeting: September 27, 2023**



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### Special Opening

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

Under the direction of Mr. Michael Lapomardo, Shrewsbury High School Teacher - Performing Arts, Music, Choral - the Chamber Choir will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner." This is the roster of students slated to perform:

#### Soprano

Mikayla Boucher  
Arpan Chhabra  
Diya Gopal  
Rebekah Powers

#### Alto

Aditi Ashokkumar  
Keira Fitch  
Aanchal Karthik  
Gianna Tan

#### Tenor

Nicholas Claros  
Callan Fitch  
Chase Kinsky  
Carter Siebels

#### Bass

Shankhadeep Bera  
Austin Hopping  
Cristian Salvan  
Sebastian Salvan



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 09/06/23

#### 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: **09/06/23**  
**A. Acceptance of Donation for Oak Soccer Program: Vote**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Per School Committee Policy 911, gifts of \$5,000 or more must be formally accepted by the School Committee. Lexus of Northborough would like to donate \$5,500 to Shrewsbury Public Schools to support the addition of Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer to the athletics program at Oak Middle School. Dr. Lizotte and Lexus of Northborough President Mr. Mitch Cook will address the Committee and be available to answer questions.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to accept a donation of \$5,500 from Lexus of Northborough to Shrewsbury Public Schools to support the addition of Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer to the athletics program at Oak Middle School.

**STAFF & GUESTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being  
Mr. Mitch Cook, President of Lexus of Northborough



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: 09/06/23**  
**B. School Facilities Summer Maintenance: Report**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Mr. Girardi and Mr. Tuttle will present a report on Summer 2023 maintenance projects - including capital repairs and improvements - that were completed across all school buildings. The report slides are enclosed.

**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:**

Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Mr. Bill Tuttle, Division Manager - Public Buildings

# PUBLIC BUILDINGS DIVISION 2023

Bill Tuttle



# INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS TEAM

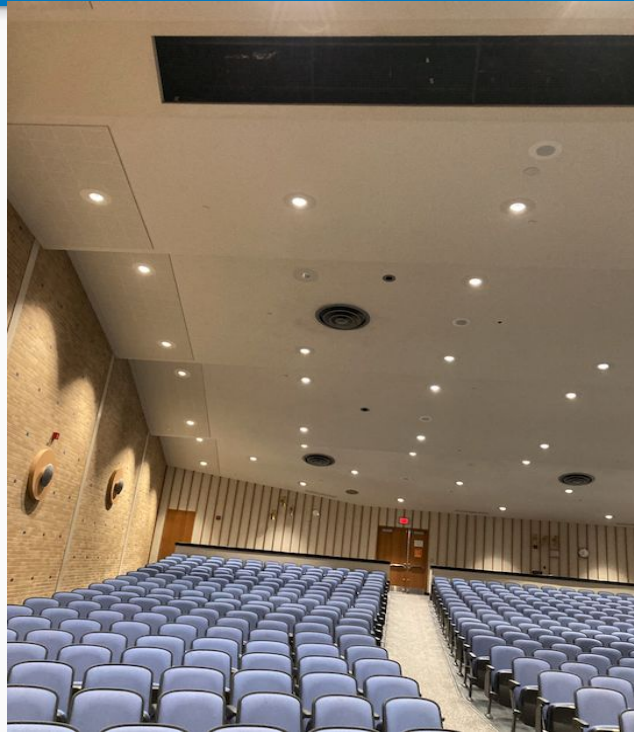
- Bill Tuttle – Public Buildings Division Manager
- Ken Goodwin – Administrator of Custodial Services
- Bob Marchand – Administrator of Maintenance
- Joel Manzi – Administrator Plant Manager/SHS
- John Hamilton – Night Supervisor Custodial
- 5 Maintenance Craftsmen
- 15 Custodians



# FLORAL STREET SCHOOL HVAC RENOVATION



# LED LIGHTING IN OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



# RECARPETING FLOORS AT FLORAL STREET SCHOOL



# RESURFACING GYMNASIUM FLOORS AT SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL, SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL, FLORAL STREET SCHOOL





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:  
C. Homeless Students: Report**

**MEETING DATE: 09/06/23**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In May 2023 the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), contacted the Town of Shrewsbury to inform Officials of the temporary placement of families at a lodging facility in Shrewsbury. Per law, any school-age children will either attend Shrewsbury Public Schools or be transported back to the school they have been attending if feasible. As of the start of the new school year, there were 46 students from the emergency homeless shelter enrolled in our school district across grades K-12, and 10 students who are being transported back to their district of origin.

