School Committee
Meeting Book

December 20, 2023
7:00 pm

Town Hall -100 Maple Avenue
Selectmen's Meeting Room

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA
December 20, 2023 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue

<u>**Items**</u>		<u>**Suggested time allotments**</u>
I.	Public Participation	7:00-7:05
II.	Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports	
III.	Superintendent's Report	
IV.	Time Scheduled Appointments:	
A.	Athletics Sponsorship: Vote	7:05 – 7:15
B.	Gifts to the RISE Program: Vote	7:15 – 7:25
V.	Curriculum	
VI.	Policy	
VII.	Finance & Operations	
A.	High School & PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning Update: Report	7:25 – 7:40
B.	Grant Funding Acceptance: Vote	7:40 – 7:50
VIII.	Old Business	
A.	Vacation Enrichment Program Tuition Fees: Vote	7:50 – 7:55
IX.	New Business	
A.	Assabet Valley Collaborative Update: Report	7:55 – 8:05
X.	Approval of Minutes	8:05 – 8:10
XI.	Executive Session	8:10 – 8:30

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.

XII. Adjournment 8:30

Next regular meeting: January 10, 2023

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

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: **12/20/23**
A. Athletics Sponsorship: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In accordance with School Committee Policy 912: Sponsorship & Advertising, sponsorships involving an amount greater than $5,000 must be approved by the School Committee. Dr. Sawyer, Mr. Girardi, and Mr. Costa will present a sponsorship donation of $25,000 - composed of annual payments of $5,000 for each of the next five years - to the Shrewsbury High School Artificial Turf Field Project Fund from Cornerstone Bank is being made in exchange for the conveyance of corporate logo placement on the Shrewsbury High School Stadium scoreboard, and ask for the School Committee to vote to approve it. The memorandum of understanding is enclosed and Mr. Joel Laureano, AVP Senior Market Manager at Cornerstone Bank, will attend the meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee:

1. Vote to approve the enclosed memorandum of understanding with Cornerstone Bank regarding the proposed conveyance of corporate logo placement on the Shrewsbury High School Stadium Scoreboard.

2. Vote to accept annual donations of $5,000 each for the next five years, for a total of $25,000, for this sponsorship, with the funds to be allocated to the Shrewsbury High School Artificial Turf Field Project Fund.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Chris Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Jason Costa, Director of Athletics
Joel Laureano, AVP Senior Market Manager, Cornerstone Bank

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM SCOREBOARD LOGO PLACEMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] is to set forth the terms and conditions for the conveyance of a corporate logo placement on the Shrewsbury High School Stadium Scoreboard [Stadium Scoreboard], located at 75 Cypress Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts pursuant to M.G.L. c.44 S. 53A;

by the Shrewsbury Public Schools School Committee [the Committee],

to Cornerstone Bank currently located at 195 Main Street, Shrewsbury, MA.

II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In accordance with School Committee Policy 912 and in exchange for Cornerstone Bank's sponsorship donation of $25,000, and subject to the conditions herein, the Committee agrees to situate the Cornerstone Bank logo for a five-year period commencing March 2024 and ending February 2029.

III. RIGHTS AND AUTHORITY OF SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By entering into this MOU, the Committee retains singular authority, control, and rights of use of the Stadium Scoreboard, and all property and activities at Shrewsbury High School as provided by statute, federal, state or local regulation, local Town Charter or by-law or requirement of the MIAA or other regulatory body.

The Committee reserves its right to confer other naming rights to other donors on the athletic complex, the stadium field itself, and other corporate logo rights on the scoreboard.

The Committee also reserves its right to rescind these logo rights in the unlikely event that Cornerstone Bank dissolves or is found to have committed any criminal, discriminatory, or other act deemed by the Committee to warrant such removal. In the event of a corporate sale to a new owner, the scoreboard logo rights will pass to the new owner only if the corporate name is retained as "Cornerstone Bank".

IV. CONVEYANCE OF SPONSORSHIP PAYMENTS

Cornerstone Bank agrees to provide to the Shrewsbury Public Schools an annual payment of $5,000 for each of the next five years starting on or about December 1st 2023 and continuing for next successive four years on or about December 1st with the last payment due on about December 1, 2028. Said payment may be made in cash or corporate check and will be considered a sponsorship donation to the Shrewsbury High School Artificial Turf Field Project Fund and used strictly for the purpose of maintenance, repairs, replacement on the current stadium location and related activities, and shall be governed by the provisions of M.G.L. c.44 S. 53A. Any interest on said payment shall remain with and become a part of the funds so provided and may be expended as part of the Shrewsbury High School Artificial Turf Field Project.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the affirmative vote of the School Committee of the Shrewsbury Public Schools as verified by their respective duly authorized representative below and agreement by Joel Laureano.

______________________________	______________________________
[Signed]	[Signed]
Ms. Sandra Fryc	Mr. Joel Laureano
[Printed]	[Printed]
Shrewsbury Public Schools, Chairperson	AVP Senior Market Manager, Cornerstone Bank
______________________________	______________________________
Date	Date

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: Gifts to the RISE Program: Vote** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per School Committee Policy 911, gifts of $5,000 or more must be formally accepted by the School Committee. At the meeting Ms. Belsito and Dr. Lizotte will provide information on:

- a $15,000 donation to the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supported Employment) Program from the Irving James Donahue, Jr. Fund to provide funding for student wages for work outside of the school day at the *Maple & Main* retail business presented by RISE.
- a $5,000 donation to the RISE Program from the Turpin Family to sponsor one of the learning spaces at the *Maple & Main* retail business. Ms. Belsito, a member of the Turpin family, will present remarks on behalf of the family.

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to accept a $15,000 donation to the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supported Employment) Program from the Irving James Donahue, Jr. Fund to provide funding for student wages for work outside of the school day at the *Maple & Main* retail business presented by RISE.

That the Committee vote to accept a $5,000 donation to the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supported Employment) Program from the Turpin Family to sponsor one of the learning spaces at the *Maple & Main* retail business presented by RISE.

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: **V. Curriculum** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**
A. High School & PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning Update: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the September 6 meeting Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Girardi presented an update on Capital Planning that included information on the Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted for Shrewsbury High School, planning relative to elementary schools in the district, and progress toward establishing the PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee proposed last spring. At the meeting Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Girardi will present an update on PreK-Grade 4 Capital Planning in the district from September to the present.

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

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

December 15, 2023

To: School Committee
From: Joe Sawyer
Re: Capital Planning Update

I will be providing an update on our capital planning for school building facilities at your December 20 meeting. Please click here to review the first update that was provided in September.

Shrewsbury High School Statement of Interest Status

The first topic is the status of the statement of interest that our town filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for a potential expansion of Shrewsbury High School (SHS). The MSBA conducted a "senior study" site visit to SHS in the fall, where agency officials and architects they had hired to evaluate our application toured the building and met with school district and town officials to discuss the information we submitted in the SHS statement of interest.

Unfortunately, this past week we received news that the MSBA did not invite Shrewsbury into the eligibility phase of their process for this project. The MSBA received 63 statements of interest from across the Commonwealth, and ultimately they invited 19 projects into the eligibility pipeline. Both in the courtesy call I received and in a subsequent email, the MSBA indicated that they refresh the process every year and encourage communities to resubmit projects for potential partnership. Several of the projects the MSBA moved forward this year had submitted applications in previous years and had resubmitted multiple times. It is my recommendation that our community submit a new statement of interest for a potential expansion of SHS to relieve chronic overcrowding for this next cycle.

Preschool-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee Update

At the directive of the School Committee and as part of our strategic planning work, the Preschool-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee was formed this past September (see enclosed roster). The purpose of the study committee is twofold:

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.

The study committee has met three times so far, rotating meetings among elementary schools where optional tours are provided by that school's principal prior to the meeting:

September 18, 2923 at Coolidge School

- Topic: Reviewed and discussed the 2023 Capital Inventory and Improvement Study from LPA|A with architect Sean Brennan

October 30, 2023 at Paton School

- Topic: Reviewed and discussed the long-term enrollment projections from multiple sources

December 4, 2023 at Spring Street School

- Topic: Reviewed information regarding the concepts of neighborhood schools and consolidation of schools in the context of possible future options outlined in the 2023 Capital Inventory and Improvement Study

Future meetings are scheduled for January 8 and February 12. Topics to be discussed include future preschool enrollment and programming options and determining what pathway forward for future capital investments in Preschool - Grade 4 facilities, with the goal of presenting a recommendation to the School Committee in March of 2024. Additional detailed information from the work of the study committee can be found on our website here.

I look forward to discussing these topics with you at your December 20 meeting.

December 13, 2023

Mr. Kevin J. Mizikar
Shrewsbury Town Manager
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Re: Town of Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury Senior High School

Dear Mr. Mizikar:

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") would like to thank the Town of Shrewsbury (the "District") for expressing an interest in the MSBA's grant program for school building construction, renovation, and repair projects through the 2023 Statement of Interest (the "SOI") process.

Overall, the MSBA received 63 SOIs from 52 different school districts for consideration in 2023. In reviewing SOIs, the MSBA identifies the school facilities that have the greatest and most urgent need based on an assessment of the entire cohort of SOIs that are received for consideration each year.

