

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

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**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer reported: the Fall Edition of the Shrewsbury School Journal was in the process of being delivered to all residents in Shrewsbury and expressed appreciation to its contributors; a recent broadcast from Spectrum News featured the *Maple & Main* retail business presented by the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supported Employment) Program; and *Maple & Main* would host a pop-up winter market on December 7.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. Athletics Sponsorship: Vote**

Ms. Fryc advised this agenda item would be moved to a future meeting.

**V. Curriculum**

**A. State MCAS Testing: Annual Report**

Ms. Clouter began the report by providing the rationale for testing all students and a recent history of MCAS testing, and by defining the two types of scoring utilized - *achievement* and *growth*. She presented Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) student data highlights by subject: Science and Technology/Engineering (by grade level, SPS compared to state); Mathematics (by grade level, SPS compared to state and local districts, for high needs subgroup - students with disabilities, English Learners, low income); and English Language Arts (by grade, compared to state and local districts, for high needs subgroup). Ms. Clouter described next steps for the district based on the state test data, added that the Star universal screening tool is utilized throughout the year to monitor student progress, and shared data on Star's predictive capabilities (within approximately 10% of MCAS actual scores).

Additional information was provided in response to questions from the Committee on a variety of topics including Star assessment screenings (given three times per year in fall, winter, and spring), MCAS scores and high school graduation (scores reported are for the first time the exam is taken by students, and exams can be retaken), Science assessment (classroom-based common assessments are utilized), and using test data to inform adjusting resources to meet the needs of a changing student population.

### **B. SHS Testing: Annual Report**

Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Principal Mr. Todd Bazydlo gave the report and noted Ms. Angie Flynn, Director of School Counseling, was not able to attend the meeting. After summarizing recent College Board test administration and score reporting changes, Mr. Bazydlo presented detailed data on SAT scores (SHS compared to state and national, by gender, and by self-reported race/ethnicity), and participation rates (10-year history); PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) data on students designated as Commended, Finalist, and Scholarship Recipients (5-year history); and AP (Advanced Placement) exam participation rates (10-year history) and scores (by subject, SHS compared to state and national, gender, race/ethnicity, high needs subgroup, and scholar designees). Mr. Bazydlo summarized the AP School Honor Roll Progress Report for SHS for 2023, noting the College Board's new "College Optimization" category - a metric for students who took five or more AP Exams in high school with at least one taken in grades 9 or 10 had been added (SHS only offers AP courses in grades 11 and 12), and summarized the components of Shrewsbury High School's School Profile Information for College Admissions.

In response to questions from the Committee, additional information was provided on topics including why students take AP courses (multiple reasons, including the narrative that they are necessary for select college admissions), the potential motivation(s) for the addition of the "College Optimization" category (business/marketing perspective/decision, balance of coursework over multiple years, etc.), and AP self-study courses (scores are not reported on student transcripts).

### **VI. Policy**

None.

### **VII. Finance & Operations**

#### **A. Enrollment Projections for 2024-2025 School Year: Report**

Mr. Girardi described the three projection methods utilized in the report (McKibben Report, New England School Development Council, and Town Manager's Enrollment Projection) before providing data on birth and cohort survival (since 2011), current year enrollment compared with various projections by grade and grade span, Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School (AVRTHS) enrollment and projections (for nine years), Fiscal Year 2025 class-size planning, and long-term planning projections.

Ms. Fryc noted the importance of the projection data to both short- and long-term planning (including capital planning) in the district.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None.

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. Superintendent's Goals: Vote**

In addition to being responsible for the district's one-year goals and action steps, Dr. Sawyer proposed two individual goals for himself for the Committee's consideration for his Spring 2024 evaluation: a Student Learning S.M.A.R.T. (S=Specific and Strategic; M=Measurable; A=Action Oriented; R=Rigorous, Realistic, and Results-Focused; T=Timed and Tracked) Goal relative to FY 2025 budget

planning priorities to advance student learning, and communicating those priorities effectively to stakeholders; and a Professional Practice S.M.A.R.T. Goal to develop and improve external and internal communications protocols to enhance communications with families and staff. Dr. Sawyer also detailed the action items suggested to meet the proposed goals.

Committee members expressed support for the proposed goals. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's Goals for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

#### **X. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on November 8, and the School Committee Meeting held on November 15, 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; 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 8:34 pm.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Sharifipour, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:23pm. 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 State Testing Report

2023 State Testing Slide Presentation

SHS Testing Report

SHS Testing Slide Presentation

Enrollment Projections Report

NESDEC Enrollment Projections Report  
Town Manager's Enrollment Projections Spreadsheet  
McKibben Enrollment Projections Report  
Enrollment Projections Slide Presentation  
Superintendent's FY24 Goals Memo  
Set(s) of minutes as referenced above