Dr. Sawyer will share information regarding ways in which the school district has been supporting our homeless students and their families since the emergency shelter opened in May, and how the district is utilizing state funding to provide necessary resources.

Please see the enclosed memorandum from Dr. Sawyer.

**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 AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

September 1, 2023

To: School Committee

Re: Enrollment of Students from Local Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families

Last May, the Department of Housing and Community Development, now called the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC), opened an emergency shelter in a hotel in Shrewsbury. Click [HERE](#) to see the joint statement I made with the Town Manager to the community at that time.

The latest communication from HLC indicated there are just over 80 families living at this emergency shelter. As of today, we have 49 students enrolled in our schools across grades K-12, as follows:

Beal School 14  
Floral Street School 19  
Sherwood Middle School 5  
Oak Middle School 5  
Shrewsbury High School 6

Kindergarten 14

Grade 1 3

Grade 2 2

Grade 3 8

Grade 4 6

Grade 5 2

Grade 6 3

Grade 7 3

Grade 8 2

Grade 9 2

Grade 10 0

Grade 11 3

Grade 12 1

Ten other students are being transported back to their districts of origin, per their families' choice under state law.

To address student needs, we are using state funding provided for the education of students in emergency shelters to add the following positions:

- A full-time English language education teacher at Floral Street School (in process of hiring) – estimate \$90,000
- A part-time Homeless Family Coordinator to serve as a liaison between families at the site and the schools – \$23,500
- Two bilingual instructional aides – \$60,000
- Two applied behavioral analysis technicians – \$70,000

In addition to the above, there are costs for various supports such as interpreters, technology, supplies and materials, etc. Our current estimates for costs to support these students is about \$570,000 based on current estimates.

As indicated in the grants report in your packet, we are receiving funding from the state as follows:

- 1) Homeless Emergency Support Grant, which provides \$1,000 for each student enrolled in our district from an emergency shelter for initial needs (such as technology, supplies, etc. This is estimated to provide about \$49,000 in funds as of our current enrollment (please note that the grant report was completed earlier when we had 46 students)
- 2) Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding Program, which provides \$104 per student per day for the time they are enrolled in our district, which is estimated to provide about \$900,000 in FY24 if all 49 students were to remain for the entire year.

Based on the above, depending on how long students remain at the shelter, the amount of state funding will more than cover the expenses we are estimating we will incur.

At your meeting on September 6, I will provide information regarding how we provided summer programming for our students from the shelter, and ways in which we have supported them for a successful start to their school year.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**  
**A. Capital Planning Update: Report**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Girardi will present an update on Capital Planning that includes information on the recently submitted Statement of Interest (SOI) for Shrewsbury High School and on planning relative to elementary schools in the district.

Dr. Sawyer will update the Committee on progress toward establishing the PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee that was proposed last spring; Dr. Sawyer's memorandum on that proposal from April is enclosed for reference.

**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 AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

April 26, 2023

To: School Committee  
Re: Recommendation for PreK-4 Capital Planning Process

The recently presented [PreK-12 Capital Inventory and Improvement Study](#) (aka, PreK-12 Space Study) created by LPA|A provides an assessment of our current school building facilities and makes recommendations for various ways in which the district might approach addressing future needs. The top issue that the space study emphasized was the severe overcrowding at Shrewsbury High School, and in response the School Committee and Select Board recently submitted a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to see if the MSBA will collaborate with our town on a jointly-funded solution for expanding the SHS building.