Based upon the MSBA's review and due diligence process, it has been determined that the Shrewsbury Senior High School SOI will not be invited into the MSBA's Eligibility Period this year. If the District would like this school to be considered for future collaboration with the MSBA, the District should file an SOI in an upcoming year. The MSBA will begin accepting SOIs for consideration in 2024 on Friday, January 12, 2024. Please see the information below regarding the upcoming 2024 SOI process, which is also stated on the MSBA's website.

If the District is planning to submit an SOI in 2024, consider notifying local governing boards of your intentions, as local governing bodies will have to vote to approve submission of an SOI with the vote(s) uploaded to the SOI system.

- The SOI closing date for districts submitting under the Accelerated Repair Program, which is primarily for the partial or full replacement of windows/doors and/or roofs in an otherwise structurally sound facility, will be Friday, March 1, 2024.
- The SOI closing date for districts submitting under the Core Program, which is primarily for projects considered as extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction will be Friday, April 12, 2024.

The MSBA is proud to be collaborating with the Town of Shrewsbury on the Oak Middle School project and remains committed to partnering with the District to better understand any other school facility issues. The MSBA will be sending detailed information regarding the 2024 SOI process in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact Katie DeCristofaro, Capital Program Manager at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James A. MacDonald	Mary L. Pichetti
Chief Executive Officer	Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: 2023 Core Program Statement of Interest Overview

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Beth N. Casavant, Chair, Shrewsbury Select Board
Sandra Fryc, Chair, Shrewsbury School Committee
Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent, Shrewsbury Public Schools

Preschool – Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee

School Committee Representatives	Select Board Representatives
Sandy Fryc, Chair	Theresa Flynn, Vice Chair
Erin Boucher, Vice Chair	John Samia, Clerk

Parker Road Preschool Representatives		
Bridget Nichols, Director	James Dealy, Parent	Jennifer Foran, Staff

Beal School Representatives		
Kristen Gasper, Principal	Rajesh Velagapudi, Parent	Margaret Aulenback, Staff

Coolidge School Representatives		
Tiffany Ostrander, Principal	Justine Maloy, Parent	Kelly Finneran, Staff

Floral Street School Representatives		
Lisa McCubrey, Principal	Vamshi Pokala, Parent	Kristy Ralys, Staff

Paton School Representatives		
Scott Mulcahy, Principal	Colleen Luzzo, Parent	Aaron Detrick, Staff

Spring Street School Representatives		
Bryan Mabie, Principal	Peter Welland, Parent	Alison Kimball, Staff

Municipal Department Representatives	
Keith Baldinger, Assistant Town Manager – Operations	William Tuttle Division Manager, Public Buildings Division

School Department Representatives	
Chris Girardi, Asst. Supt. – Finance & Operations	Joe Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Consultant
William Lupini, Collins Center for Public Management, University of Massachusetts – Boston

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**
B. Grant Funding Acceptance: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the September 6 meeting, the School Committee voted to accept state and federal grants. The enclosed report and chart provide information about five additional grants for the Committee's review and acceptance. At the meeting Mr. Girardi will be available to answer questions and will make a recommendation that the Committee vote to accept the grants.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to accept the five Fiscal Year 2024 grants as presented 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

December 20, 2023

To: School Committee

Subj: RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL 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. The School Committee voted to accept state and federal grants at the September 6 meeting. This report provides information about five additional grants for School Committee consideration and vote to accept.

High Quality Instructional Materials Purchase Grant [165]- $250,000
Grant 165 provides funding for districts to purchase core high-quality instructional materials to align with their district's vision and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's vision for deeper learning in ELA, mathematics, and science. SPS applied to use these funds for purchase of materials for the implementation of the EL Education literacy curriculum in grades K-6.

Special Education Program Improvement Grant [274]- $38,702
Grant 274 supports schools and districts to implement the IEP Improvement Project, with emphasis on transitioning to utilization of the newly revised forms and processes.

Chronic Absenteeism Grant [CFDA 84.425U] - $10,000
This grant is a DESE Administered Federal grant to address chronic absenteeism through implementing tracking and monitoring systems and strengthening family-school partnerships.

MyCAP Development and Implementation Grant [598]- $5,500
Grant 598 provides supplementary support to school districts engaged in '**My C**areer and **A**cademic **P**lan', which is a program designed to ensure all students graduate from high school and are college and career ready. The funds are intended to support planning team members with professional development and meeting time outside of school hours. This is part of the Innovation Career Pathways work at SHS.

Instructional Leadership Institute Participant Stipend Grant [654]- $3,000
Grant 654 provides funds to support participating districts who had staff attend the DESE Instructional Leadership institute, held this past August 1-3, 2023.

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 vote to accept the five Fiscal Year 2024 grants as presented and use such funds for their intended purpose."

FY24 updated grants for SC- 12.20.23

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	119	$0	$0	$1,229,980	$0	$0		$0	$0	F
DESE Chronic Absenteeism State Set-Aside Grant	CFDA 84.425U	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000		$10,000	$10,000	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
High Quality Instructional Materials Purchase Grant	165	$0	$0	$0	$0	$250,000		$250,000	$250,000	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	$38,702		$38,702	$38,702	F
Early Childhood-Special Education Entitlement	298	$0	$4,359	$0	$0	$0		$0	$0	F
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

FY24 updated grants for SC- 12.20.23

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
MyCAP Development and Implementation Grant	598	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,500		$5,500	$5,500	S
Safer Schools & Communities Initiative	629	$70,000	$50,000	$0	$0	$0		$0	-$70,000	S
Instructional Leadership Institute Participant Stipends Grant	654	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,000		$3,000	$3,000	F
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
Totals		$2,168,541	$4,587,495	$3,895,137	$2,339,488	$3,468,698		$1,129,210	$1,300,157	
								32.55%	59.96%	

* 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% threshhold.
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 requried 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: **12/20/23**
A. Vacation Enrichment Program Tuition Fees: Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the School Committee meeting on December 6 the Committee voted to increase summer enrichment class fees from $80 to $100 per class to increase the number and type of class proposals received and to cover the costs of higher teacher stipends while maintaining a rate that represents a good value for families. As enrichment classes are also offered during school vacation periods other than summer, using the same rationale, Dr. Sawyer is recommending that the class fee for all vacation enrichment classes be increased to $100.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to increase the class fee for vacation enrichment classes to $100 per class.

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**
A. Assabet Collaborative Update: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state law governing educational collaboratives requires four updates each year to member school districts; this is the second update this year. This update is to provide information regarding the approved financial audit of the Assabet Valley Collaborative for Fiscal Year 2023. A copy of the audit is enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear an update on the status of the Assabet Valley Collaborative 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

28 Lord Road, Suite 125
Marlborough, MA 01572
P 508.460.0491
F 508.460.0493
www.avcollaborative.org

December 15, 2023

Dear Assabet Valley Collaborative Community,

AVC's FY 2023 Financial Audit Report was approved by the Board of Directors on December 1, 2023.

The Collaborative is required to transmit the annual audit report to member school districts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Office of the State Auditor, and to post it on AVC's website.

Highlights of the FY23 Audit Report are bulleted below:

- AVC's cumulative general fund surplus as of June 30, 2023 was $2,020,432 which represents approximately 12% of general fund expenditures for fiscal year 2023. The maximum percentage allowable by statute and regulation is 25%.

- As with public school districts, AVC's financial audits require a statement of net OPEB liability which in FY23 was $9,936,147 (including deferred inflows/outflows). This net OPEB liability is reflected in the government-wide financial statement deficit of $7,408,841. For context, AVC's actual retiree benefit expense in FY23 was $30,390. While the net OPEB liability shows on the balance sheet, it does not reflect AVC's actual general fund deficit for FY23 See below.

- The general fund (operating) deficit for FY 2023 excluding capital outlay was $292,000 (page 12, $349,491 deficit adding back $57,700 of lease financing).

- Throughout FY2023 AVC's Board of Directors received monthly budget reports. The audit report includes no findings and represents calculations that were consistent with financial projections presented to the Board of Directors throughout the fiscal year.

- AVC's operating deficit and capital outlay required use of surplus funds. The operating deficit was largely due to a reduction in enrollment in two programs - REACH and Orchard Street Academy (OSA). FY24 enrollment at OSA has increased and is mostly on target. AVC's REACH program's enrollment continues to be down, due in part to the unexpected and tragic death of three students between 2022 and 2023. AVC's capital outlay was required for the completion of a renovation project for Evolution which will be complete in FY24.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cummins, Ed. D.
Executive Director
Assabet Valley Collaborative

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Contents
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
& BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Assabet Valley Collaborative
Marlborough, Massachusetts

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information Assabet Valley Collaborative (a collaborative organized under the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Assabet Valley Collaborative's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Assabet Valley Collaborative, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Assabet Valley Collaborative, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Assabet Valley Collaborative's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Assabet Valley Collaborative's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, OPEB Plan – Required Supplementary Information and pension schedules on pages 3-7 and 30-36 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Assabet Valley Collaborative's basic financial statements. The supplementary information on pages 38-41 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated December 1, 2023, on our consideration of Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC

Certified Public Accountant

Newburyport, Massachusetts
December 1, 2023

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion & Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

The following discussion and analysis of Assabet Valley Collaborative's (the Collaborative) financial performance provides an overview of the Collaborative's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and summarized comparative information for 2022. Please read it in conjunction with the Collaborative's financial statements, which follow.