The second priority the space study brought forward is the need to address, in some combination, the age and condition of Coolidge School and the amount and quality of space for the district's preschool program, and the third priority is to provide parity among the K-4 elementary schools. The study illustrated several potential approaches to solve these issues in various combinations, all of which would affect the entire preschool to grade 4 level. The School Committee has asked that I provide a recommendation for a process that would enable the district to identify the preferred future direction for preschool and elementary capital investment. Such a process would examine the following questions that Lynsey Heffernan, School Committee Chair, [presented at a joint workshop](#) of the School Committee and Select Board in February:

- In the future will the need for pre-school increase, either because of demand or due to the potential of state/federal law requiring universal preschool?
- What is the best model for early childhood and elementary education in terms of size of the building? What are the benefits and trade-offs of large elementary schools?
- Should preschool be folded into each elementary school or provided in a separate setting?
- What is the value of "neighborhood" elementary schools?
- How should equity fit into our thinking about preschool and elementary education?

In order to answer these and other questions that will surely arise, Ms. Heffernan suggested that a study committee be formed to address them and make recommendations for PreK-4 capital needs in future years, and I concur that this approach will be beneficial. Based on Ms. Heffernan's original recommendation, the goals of this study committee would be as follows:

- 1) Create a transparent process to discuss the future direction for early childhood and elementary capital investment.
- 2) Review the LPA|A PreK-4 Space Study and determine the pros and cons of the various preschool and elementary configurations suggested in the study and make recommendations to the School Committee and Select Board for a preferred pathway forward.

In line with Ms. Heffernan's suggestion, I suggest that the study committee might consist of the following members:

- Two members of the School Committee
- Two members of the Select Board
- A parent representative from each PreK-4 school (Parker Road Preschool, Beal School, Coolidge School, Floral Street School, Paton School, and Spring Street School), appointed by the chair of the School Committee
- A faculty/staff representative from each PreK-4 school, appointed by the Superintendent of Schools
- The Director of Parker Road Preschool and the principal of each K-4 school
- The Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- The Assistant Director of Public Works and the Division Manager of Public Buildings
- Town Manager/Assistant Town Manager
- Superintendent of Schools

While this is a large number of individuals, I believe the importance of the topic requires this level of stakeholder representation and the expertise of the professionals listed. I believe our experience with the Sleep Health Advisory Committee this past year demonstrates our ability to effectively facilitate an important process with this size of a group.

I recommend that this process follow a similar timeline to the Sleep Health Advisory Committee, where some planning work would be conducted over the summer, the committee would convene at the start of the new school year, meet throughout the fall and winter, and bring its recommendations forward with a target of completion by March 2024.

If the Committee concurs, we will need to communicate this plan with our partners in municipal government to see if they are able to participate in the manner described above, and a specific timeline with dates for meetings would be established.

I look forward to your feedback about this possible approach to this very important endeavor.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

**B. Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Grants: Report & Vote to Accept Grants**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Federal and state entitlement grants are an important source of funding for our school operations. Entitlement grants are established and allocated at the state and federal level. Entitlement grants are noncompetitive and are awarded automatically on the basis of defined formulas that differ by grant. The enclosed report includes the amount of funding the district is receiving in FY24 as well as a five-year history. Mr. Girardi will summarize this information in a presentation to the Committee.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to accept all FY24 grant funds noted in the enclosed chart and use such funds for their intended purpose.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

Christian Girardi

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

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September 1, 2023

To: School Committee

Subj: RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT FY24 FEDERAL GRANTS

## **Background**

Federal and state entitlement grants are an important source of funding for our school operations. Entitlement grants are established and allocated at the state and federal level. Entitlement grants are noncompetitive and are awarded automatically on the basis of defined formulas that differ by grant. This report will show the amount [\$3.2M] of funding we are receiving for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), i.e. the 2023-2024 school year, and it also provides a five-year history.

The total allocation has increased from FY23 [\$2.2M] due to an increase in the Special Education Entitlement Grant (IDEA) and two new grant programs that support students in the homeless shelter located within Shrewsbury.