THE COLLABORATIVE AS A WHOLE

The Collaborative was established for the purpose of conducting educational programs and/or services, which meet low-incidence special needs children for whom its member school committees are responsible. The Collaborative also provides clinical services as requested by its member districts. Non-member school districts may contract for program and clinical services as capacity allows. The Collaborative is supported through program tuition and fees for clinical services from contracting municipalities. The Collaborative is governed by a twelve-member Board of Directors consisting of one representative from each district.

During fiscal year 2023, the Collaborative continued to lease a 17-classroom building in Marlborough where its therapeutic middle and high school program is based as part of a 25-year lease agreement with the City of Marlborough. Highlights of the agreement include: exclusive use of the facility, responsibility for building improvements, repair and landscaping. The Collaborative also owns administrative offices and professional development space located at 28 Lord Road, Marlborough, Massachusetts. Their Marlborough Evolution post graduate program and Family Success Partnership are also located there.

The Collaborative's Orchard Street Academy (OSA) - a tuition based therapeutic middle and high school program that includes an extended evaluation option (SOAR), served 71 students, equating to 52.52 full time equivalent (FTE) students. Enrollment in AVC's REACH program - a tuition-based program serving students with multiple and severe disabilities totaled 18 students equating to 12.46 FTE students. REACH program classrooms are located in member district schools. AVC's Evolution program - a tuition-based post-graduate program for students 18-22 years of age is now located entirely at AVC's headquarters in Marlborough after the lease at Shrewsbury High School expired. In FY23, Evolution served 27 students equating to 24.44 FTE students.

Fiscal year 2023 marked the eleventh year of a transportation contract with VanPool Inc which transported over 500 students during the year. Therapeutic and consultation services were provided to over 135 students from 4 member districts and 2 private special education school in the following disciplines: occupational, physical, and music therapies. The Family Success Partnership is in its 16th year of providing wrap-around and served 129 families; districts also received 42 consultations from FSP faculty. The 129 families receiving service during this fiscal year totaled 390 individuals served. FSP also partnered with Northborough Public Schools to provide 1:1 check-ins with students who are struggling to access learning through a grant provided by the Metrowest Health Foundation. A total of 31 students were served.

The Collaborative had a general fund balance of $2,020,432 as of June 30, 2023.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Collaborative's financial statements. The Collaborative's financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements; 2) fund financial statements; and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide Statements:

The government-wide financial statements report information about the Collaborative as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies.

- The **Statement of Net Position** presents information on all of the Collaborative's assets and liabilities with the difference between the two reported as net position. It is one way of measuring the Collaborative's financial health or position.

- The **Statement of Activities** presents information showing how the Collaborative's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Over time, increases or decreases in the Collaborative's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating. The reader will also need to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in economic conditions when evaluating the overall financial health of the Collaborative.

Fund Financial Statements:

Funds are accounting devices used to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending in particular categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds. Presently, the Collaborative has only governmental and fiduciary funds.

- **Governmental funds –** The Collaborative's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on: 1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out, and 2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Collaborative's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, additional information (reconciliation schedules) is provided following the governmental funds statements that explains the relationship (or differences) between these two types of financial statement presentations.

- **Fiduciary fund –** Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Collaborative's own programs.

Notes to the Financial Statements:

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the information provided in the Collaborative's financial statements.

Supplementary information:

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This report also includes other supplementary information, which provides more detail supporting the financial statements and information required by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following summarized Statement of Net Position is for the fiscal year 2023 with comparative information from fiscal year 2022:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Current assets, i.e. cash, accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	$ 3,335,000	$ 3,827,000
Non-current assets*	3,374,000	3,286,000
Deferred outflows related to OPEB	2,023,000	2,314,000
	$ 8,732,000	$ 9,427,000
Current liabilities, i.e. accounts payable, accrued expenses, current portion of long-term debt and unearned revenue	$ 1,461,000	$ 1,302,000
Non-current liabilities*	9,178,000	8,770,000
Total Liabilities	$ 10,639,000	$ 10,072,000
Deferred inflows related to OPEB	$ 5,502,000	$ 5,967,000
Net Position:		
Invested in capital and right-of-use assets*	$ 507,000	$ 345,000
Restricted	-	50,000
Unrestricted	(7,916,000)	(7,007,000)
Total Net Position	$ (7,409,000)	$ (6,612,000)

During fiscal year 2023, net position decreased by approximately $797,000. The decrease in net position is primarily due to a deficit from operations of approximately $344,000 and increases in the net retirement health benefit obligations required by GASB Statement No. 75 of approximately $453,000.

Current assets decreased approximately $492,000 and current liabilities increased by approximately $159,000, due primarily to the deficit in operations. The Collaborative made no transfers into its OPEB trust during fiscal year 2023 and utilized $50,013, the full balance, of its Capital Reserve Fund to help cover space build out costs.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion & Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

As indicated in the following summarized Statement of Activities, total revenue increased by approximately $1,378,000 and expenses increased approximately $719,000 during fiscal year 2023. Charges for services increased approximately $1,397,000 from fiscal year 2022 primarily due to significant rebound in services subsequent to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other postemployment benefits expense decreased approximately $583,000 over fiscal year 2022. Education and other services expenses increased by approximately $1,241,000, primarily due to necessary increases in staffing expenditures to provide necessary services. Administration expenses decreased by approximately $77,000 primarily due to reductions in various expense categories.

	Year ended June 30, 2023	Year ended June 30, 2022	% Change
Revenues:			
Assessments to member towns	$ 180,000	$ 180,000	
Charges for services	16,123,000	14,726,000	
Intergovernmental revenue	1,253,000	1,100,000	
Grants and contributions	152,000	247,000	
Interest income	6,000	5,000	
Other	-	78,000	
Total Revenues	17,714,000	16,336,000	+8%
Expenses:			
Administration	1,302,000	1,379,000	
Education and other services	15,189,000	13,948,000	
Intergovernmental expense	1,253,000	1,100,000	
Other postemployment benefits	453,000	1,036,000	
Interest expense*	132,000	136,000	
Depreciation and amortization*	182,000	193,000	
Total Expenses	18,511,000	17,792,000	+4%
Change in net position before member credits	(797,000)	(1,456,000)	
Member credits	-	-	
Net position - beginning of year (as restated)*	(6,612,000)	(5,156,000)	
Net position - end of year	$ (7,409,000)	$ (6,612,000)	

*During 2022, the Collaborative implemented GASB Statement No. 87 and as a result, made adjustments effective July 1, 2021 for right-of-use leased assets and related liabilities. The information above includes information reported under GASB Statement No. 87.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

During 2023, the Collaborative incurred approximately $213,000 of capital asset expenditures. The Collaborative's debt consists of two mortgages to finance the purchase of real estate. As of June 30, 2023, and 2022, the remaining principal balance of the loans was $704,900 and $760,973, respectively. During fiscal 2023 and 2022, the principal of the loans was paid down by $56,073 and $53,510, respectively.

Additional information on the Collaborative's capital assets and loans can be found in Note D in the notes to the financial statements.

LEASED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

During 2022, the Collaborative implemented GASB Statement No. 87 which requires recording right-of-use leased assets and related liabilities for all long-term leases. The Collaborative recorded the lease assets and liabilities effective July 1, 2021 with a cumulative effect for a change in accounting principal to the prior year ending net position of $496,537. As of June 30, 2023, the Collaborative recognized total right-of-use assets of $2,626,660, net of accumulated amortization of $1,031,431 and lease liabilities of $2,162,543 for a facility lease and copier leases. The copier leases were entered into during fiscal year 2023 and a related asset and liability in the amount of $57,700 was recorded as a result. See Note G in the notes to the financial statements for additional information on the Collaborative's leases.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The final budget for fiscal year 2023 provided for a deficit of approximately $430,000, to be covered by the Collaborative's Capital Reserve Funds and prior year cumulative general fund surplus. In fiscal year 2023, actual revenues, excluding intergovernmental revenue, were lower than budgeted amounts by approximately $776,000, primarily due to lower than expected services revenues from decreased enrollment. Total expenditures, excluding intergovernmental expense, were lower than budgeted amounts by approximately $701,000, primarily due to lower than expected services costs, to offset the decreased revenues in program services.

KNOWN FACTS, DECISIONS, OR CONDITIONS

The Collaborative implemented a new standard from the GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Agreements ("SBITAs"), in fiscal year 2023. The standard changes the recognition of SBITAs in the Collaborative's financial statements. Long-term SBITAs are required to be recorded as assets with related liabilities for future lease payments. The change could significantly impact the Collaborative's total assets and liabilities in its government-wide financial statements. However, the Collaborative evaluated its agreements and determined it has no agreements required to be recorded in accordance with GASB Statement No. 96.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Collaborative's finances for all those with an interest in the Collaborative's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Business Office of the Collaborative.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2023

		Governmental Activities
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$	1,510,958
Accounts receivable, net		1,823,700
Prepaid expenses		200
Total Current Assets		3,334,858
Non-current Assets		
Capital assets		2,719,479
Accumulated depreciation		(940,391)
Right-of-use lease assets		2,626,660
Accumulated amortization		(1,031,431)
Total Non-current Assets		3,374,317
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to OPEB		2,023,214
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources		2,023,214
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	$	8,732,389
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION		
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt	$	58,674
Current portion of lease liability		87,691
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		1,314,426
Total Current Liabilities		1,460,791
Non-current Liabilities:		
Long-term debt		646,226
Long-term lease liability		2,074,852
Other postemployment benefits		6,456,976
Total Long Term Liabilities		9,178,054
Total Liabilities		10,638,845
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB		5,502,385
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources		5,502,385
Net Position		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt		1,074,188
Invested in right-of-use leased assets, net of related liabilities		(567,314)
Restricted - capital reserve fund		-
Unrestricted		(7,915,715)
Total Net Position		(7,408,841)
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position	$	8,732,389

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Functions/ Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
Governmental Activities:				
Administration	$ 1,302,396	$ 238,668	$ -	$ (1,063,728)
Education and related	7,689,889	7,769,151	152,361	231,623
Transportation	7,498,334	8,114,986	-	616,652
Intergovernmental revenue and expense	1,252,846	-	1,252,846	-
Other postemployment benefits	453,343	-	-	(453,343)
Interest expense	132,038	-	-	(132,038)
Depreciation and amortization	182,057	-	-	(182,057)
Total Governmental Activities	$ 18,510,903	$ 16,122,805	$ 1,405,207	(982,891)
General Revenues and Credits:				
Assessments to member districts				180,000
Interest				5,961
Total General Revenues and Credits				185,961
Change in Net Position				(796,930)
Net Position, Beginning of Year				(6,611,911)
Net Position, End of Year				$ (7,408,841)

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,510,958	$ -	$ 1,510,958
Accounts receivable, net	1,823,700	-	1,823,700
Prepaid expenses	200	-	200
Total Assets	$ 3,334,858	$ -	$ 3,334,858
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 1,314,426	$ -	$ 1,314,426
Total Liabilities	1,314,426	-	1,314,426
Fund Balances:			
Nonspendable	200	-	200
Restricted	-	-	-
Committed	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-
Unassigned	2,020,232	-	2,020,232
Total Fund Balances	2,020,432	-	2,020,432
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$ 3,334,858	$ -	$ 3,334,858

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2023

Total fund balances, governmental funds	$	2,020,432
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:		
Capital assets, net of related debt, used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and therefore are not reported in this fund financial statement, but are reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position		1,074,188
Right-of-use leased assets, net of accumulated amortization and related liabilities, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		(567,314)
Deferred outflows relating to the other postemployment benefit obligations are not a current financial resource and therefore are not reported in this fund financial statement, but are reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position.		2,023,214
The Other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liability is not a current obligation and therefore is not reported in this fund financial statement, but is reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position.		(6,456,976)
Deferred inflows relating to the other postemployment benefit obligations are not a current obligation and therefore are not reported in this fund financial statement, but are reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position		(5,502,385)
Net Position of Governmental Activities	$	(7,408,841)

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Capital Project Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues and Credits:				
Member assessments	$ 180,000	$ -	$ -	$ 180,000
Program revenues	15,884,137	-	-	15,884,137
Federal and state grants	152,361	-	-	152,361
Intergovernmental revenue	1,252,846	-	-	1,252,846
Interest	5,956	5	-	5,961
Other	238,668	-	-	238,668
Credits to member districts	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues and Credits	17,713,968	5	-	17,713,973
Expenditures:				
Administration	1,302,396	-	-	1,302,396
REACH/Crossroads	1,983,476	-	-	1,983,476
Transportation	7,498,334	-	-	7,498,334
Alternative programs (OSA/SOAR)	3,688,053	-	-	3,688,053
Vocational program (Evolution)	1,354,553	-	-	1,354,553
Family success partnership (FSP)	633,807	-	-	633,807
Other	30,000	-	-	30,000
Intergovernmental expense	1,252,846	-	-	1,252,846
Capital outlay	-	-	213,409	213,409
Lease right-of-use asset	57,700	-	-	57,700
Debt Service:				
Debt principal	56,073	-	-	56,073
Debt interest	34,213	-	-	34,213
Lease Service:				
Lease financing principal	74,183	-	-	74,183
Lease interest	97,825	-	-	97,825
Total Expenditures	18,063,459	-	213,409	18,276,868
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues	(349,491)	5	(213,409)	(562,895)
Other Financing Sources:				
Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	-	(50,013)	50,013	-
Transfer to Capital Project Fund	(163,396)	-	163,396	-
Lease financing	57,700	-	-	57,700
Net Other Financing Sources	(105,696)	(50,013)	213,409	57,700
Net Change in Fund Balances	(455,187)	(50,008)	-	(505,195)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	2,475,619	50,008	-	2,525,627
Fund Balances, End of Year	$ 2,020,432	$ -	$ -	$ 2,020,432

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	$ (505,195)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report outlays and related financing inflows for capital assets as expenditures because such outlays use current financial resources. In contrast, the Statement of Activities reports only a portion of the outlay as expense. The outlay is allocated over the assets' estimated useful lives as depreciation expense for the period.

Capital outlay purchases	213,409
Depreciation	(75,452)
	137,957

Governmental funds report debt service and lease financing payments as expenditures because such outlays use current financial resources. In contrast, the Statement of Activities reports only the current year interest accrued on the liability as expense.

Debt principal payments	56,073
Lease financing principal	74,183
Lease amortization	(106,605)
Lease right-of-use asset	57,700
Lease financing	(57,700)
	23,651

Other postemployment benefits reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Net change in other postemployment benefits (OPEB) accrual	(453,343)
Change in net position of governmental activities	$ (796,930)

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Other Postemployment Benefits Trust
June 30, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	$ 203,412
Total Assets	$ 203,412

NET POSITION

Net position held in trust for other postemployment benefits	$ 203,412
Total Net Position	$ 203,412

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

Other Postemployment Benefits Trust

For the year ended June 30, 2023

Additions:	
Contributions	$ -
Interest and dividend income	899
Total Additions	899
Deductions:	
Retiree health insurance expense	-
Total Deductions	-
Change in Net Position	899
Net Position - Beginning of Year	202,513
Net Position - End of Year	$ 203,412

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

NOTE A - NATURE OF ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING ENTITY

Organization

The Assabet Valley Collaborative (the Collaborative) was established and operates under provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012. The Collaborative includes the school districts of the City of Marlborough and towns of Auburn, Berlin, Bolton, Boylston, Hudson, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, Westborough, Stow and Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and Algonquin Regional High School, Nashoba Regional High School, Tahanto Regional High School and Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School, which are separate legal entities with their own governing bodies. Their operations are not part of the Collaborative's financial statements.

Assessments: According to the Collaborative Agreement, each member of the community is annually assessed a membership fee which is determined annually by the Board of Directors. The fiscal year 2023 membership fee was $15,000 per district. Revenue for assessments was $180,000 for fiscal year 2023 as approved by the Board of Directors.

The Collaborative provides services to special education students in grades 6 through 12 whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) Teams have identified a need for separate therapeutic settings. The Collaborative also provides vocational transition support into the community for post high school up to age 22. These services are provided to member communities on a tuition basis to cover direct operation expenditures. Non-member districts may access programs and services as capacity allows at the non-member rate.

Reporting Entity

As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the accompanying financial statements present the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative and its component units. Component units are included in the reporting entity if their operational and financial relationships with the Collaborative are significant. Pursuant to these criteria, the Collaborative did not identify any component units requiring inclusion in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The Collaborative's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the Collaborative as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Collaborative's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. Governmental activities are generally financed through intergovernmental assessments or other non-exchange transactions. The Collaborative does not have any activities classified as business type activities.

Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle
The Collaborative has fully analyzed GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements ("SBITAs"). Statement No. 96 requires the present value of long-term SBITAs to be recorded as an asset of the Collaborative and future payments to be recorded as a liability. The asset is required to be amortized ratably over the lease term and lease payments are allocated between interest expense and liability payments. Previously, SBITAs were expensed as incurred with no corresponding asset or liability recorded. The significant impact to the Collaborative's financial statements is to the government-wide financials statements. There were no contracts identified to be recorded as an asset or liability under GASB Statement No. 96 during fiscal 2023.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Government-wide Financial Statements
In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, governmental columns are presented on a consolidated basis and are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long- term assets, receivables and deferred outflows of resources, as well as long-term liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and other liabilities reported on a full accrual basis. The Collaborative's net position is reported in three parts—net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted. The Collaborative first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. The Collaborative does not allocate indirect expenses to functions in the statement of Activities.

Program revenues included charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Assessments and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Collaborative as an entity and the change in the Collaborative's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

Fund Financial Statements
Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds each of which are considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts, which constitute its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenditures.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in the governmental activities categories. GASB pronouncements set forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The Collaborative may electively add funds, as major funds, which have specific community focus. The nonmajor funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements.

The Collaborative's fiduciary funds are presented in the fiduciary fund financial statements by type. Since by definition these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (retirees) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the government, these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

The following governmental fund types are used by the Collaborative - the Collaborative does not use proprietary funds:

Governmental Funds:
The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the Collaborative:

General fund - is the general operating fund of the Collaborative. It is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Capital reserve fund – used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to be used for the acquisition, construction, or renovation of major capital facilities or equipment.