## **Process**

Having received the allocation amounts this summer, the district must submit detailed program plans and associated budgets to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who oversees the administration and disbursement of funds on a statewide basis. Once our plans are approved, we can begin expending funds and submitting for monthly reimbursement of expenses. The Business Office is responsible for handling all monthly cash requisitions using the state's online grants management system.

## **Recommendation**

In closing, grant funds play an important role in the overall financing of public education in Shrewsbury. Each grant comes with a specific purpose, compliance and reporting requirements, and accountability for use of the funds.

It is recommended that the School Committee vote to accept the funds using the following motion:

*"I move that the Committee accept all FY24 grant funds noted in the enclosed chart and use such funds for their intended purpose"*

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FEDERAL and STATE GRANT ALLOCATIONS AS OF 9/1/2023

Grant	Fund Code	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1 Year Difference	5 Year Difference	Federal [F] or State [S]
COVID Relief School Opening Program Grant	102	\$0	\$1,390,050	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
School Admin EBT REIM Grant	103	\$0	\$0	\$5,526	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	S
Supplemental Funding for Pooled Testing Grant	108	\$0	\$73,433	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
CARES ACT (ESSER) Emergency Relief Fund Grant (Note: All Funds Expended)	113	\$0	\$162,060	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
CARES ACT (ESSER II) Emergency Relief Fund Grant (Note: All Funds Expended)	115	\$0	\$557,280	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
CARES ACT (ESSER III) Emergency Relief Fund Grant (Funds must be expended by Sep 30, 2024; approximately \$564k remaining to be spent in FY24 and Jul-Sep of FY25)	119	\$0	\$0	\$1,229,980	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
COVID Relief/Prevention Grant	127	\$0	\$218,950	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	S
Teacher Quality Grant (Title IIA)	140	\$88,047	\$79,201	\$81,964	\$79,830	\$83,701	\$3,871	-\$4,346	F
English Language Acquisition (Title III)	180	\$27,071	\$29,983	\$27,298	\$28,292	\$38,097	\$9,805	\$11,026	F
Proficiency-Based Outcomes in Languages Other than English	189	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,460	\$0	(\$9,460)	\$0	S
Special Support Earmark Grant (COVID)	192	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	S
Special Support Earmark III	197	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	S
Special Education Entitlement Grant-IDEA	240	\$1,540,147	\$1,633,419	\$1,634,681	\$1,674,809	\$1,784,122	\$109,313	\$243,975	F
ARP - IDEA	252	\$0	\$0	\$390,954	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
Significant Disproportionality in Special Education Improvement Grant	258	\$8,000	\$5,645	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$8,000	F
Early Childhood-Special Education	262	\$34,801	\$35,236	\$35,617	\$38,041	\$39,067	\$1,026	\$4,266	F
ARP - IDEA- Early Childhood	264	\$0	\$0	\$36,429	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
Special Education Program Improvement Grant	274	\$0	\$32,597	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
Early Childhood-Special Education Entitlement	298	\$0	\$4,359	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FEDERAL and STATE GRANT ALLOCATIONS AS OF 9/1/2023

Grant	Fund Code	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1 Year Difference	5 Year Difference	Federal [F] or State [S]
ARP - Homeless Children & Youth II	302	\$0	\$0	\$6,372	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	F
Education for Disadvantaged Children (Title I) *	305	\$197,018	\$172,933	\$184,552	\$186,584	\$195,716	\$9,132	-\$1,302	F
Student Support & Acad Enrichment	309	\$13,457	\$14,349	\$11,764	\$13,205	\$13,673	\$468	\$216	F
Improving Student Access to Behavioral & Mental Health Services	336	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$90,000	S
ARP - Homeless Emergency Support**	344	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$46,000	F
High School Voter Registration Grant	575	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	S
Safer Schools & Communities Initiative	629	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$70,000	S
Comprehensive School Health Services & Workforce Investment Program	929	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	(\$100,000)	\$0	S
Mask Reim C.22 of Acts 2022	930	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,139	\$0	(\$7,139)	\$0	S
Expanded Homeless Shelter funding Program ***	997	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$102,128	\$861,120	\$758,992	\$861,120	S
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$2,168,541</b>	<b>\$4,587,495</b>	<b>\$3,895,137</b>	<b>\$2,339,488</b>	<b>\$3,161,496</b>	<b>\$822,008</b>	<b>\$992,955</b>	
							<b>26.00%</b>	<b>45.79%</b>	