Capital project fund – used to account for the capital outlay and related financing related to the build-out of facility space in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Non-major governmental funds - consist of other special revenue and permanent funds that are aggregated and presented in the non-major governmental funds column on the government funds financial statements.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fiduciary Funds:
Fiduciary Funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and therefore are not available to support Collaborative programs. The reporting focus is on net position and changes in net position presented in fiduciary fund financial statements.

Since by definition these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (retiree health insurance participants) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the Collaborative, these funds are reported separately from that of the Collaborative's government-wide activities.

Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

The Collaborative's government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gain, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

The Collaborative's governmental funds financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual, i.e., both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on long-term debt, judgments, compensated absences and pension expenditures, which are recorded as a fund liability when expected to be paid with expendable available financial resources.

Revenues

Expenditure-driven programs currently reimbursable are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and the amounts are available. Charges for services provided to other education agencies and private parties are recognized as revenue when services are provided. Amounts owed to the Collaborative for services already performed, which are not available are recorded as receivables. Amounts received prior to the entitlement period are recorded as unearned revenue. Revenues susceptible to accrual include expenditure-driven programs and interest income.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable represent amounts due from Collaborative members and communities participating in the various programs offered by the Collaborative. There is no allowance for doubtful accounts as all receivables were considered collectible at June 30, 2023.

Capital Assets

Government-wide Statements
In the Collaborative's financial statements, capital assets (with an asset cost greater than $5,000) are accounted for as capital assets. All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual is unavailable, except for donated capital assets, which are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation.

Depreciation of all exhaustible assets is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type is as follows:

Building and improvements	40 years
Leasehold improvements	10 years
Furniture and equipment	5 – 15 years

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund Financial Statements
In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition. Capital assets are not capitalized and related depreciation is not reported in the governmental fund financial statements.

Budgets

Budgetary information is derived from the annual operating budget and is presented using the same basis of accounting as the General Fund.

Compensated Absences and Other Employee Benefits amounts

The Collaborative no longer allows carry over of compensated absence days from the preceding fiscal year.

Claims and Judgments

Claims and judgments are recorded as liabilities if all the conditions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board pronouncements are met. Claims and judgments that would normally be liquidated with expendable available financial resources are recorded during the year as expenditures in the governmental funds. If they are not to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources, no liability is recognized in the governmental fund statements. The related expenditure is recognized when the liability is liquidated. Claims and judgments are recorded in the Collaborative's financial statements as expense when the liabilities are incurred. There were no claims or judgments at the year-end that require reporting in the financial statements.

Equity Classifications

Government-wide Statements
Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt – Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributed to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. If there are significant unspent related debt proceeds at year-end the portion of the debt attributable to the unspent proceeds are not included in the calculation or invested in capital assets. The Collaborative has no bonded debt on Capital assets at June 30, 2023.

Invested in right-of-use assets, net of liabilities – this component of net position consists of right-of-use assets, net of accumulated amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of liabilities that are attributable to the leased assets.

Restricted net position – Consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other government or, (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position – All other net position that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested in capital assets, net of related debt."

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund Financial Statements
Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance in the fund financial statements is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned as described below:

Nonspendable: consists of amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted: Amounts that can be used only for specific purposes because of (a) constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or (b) externally imposed constraints. (External constraints might be imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or even the laws or regulations of other governments.)

Committed: Amounts that can be used only for specific purposes because of a formal action by the government's highest level of decision-making authority (Board of Directors). This classification might also include contractual obligations if existing resources have been committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned: Amounts intended to be used for specific purposes but that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. Intent can be stipulated by the governing body, another body (such as a finance committee), or by an official to whom authority has been given.

Unassigned: This is residual classification for the General Fund – that is, everything that is not in another classification or in another fund. The General Fund is the only governmental fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance. Other governmental funds might have a negative unassigned fund balance as a result of overspending for specific purposes for which amounts have been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Collaborative's spending policy is to spend restricted fund balance first, followed by committed, assigned and unassigned fund balance.

Allocation of Costs

Directly identifiable costs are charged to student services or general and administrative functions as applicable. Costs related to more than one function are allocated based on criteria intended to associate the cost with whichever function benefits.

Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing the financial statements. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

NOTE C – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and investments of Collaborative funds is restricted by state statues. Massachusetts General Law authorizes the Collaborative to invest in term deposits, Certificates of Deposit, in trust companies, national banks, savings banks or in obligations issued by the U.S. Government or one of its agencies.

The carrying amount of the Collaborative's deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as cash.

	June 30, 2023	
	Carrying Amount	Bank Balance
Insured (FDIC) and (DIF)	$1,510,958	$2,691,772
Total Cash	$1,510,958	$2,691,772

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to $250,000 and deposits, including Certificates of Deposits in Massachusetts-chartered savings banks are insured in full above the FDIC limit from Depositors Insurance Fund (DIF) of Massachusetts

NOTE C – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (continued)

Cash is reported in financial statements as follows:

Governmental Activities	$1,510,958
Fiduciary Funds	203,412
Total	$1,714,370

NOTE D - CAPITAL ASSETS AND LOANS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance 6/30/22	Additions	Balance 6/30/23
Capital assets being depreciated:			
Leasehold improvements	$ 448,247	$ -	$ 448,247
Building and improvements	1,744,764	213,409	1,958,173
Furniture and equipment	180,974	-	180,974
Vehicles	132,085	-	132,085
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	2,506,070	213,409	2,719,479
Less: Accumulated depreciation for:			
Leasehold improvements	448,247	-	448,247
Building and improvements	177,498	49,356	226,854
Furniture and equipment	107,109	26,096	133,205
Vehicle	132,085	-	132,085
Total Accumulated Depreciation	864,939	75,452	940,391
Net Capital Assets	$1,641,131	$137,957	$1,779,088

Depreciation expense was not charged to various functions but was shown as a separate line item in the statement of activities.

The Collaborative has financed the purchase of property at 28 Lord Road in Marlborough, Massachusetts using a local bank over the years with interest payable at 4.25% to 4.75%. As of June 30, 2023, the remaining balance on the loans were $704,900. The mortgages mature in fiscal 2032 and 2036 and are payable monthly including principal and interest at $5,496 and $2,028.

The following summarizes long-term debt activity of the Collaborative for the year ended June 30, 2023:

	Balance 6/30/2022	New Borrowing	Repayments	Balance 6/30/2023
Mortgages- Lord Road	$ 760,973	$ -	$ (56,073)	$ 704,900
Current Portion	(56,073)			(58,674)
Long-Term Portion	$ 704,900			$ 646,226

Interest paid during the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled $34,213 on all debt.

Included in Buildings and improvements above are build out costs of the Collaborative's Lord Road, Marlborough location. The expenditures were partially covered by the release of capital reserve funds and the remainder funded by use of prior year cumulative general fund surplus. Future costs of the project may be financed with a loan or additional cumulative surplus. This activity is recorded in the fund financial statements in a capital project fund, which had no remaining fund balance at June 30, 2023.

NOTE D - CAPITAL ASSETS AND LOANS (continued)

Future maturities of debt payable as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Fiscal Year End June 30:	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	$ 58,674	$ 31,613	$ 90,287
2025	61,572	28,715	90,287
2026	64,523	25,764	90,287
2027	67,615	22,672	90,287
2028	70,804	19,483	90,287
2029-2033	329,610	44,881	374,491
2034-2038	52,102	2,662	54,764
Thereafter	-	-	-
	$704,900	$175,790	$880,690

NOTE E - CUMULATIVE SURPLUS

In accordance with Massachusetts regulation 603 C.M.R. 50.07, the Collaborative has determined that its Cumulative Surplus as of June 30, 2023 is equal to the cumulative General Fund Balance of $2,020,432. The Collaborative Agreement stipulates that the Board will retain no more than 25 percent of the previous year's (i.e. audited year's) general fund expenditures, which is equal to $4,229,077, in cumulative surplus. The cumulative General Fund Balance did not exceed the allowable surplus as of June 30, 2023.

NOTE F - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREE SYSTEMS

Plan Descriptions

The Collaborative's employees participate in the Massachusetts Teachers' (MTRS) or State Employee' Retirement System (MSERS), statewide cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plans public employee retirement systems (PERS) covering all employees of local school districts within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The retirement systems issue publicly available annual reports that includes financial statements and required supplementary information, which may be obtained by writing to Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), 5 Middlesex Avenue, Suite 304, Somerville, Massachusetts, 02145.

Benefits Provided

MSERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last five years or any five consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of twenty years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with ten years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65; for certain hazardous duty and public safety positions, normal retirement is at age 55. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MSERS' funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MSERS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

NOTE F - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREE SYSTEMS (continued)

MTRS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last five years or any five consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of twenty years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with ten years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MTRS' funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MTRS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

Contributions

Member contributions for MSERS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

Hire Date % of Compensation
Prior to 1975…………...5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983……………7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996……...8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present……9% of regular compensation
1979 to present…………An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of $30,000

Educational Collaboratives contribute amounts equal to the normal cost of employees' benefits participating in MSERS at a rate established by the Public Employees' Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), currently 6.1% of covered payroll. Legally, the Collaboratives are only responsible for contributing the annual normal cost of their employees' benefits (i.e., the present value of the benefits earned by those employees in any given year) and are not legally responsible for the past service cost attributable to those employees or previously retired employees of the Collaboratives. During fiscal year 2023, the Collaborative's contributions on behalf of employees totaled $158,917.

Member contributions for MTRS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

Hire Date % of Compensation
Prior to 1975…………...5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983……………7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996……...8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present……9% of regular compensation
7/1/2001 to present……11% of regular compensation (for teachers hired after 7/1/01 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present…………An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of $30,000

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers participating in MTRS.

NOTE F - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREE SYSTEMS (continued)

The Collaborative is considered to be in a 100% special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributing entity under both MSERS and MTRS. Since the employers do not contribute directly to each system beyond the MSERS annual normal cost, there is no net pension liability to recognize. However, the notes to the financial statements must disclose the portion of the nonemployer contributing entities' share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the employer. In addition, the Collaborative must recognize its portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense.

The nonemployer contributing entities' share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the Collaborative was measured as of June 30, 2022 and was $5,072,164 and $10,383,697 under MSERS and MTRS, respectively. In fiscal year 2023, the Collaborative recognized revenue and related expense of $398,686 (under GASB Statement No. 68) for its portion of the collective pension expense under MSERS. In fiscal year 2023, the Collaborative recognized revenue and related expense of $854,160, (under GASB Statement No. 68) for its portion of the collective pension expense under MTRS. These amounts are recorded as Intergovernmental revenue and expense in the financial statements.

NOTE G - LEASE DISCLOSURES

The Collaborative rents classrooms and office space from several of its member communities. The following summarizes rent by these locations:

Location	Rental Space	Annual Rent
Marlborough – Bigelow School	AVCAS School Building	$167,313
Algonquin Regional High School	REACH Classroom	$ 18,000
Woodward Elementary School	REACH Classroom	$ 10,500
Southborough – Trottier Middle School	REACH Classroom	$ 21,840

Rent expense for real property leases totaled $217,652 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The lease of the school location in Marlborough listed above qualifies as a long-term lease and is recorded in accordance with GASB Statement No. 87. The Marlborough lease was valued using the 4.50% incremental borrowing rate of the Collaborative at the time the lease was entered into.

In addition, the Collaborative entered into copier leases during fiscal year 2023 that are considered long-term leases under GASB Statement No. 87. The copier lease was valued using the 6.50% incremental borrowing rate of the Collaborative at the time the lease was entered into.

Lease agreements under GASB Statement No. 87 are summarized as follows:

Description	Date	Payment Terms	Payment Amount	Interest Rate	Total Lease Asset/Liability	Accum. Amort. 6/30/2023	Net Asset 6/30/2023	Liability Balance 6/30/2023
Copiers	3/1/2023	5 Years	$1129/month	6.50%	$57,700	$3,847	$53,853	$54,408
City of Marlborough	7/1/2013	25 Years	$167,313 (FY23)	4.50%	2,568,960	1,027,584	1,541,376	2,108,135
Total Lease Agreements					$2,626,660	$1,031,431	$1,595,230	$2,162,543

NOTE G - LEASE DISCLOSURES (continued)

For the years ended June 30, 2023, total amortization expense of leased assets was $106,605 and total interest expense on lease liability was $97,825.

Annual requirements to repay long-term obligations and related interest are as follows:

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	$87,691	$96,516	$ 184,207
2025	95,421	92,199	187,620
2026	103,590	87,511	191,102
2027	112,221	82,431	194,653
2028	116,783	76,976	193,759
Thereafter	1,646,837	416,323	2,063,160
	$2,162,543	$851,957	$3,014,499

Future minimum payments, by year, for the next five years and in the aggregate, under non-cancellable equipment leases not required to be recorded as a right-of-use asset or liability in accordance with GASB 87, consisted of the following at June 30, 2023:

Fiscal year-end	Amount
2024	$ 720
2025	720
2026	-
2027	-
2025 and thereafter	-
Total	$ 1,440

NOTE H – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN

Description

The Collaborative, per its contracts with employees, generally will pay 50 percent of health care benefits for retirees and their spouses. This agreement can be amended by action of the Collaborative subject to applicable policy changes and employment agreements. The Plan does not issue a stand-alone financial report since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purposes of paying benefits under the plan. Employees of the Collaborative and dependents are eligible for postemployment medical insurance based on eligibility requirements under the Massachusetts State Employees and Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Systems. Any member who is unable to perform his or her duties due to a non-occupational disability and has ten or more years of creditable service or who is unable to perform his or her duties due to a job-related disability are eligible.

An employee hired before April 2, 2012 shall become eligible to retire under these programs upon meeting the following conditions:

i. Completion of 10 years of creditable service at the Collaborative
ii. And attainment of age 55 as an active member
iii. Or completion of 20 years of service at the Collaborative, regardless of age

An employee hired after April 2, 2012 shall become eligible to retire under these programs upon meeting the following conditions:

i. Completion of 10 years of creditable service at the Collaborative
ii. And attainment of age 60 as an active member

Funding Policy

The Collaborative has not established a formal funding policy.

NOTE H – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN (continued)

Investment Policy

The long-term rate of return on assets developed based on the Collaborative Investment Policy is 2.5% and a municipal bond rate of 3.65%. Long-term investment return rate is based on expected long-term investment return rates provided by the Collaborative.

Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC)

The Collaborative's Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) is an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement No. 74/75 which is composed of the service cost and an amortization of the unfunded liability. We have used a 30-year flat dollar amortization of the Collaborative's unfunded liability for the purpose of calculating ADC. The following table shows the components of the Collaborative's annual ADC for the fiscal year and the amount actually contributed to the plan:

Actuarially Determined Contribution - Deficiency / (Excess)

		June 30, 2023
I.	Service Cost	$645,374
II.	30-year level dollar amortization of NOL and interest	225,207
III.	Actuarially Determined Contribution [I. + II.]	870,581
IV.	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	(63,795)
V.	Contribution deficiency / (excess) [III. + IV.]	$ 806,786
Covered employee payroll		$5,924,251
Contribution as a % of covered employee payroll		1.08%
Discount Rate		3.54%
Money Weighted Rate of Return		0.44%

OPEB Liability and OPEB Expense

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023	
	Collaborative Employees and Retirees	Total
I. Total OPEB Liability	$ 6,660,388	$ 6,660,388
II. Fiduciary Net Position as of June 30, 2023	203,413	203,413
III. Net OPEB Liability (Asset) [I.-II.]	6,456,976	6,456,976
IV. Service cost	645,374	645,374
V. Interest	235,269	235,269
VI. Changes of benefit terms	-	-
VII. Differences between expected and actual	(80,628)	(80,628)
VIII. Changes of assumptions	(281,715)	(281,715)
IX. Benefit payments/interest earnings	(64,957)	(64,957)
X. Net OPEB Expense	$ 453,343	$ 453,343

Effect of 1% Change in Discount Rates

As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date, if the discount rate were 1% higher than what was used in this valuation, the Total OPEB Liability would decrease to $5,421,700 and the Net OPEB Liability would decrease to $5,218,288. If the discount rate were 1% lower than was used in this valuation, the Total OPEB Liability would increase to $8,283,916 and the Net OPEB Liability would increase to $8,080,504.

Effect of 1% Change in Healthcare Trend

In the event that healthcare trend rates were 1% higher than forecast and employee contributions were to increase at the forecast rates, the Total OPEB Liability as of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date would increase to $8,768,170 and Net OPEB Liability would increase to $8,564,758. If such healthcare trend rates were 1% less than forecast and employee contributions were to increase at the forecast rate, the Total OPEB Liability would decrease to $5,142,758 and the Net OPEB Liability would decrease to $4,939,346.

NOTE H – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN (continued)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefits costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal
Discount Rate:	3.65% per annum (previously 3.54%)
General Inflation Assumption:	2.50% per annum
Annual Compensation Increases:	3.50% per annum
Actuarial Value of Assets:	Market Value

Recognition of OPEB Trust Assets

The state of Massachusetts has passed legislation allowing municipal entities to establish a Trust for Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) under M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20 for purposes of accumulating assets to pre-fund the liabilities under GASB 75. This legislation was amended effective November 9, 2016 to clarify who may adopt such a Trust and provide guidance on the ongoing operation of such a Trust. To the best of our knowledge, the Collaborative has established an irrevocable trust for the purposes of prefunding liabilities under GASB 74/75.

Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of differences between expected & actual experience

Fiscal	Differences between actual & expected experience	Recognition Period (years)	2023 Amortization	6/30/2023 Remaining Balance	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 and Thereafter
2018	-	11.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	11.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	(1,445,326)	10.92	(132,356)	(915,902)	(132,356)	(132,356)	(132,356)	(132,356)	(132,356)	(254,122)
2021	-	10.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	(1,639,967)	10.98	(149,359)	(1,341,249)	(149,359)	(149,359)	(149,359)	(149,359)	(149,359)	(594,454)
2023	-	10.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Remaining Balance				(2,257,151)						
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense			(281,715)		(281,715)	(281,715)	(281,715)	(281,715)	(281,715)	(848,576)

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of the effects of changes in assumption

Fiscal	Differences between actual & expected experience	Recognition Period (years)	2023 Amortization	6/30/2023 Remaining Balance	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 and Thereafter
2018	(363,836)	11.43	(31,832)	(172,844)	(31,832)	(31,832)	(31,832)	(31,832)	(31,832)	(13,684)
2019	539,758	11.43	47,223	303,643	47,223	47,223	47,223	47,223	47,223	67,528
2020	2,433,289	10.92	222,829	1,541,973	222,829	222,829	222,829	222,829	222,829	427,828
2021	233,379	10.92	21,372	169,263	21,372	21,372	21,372	21,372	21,372	62,403
2022	(3,546,608)	10.98	(323,006)	(2,900,596)	(323,006)	(323,006)	(323,006)	(323,006)	(323,006)	(1,285,566)
2023	(189,008)	10.98	(17,214)	(171,794)	(17,214)	(17,214)	(17,214)	(17,214)	(17,214)	(85,724)
Total Remaining Balance				(1,230,355)						
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense			(80,628)		(80,628)	(80,628)	(80,628)	(80,628)	(80,628)	(827,215)

NOTE H – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN (continued)

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of differences between projected & actual earnings on OPEB plan investments

Fiscal	Differences between projected & actual earnings	Recognition Period (years)	2023 Amortization	6/30/2023 Remaining Balance	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
2018	1,518	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	1,795	5.00	359	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	3,908	5.00	782	780	780	-	-	-	-
2021	4,555	5.00	911	1,821	911	912	-	-	-
2022	4,273	5.00	855	2,565	855	855	854	-	-
2023	3,961	5.00	792	3,169	792	792	792	793	-
Total Remaining Balance				8,335					
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense			3,698		3,338	2,558	1,646	793	-

NOTE I - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Collaborative is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; workers' compensation and health care of its employees. All of these risks are covered through the purchase of commercial insurance, with minimal deductibles. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage. There were no significant changes in coverage compared to the prior year.

NOTE J - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

From time to time, the Collaborative may be party to various pending claims and legal proceedings. Although the outcomes of such matters cannot be forecast with certainty, it is the opinion of management and the Collaborative's legal counsel that the likelihood is remote that any such claims or proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the Collaborative's financial position or results of operations.

The Collaborative has received federal and state grants for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies. Such audits could lead to requests for reimbursements to the grantor agency for expenditures disallowed under terms of the grants. Management believes such disallowances, if any, would be immaterial.

The Collaborative has employment contracts with members of management. The contracts expire on June 30, 2024 and 2025 with the possibility of renewal of each for one year.

NOTE K –RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

The Collaborative's Board of Directors has approved a capital budget plan in accordance with state regulations not to exceed $722,500. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative transferred the full balance in the capital reserve of $50,013 to the capital project fund. The remaining balance in the capital reserve fund at June 30, 2023 was $0.

NOTE L - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Collaborative evaluated subsequent events through December 1, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Subsequent to June 30, 2023, the Collaborative entered into a bond settlement agreement with a former contractor related to costs incurred on the buildout of property in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The amount of the settlement was $95,000 and will be utilized to cover future costs of the project.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Required Supplementary Information

June 30, 2023

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
of the General Fund - Budget to Actual - Budgetary Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Member assessments	$ 180,000	$ 180,000	$ 180,000	$ -
Multiple handicapped (REACH/Crossroads)	1,909,820	1,909,820	1,672,360	(237,460)
Transportation	7,992,656	7,992,656	8,114,986	122,330
Alternative programs (OSA/SOAR)	4,097,969	4,097,969	3,739,348	(358,621)
Vocational program (Evolution)	2,123,479	2,123,479	1,694,983	(428,496)
Family success partnership (FSP)	663,408	663,408	662,460	(948)
Grants	3,000	3,000	152,361	149,361
Intergovernmental revenue*	-	-	1,252,846	1,252,846
Interest	-	-	5,956	5,956
Other	267,062	267,062	238,668	(28,394)
Total Revenues	17,237,394	17,237,394	17,713,968	476,574
Expenditures:				
Administration	1,442,510	1,442,510	1,302,396	140,114
REACH/Crossroads	2,080,188	2,080,188	1,983,476	96,712
Transportation	7,382,021	7,382,021	7,498,334	(116,313)
Alternative programs (OSA/SOAR)	3,924,621	4,096,629	3,688,053	236,568
Vocational program (Evolution)	1,449,034	1,449,034	1,354,553	94,481
Family success partnership (FSP)	683,672	683,672	633,807	49,865
Grant related expenses	-	-	30,000	(30,000)
Intergovernmental expense*	-	-	1,252,846	(1,252,846)
Debt Service:				
Debt principal	56,073	-	56,073	-
Debt interest	34,213	-	34,213	-
Lease Service:				
Lease financing principal	74,183	-	74,183	-
Lease interest	97,825	-	97,825	-
Total Expenditures	17,224,340	17,134,054	18,005,759	(781,419)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	13,054	103,340	(291,791)	(304,845)
Other Financing Sources				
Transfer to capital project fund	(392,992)	(479,506)	(163,396)	316,110
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures**	$ (379,938)	$ (376,166)	$ (455,187)	$ 11,265

*Intergovernmental revenue and expense is not budgeted by the Collaborative because it is actuarially determined annually and does not require actual expenditure by the Collaborative.

** The Collaborative budgeted to utilize prior year cumulative surplus to offset the budgeted deficit.

Note: The schedule above is presented on the same basis used by the Collaborative to present its internal budget to actual comparison and account groupings are not necessarily consistent with the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances presented on page 12.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information
June 30, 2023

Year	Actuarial Determined Contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered employee payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll
June 30, 2018	$ 845,507	$ (93,455)	$ 752,052	$ 4,590,180	2.04%
June 30, 2019	$ 834,799	$ (17,544)	$ 817,255	$ 5,082,892	0.35%
June 30, 2020	$ 970,268	$ (96,497)	$ 873,771	$ 5,758,341	1.68%
June 30, 2021	$ 1,376,690	$ (34,086)	$ 1,342,604	$ 5,853,226	0.58%
June 30, 2022	$ 1,488,934	$ (48,848)	$ 1,440,086	$ 5,923,050	0.82%
June 30, 2023	$ 870,581	$ (63,795)	$ 806,786	$ 5,924,251	1.08%

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information

As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date

Schedule of Changes in the Collaborative's Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios

Valuation Date	**July 1, 2021**	**July 1, 2021**	**July 1, 2019**	**July 1, 2019**	**July 1, 2018**	**July 1, 2017**
For the Reporting Period & Fiscal Year ending on:	**June 30, 2023**	**June 30, 2022**	**June 30, 2021**	**June 30, 2020**	**June 30, 2019**	**June 30, 2018**
Total OPEB Liability						
I. Service Cost	645,374	1,193,273	1,123,040	724,580	627,760	660,550
II. Interest on Total OPEB Liability, Service Cost, and Benefit Payments	235,269	237,726	208,019	252,916	222,854	190,530
III. Changes in Benefit terms	-	-	-	(149,695)	-	-
IV. Difference between Expected & Actual Plan Experience	-	(1,639,967)	-	(1,445,326)	-	-
V. Changes of Assumption	(189,008)	(3,546,608)	233,379	2,433,289	539,758	(363,836)
VI. Benefit Payments Excluding Implicit Cost	(63,795)	(48,848)	(34,086)	(21,497)	(17,544)	(18,455)
VII. Implicit Cost Amount	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Total Benefit payments including Implicit Cost [VI.+VII.]	(63,795)	(48,848)	(34,086)	(21,497)	(17,544)	(18,455)
IX. Net Change in OPEB liability [I.+II.+III.+IV.+V.+VIII.]	627,840	(3,804,424)	1,530,352	1,794,267	1,372,828	468,789
X. Total OPEB liability - beginning of period	6,032,548	9,836,972	8,306,620	6,512,353	5,139,525	4,670,736
XI. Prior Period Adjustment for Retirees not Previously Reflected	-	-	-	-	-	-
XII. Total OPEB Liability - end of period [IX.+X.+XI.]	6,660,388	6,032,548	9,836,972	8,306,620	6,512,353	5,139,525
Plan Fiduciary Net Position						
XIII. Earning from Plan Investments	899	178	294	991	712	234
XIV. Employer Contribution to trust	63,795	48,848	34,086	96,497	17,544	93,455
XV. Benefit payments from trust, including refunds of member contributions	(63,795)	(48,848)	(34,086)	(21,497)	(17,544)	(18,455)
XVI. Administrative expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
XVII. Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
XVIII. Net change in plan fiduciary net position [XIII.+XIV.+XV.+XVI.+XVII.]	899	178	294	75,991	712	75,234
XIX. Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of period	202,513	202,335	202,041	126,050	125,338	50,104
XX. Plan fiduciary net position - end of period [XVIII.+XIX.]	203,412	202,513	202,335	202,041	126,050	125,338
XXI. Net OPEB Liability [XII.-XX.]	6,456,976	5,830,035	9,634,637	8,104,579	6,386,303	5,014,187
XXII. Plan fiduciary net position as a % of total OPEB liability [XX./XII.]	3.05%	3.36%	2.06%	2.43%	1.94%	2.44%
XXIII. Covered employee payroll	5,924,251	5,923,050	5,853,226	5,758,341	5,082,892	4,590,180
XXIV. Plan NOL as % of covered employee payroll [XXI./XXIII]	108.99%	98.43%	164.60%	140.75%	125.64%	109.24%
Single Discount Rate to calculate Plan Liabilities	3.65%	3.54%	2.16%	2.21%	3.50%	3.87%

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditor's report.