\* Fluctuations in annual Title 1 funding [State Code 305] are due to changes in Shrewsbury's "students in poverty level" that go over or under the 5% threshold. When we are at 5% or greater, we receive an additional allocation of funding. When we fall below 5%, we do not receive the additional funding.

\*\*DESE provides \$1,000 per student housed in an emergency shelter for initial district costs

\*\*\* Quarterly reporting enrollment is required to DESE - funding received is \$104 per student per day; FY24 is projected based on current enrollment



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**  
**A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy adopted in December 2010 indicates that the superintendent or a designee shall report annually to the School Committee regarding the frequency of bullying behaviors during the prior school year and to update the Committee regarding steps being taken in the schools to minimize such behaviors while promoting the continuous improvement of learning environments. The report 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 AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

September 6, 2023

To: School Committee  
Re: Bullying Prevention and Intervention – Annual Report

The Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy adopted in December 2010 indicates that *the superintendent or a designee shall report annually to the School Committee regarding the frequency of bullying behaviors during the prior school year and to update the Committee regarding steps being taken in the schools to minimize such behaviors while promoting the continuous improvement of learning environments.* This report satisfies this policy requirement.

## Frequency of bullying behaviors

It is important to note that, in order for behavior to be deemed “bullying,” it must involve *repeated* behaviors that cause physical and/or emotional harm. Therefore, only situations that meet this standard are reported as “bullying.” There are, of course, many times where students do not treat each other according to our school communities’ expectations, but these are usually not scenarios where the same aggressor repeatedly acts inappropriately towards the same target, thereby qualifying as “bullying.”

There were two incidents of defined bullying at the elementary level, one at the middle level, and seven at the high school level. The following tables provide statistics for grades K-12 for the 2022-2023 school year and, for comparison, the statistics for the previous year.

<b>2022-2023</b>	Allegations of Bullying	Qualifying as Bullying	Aggressors	Targets
Elementary Level	5	2	2	2
Middle Level	13	1	1	1
High School Level	20	7	16	7
<i>Total</i>	38	10	19	10

<b>2021-2022</b>	Allegations of Bullying	Qualifying as Bullying	Aggressors	Targets
Elementary Level	9	0	0	0
Middle Level	6	2	2	2
High School Level	11	2	6	2
<i>Total</i>	26	4	8	4

The following table shows the type of incidents and locations that were documented as bullying in the past year (some incidents were included in more than one category).

<b>2022-2023</b>	Verbal	Physical	Cyber	At School	Outside School
Elementary Level	2	1	0	2	0
Middle Level	1	0	0	1	0
High School Level	7	1	2	6	3

#### Race & ethnicity of students

This year we tracked the race and ethnicity of those involved in both allegations of bullying and those in confirmed cases. As the state does with MCAS results, given the small number of cases (10 confirmed) and the potential for inadvertently identifying students by revealing these characteristics, these are not being reported here. However, the administration is reviewing them as part of its ongoing work to examine whether students from a particular group are disproportionately impacted. These statistics will be interpreted with caution given the small sample size.

Ongoing work to minimize bullying

The very small number of situations that qualified as “bullying” (ten) is more than the previous year, mainly due to the increase of five cases at SHS. Last year we noted that we saw a significant uptick in generally unacceptable behavior among students in 21-22, as many students struggled with re-acclimating to school expectations after a year of hybrid instruction and demonstrated very difficult behaviors. The consensus among administrators was that the 2022-2023 school year was much more stable with regard to student behavior, so I caution against extrapolating the increased number of incidents that qualified as bullying – still very small – to student behavior in general.

As always, we are always looking to minimize behaviors that are hurtful or harmful, even if they don’t technically constitute bullying. This year, we will continue to work with our educators on social emotional curriculum and effective interventions for undesirable behaviors, while school administrators will be considering ways to improve our effectiveness with preventing and responding to significantly disruptive or inappropriate behaviors.

As a reminder, we added an anonymous incident reporting feature several years ago that appears with a flag symbol at the top center of each of our website’s pages (see image below) where students can report a “school safety tip.” We have advertised this through email messages in the past and will do so again during this opening phase of the school year. We received 17 reports that were submitted during the 2022-2023 school year. A very small number were related to bullying-type allegations in a general sense, and all were investigated and resolved to the extent possible based on the information provided.



**SHREWSBURY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Submit School Safety Tip



Contact Us

**DISTRICT** ▾

**DEPARTMENTS** ▾

**SCHOOLS** ▾

We continue to seek ways as a school district to provide support to students to address their social and emotional needs while promoting school cultures of belonging that are safe, positive, and productive places of learning for our students and staff.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on August 22, 2023, are enclosed.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on August 22, 2023.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2023**  
**Shrewsbury High School - 75 Cypress Avenue**  
**Room M126D - Pricipal's Conference Room**

**Start Time:** 7:06p,

**Present:** Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jonathan Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

**Discussion of School Committee focus for 2023-2024 school year**

Ms. Fryc & Dr. Sawyer reviewed the 2023-2024 meeting calendar with the School Committee and we discussed the format and timing for reports and presentations throughout the school year. The overall recommendations are that the agenda format should be tighter than last year. The Committee would like to explore additional communication vehicles to share student presentations to the community versus General Meeting agendas. Dr. Sawyer reviewed the implementation of the new Strategic Plan with the Committee. Committee members expressed support for taking a focused approach to implementing the district's strategic priorities in Year One recommending the district find a balance between the day-to-day responsibilities and driving momentum on key priorities for this school year. Regarding budget process and timelines, the Committee recommended that forecasting align with the Town's budget to ensure we continue to stay within the guidelines of the override agreement. Also, all budget discussions need to be timely and occur prior to the Committee's vote and presentation at the annual Town Meeting.

**Discussion of School Committee communication topics**

The Committee discussed the importance of communicating recurring updates to the community on the efforts to mitigate reduced access to vocational education through career and technical education alternatives. Additionally, the Committee would like the public to receive quarterly updates regarding the RISE Program, literacy programming, Shrewsbury High School space needs, and PreK to Grade 4 capital planning. The Committee also expressed the need to communicate the updated Homework Policy early in the school year to ensure parents and caregivers are well informed of how these changes impact the current school year and holiday schedule.

**Approval of General Meeting minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the General Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. No edits or revisions were required.

The committee approved the General Meeting minutes from June 14, 2023 on a motion by Ms. Boucher; Seconded by Ms. Heffernan; Roll Call Vote: Ms. Sharifipour: Yes; Ms. Heffernan: Yes; Mr. Wensky: Yes; Ms. Boucher, Yes; and Ms. Fryc: Yes.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the Workshop into 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.

On a motion by Ms. Heffernan; Seconded by Ms. Boucher; Roll Call Vote: Ms. Sharifipour: Yes; Ms. Heffernan: Yes; Mr. Wensky: Yes; Ms. Boucher, Yes; and Ms. Fryc: Yes, the School Committee unanimously approved to adjourn the workshop into Executive Session **at 8:34pm**

**Documents referred to:** No documents were shared

### **School Committee Workshop Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the School Committee Workshop:** On a motion by Mr. Wensky; Seconded by Ms. Heffernan; Roll Call Vote: Ms. Sharifipour: Yes; Ms. Heffernan: Yes; Mr. Wensky: Yes; Ms. Boucher, Yes; and Ms. Fryc: Yes, the School Committee Workshop adjourned at 8:36pm.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **09/06/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**