Notes to Required Supplementary Information:

Valuation Date:	Actuarially Determined Contribution was valued as of July 1, 2021.
Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal
Asset-Valuation Method:	Market Value

Actuarial Assumptions:

Investment Rate of Return:	2.5% compounded annually, net of fees
Municipal Bond Rate:	3.65%, based on the Bond Buyer 20-Bond GO Index published on June 30, 2022
Single Equivalent Discount Rate:	3.65%, compounded annually
Inflation:	2.5% per year, based on current economic data, analyses from economists and other experts, and professional judgement
Salary Increases:	3.5% per year
Cost of Living Adjustment:	Not Applicable
Pre-Retirement Mortality:	Pre-Retirement mortality rates for General employees are based on the RP-2020 Employees Blue Collar Mortality Table, base year 2014, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale MP-2016 and set forward one year for females Pre-Retirement mortality rates for Teachers are based on the RP-2014 White Collar Mortality Table, base year 2014, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale MP-2020

Notes to Required Supplementary Information (Continued):

Actuarial Assumptions:

Post-Retirement Mortality:	Pre-Retirement mortality rates for General employees are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Mortality Table, base year 2014, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale MP-2020 and set forward one year for females. Pre-Retirement mortality rates for Teachers are based on the RP-2014 White Collar Mortality Table, base year 2014, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale MP-2020.

Plan Membership

Plan Membership: At June 30, 2023, the OPEB plan membership consisted for the following

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits:	5
Active Employees:	86
Total:	91

Events Subsequent to the Measurement Date

To the best of our knowledge there were no material events subsequent to the Measurement Date that would impact the figures shown in this report.

Changes in Assumptions:	From June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2023: Discount rate is 3.65% previously 3.54%

Contributions:

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Collaborative are established and may be amended

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Schedule of the Collaborative's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

		MTRS	MSERS
Collaborative's proportion of net pension liability	FY2015	0.04561%	0.02466%
	FY2016	0.04893%	0.02650%
	FY2017	0.05218%	0.02512%
	FY2018	0.05300%	0.02333%
	FY2019	0.05160%	0.02279%
	FY2020	0.05363%	0.02713%
	FY2021	0.04928%	0.03038%
	FY2022	0.04011%	0.03646%
Collaborative's proportionate share of net pension liability	FY2015	$ 9,345,520	$ 2,806,546
	FY2016	$ 10,938,585	$ 3,653,558
	FY2017	$ 11,941,119	$ 3,222,152
	FY2018	$ 12,567,663	$ 3,086,439
	FY2019	$ 13,009,603	$ 3,335,691
	FY2020	$ 15,308,931	$ 4,655,414
	FY2021	$ 11,291,571	$ 3,170,601
	FY2022	$ 10,383,697	$ 5,072,164
Collaborative's covered-employee payroll	FY2015	$ 2,891,227	$ 1,349,422
	FY2016	$ 3,218,268	$ 1,475,832
	FY2017	$ 3,552,532	$ 1,434,591
	FY2018	$ 3,715,284	$ 1,341,094
	FY2019	$ 3,797,949	$ 1,371,234
	FY2020	$ 4,127,108	$ 1,678,535
	FY2021	$ 3,926,642	$ 1,848,959
	FY2022	$ 3,351,394	$ 2,292,426
Collaborative's proportionate share of net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	FY2015	323.24%	207.98%
	FY2016	339.89%	247.56%
	FY2017	336.13%	224.60%
	FY2018	338.27%	230.14%
	FY2019	342.54%	243.26%
	FY2021	287.56%	171.48%
	FY2022	309.83%	221.26%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	FY2015	55.38%	67.87%
	FY2016	52.73%	63.48%
	FY2017	54.25%	67.21%
	FY2018	54.84%	67.91%
	FY2019	53.95%	66.28%
	FY2020	50.67%	62.48%
	FY2021	62.03%	77.54%
	FY2022	57.75%	71.05%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

MTRS is the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

MSERS is the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System

Also, see Note F to financial statements

Measurement Date

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of June 30, 2022.

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Schedule of Pension Contributions
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
MTRS								
Contractually required contribution	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Collaborative's covered-employee payroll	$ 2,891,227	$ 3,218,268	$ 3,552,532	$ 3,715,284	$ 3,797,949	$ 4,127,108	$ 3,926,642	$ 3,351,394
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
MSERS								
Contractually required contribution	$ 75,568	$ 82,647	$ 75,101	$ 75,101	$ 76,789	$ 102,391	$ 112,786	$ 139,755
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	$ 75,568	$ 82,647	$ 75,101	$ 75,101	$ 76,789	$ 102,391	$ 112,786	$ 139,755
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Collaborative's covered-employee payroll	$ 1,349,429	$ 1,475,839	$ 1,341,089	$ 1,341,094	$ 1,371,234	$ 1,678,535	$ 1,848,959	$ 2,292,426
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	6.10%	6.10%	6.10%

Notes to Required Supplementary Info

MTRS is the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

MSERS is the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System

Also, see Note F to financial statements

Measurement Date

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of June 30, 2022.

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Contributions

The Collaborative is required to pay an annual appropriation as established by the Public Employees' Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) for MSERS. No contribution is required for MTRS. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a nonemployer is legally responsible for the entire past service cost related to the Collaborative and therefore has a 100% special funding situation.

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Other Supplementary Information

June 30, 2023

Assabet Valley Collaborative

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance by Program

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	REACH/ Crossroads	Transportation	Alternative HS	Vocational Evolution	Family Success Partnership	Program Grants	Total Programs
Revenues							
Programs	$ 1,672,360	$ 8,114,986	$ 3,739,348	$ 1,694,983	$ 662,460	$ -	$ 15,884,137
Federal and state grants	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Other revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	1,672,360	8,114,986	3,739,348	1,694,983	662,460	30,000	15,914,137
Expenditures							
Salaries	862,771	34,303	2,221,884	727,176	523,103	5,000	4,374,237
Therapy	412,156	-	403,074	174,640	-	-	989,870
Other contracted services	47,027	-	159,286	7,990	710	-	215,013
Transportation	-	7,451,624	5,582	31,519	-	-	7,488,725
Supplies	15,136	100	65,034	32,953	3,572	-	116,795
Retirement	36,622	2,092	-	-	-	-	38,714
Medicare	21,134	449	88,532	40,563	13,674	-	164,352
Travel	2,205	-	497	727	7,766	-	11,195
Medical insurance	187,581	9,241	400,470	155,914	69,905	-	823,111
Medical services	322,811	-	185,442	134,364	-	25,000	667,617
Rent	50,340	-	172,746	11,617	-	-	234,703
Maintenance	706	-	45,233	727	200	-	46,866
Membership & subscriptions	-	275	-	-	-	-	275
Telephone & utilities	15,846	250	111,409	30,457	10,947	-	168,909
Equipment	9,141	-	872	5,907	3,929	-	19,849
Debt principal & interest	-	-	-	50,717	13,190	-	63,907
Professional development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	1,983,476	7,498,334	3,860,061	1,405,271	646,996	30,000	15,424,138
Revenues over (under) expenditures before transfers	(311,116)	616,652	(120,713)	289,712	15,464	-	489,999
Other financing sources (uses):							
Operating transfers out	(100,731)	(380,801)	(196,033)	(71,367)	(32,858)	-	(781,790)
Transfer to Capital Project Fund	-	-	-	(163,396)	-	-	(163,396)
Net change in fund balances	$ (411,847)	$ 235,851	$ (316,746)	$ 54,949	$ (17,394)	$ -	$ (455,187)

See independent auditor's report.

Assabet Valley Collaborative
Schedule of Treasurer's Cash
June 30, 2023

COMPOSITION OF CASH AT YEAR END:

Governmental fund cash is comprised of:

Avidia Bank (3 accounts)	Interest Bearing	$ 1,454,173
Avidia Bank (1 account)	Non-Interest Bearing	1,973
Main Street Bank (1 account)	Interest Bearing	10,384
Main Street Bank (1 account)	Non-Interest Bearing	44,428
Total governmental fund cash		$ 1,510,958

Fiduciary fund cash is comprised of:

Avidia Bank (1 account)	Interest Bearing	$ 203,412
Total fiduciary fund cash		$ 203,412

See independent auditor's report.

Transactions between the Collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization:

None

Transaction or contracts related to the purchase, sale, rental or lease of real property:

See Note G - Lease Disclosures

The names, duties and total compensation of the five most highly compensated employees:

Name and Title	Total Compensation
C. Cummins, Executive Director	$ 123,758
C. Alexander, Director of Educational Technology	$ 123,758
A. Tortorelli, Director of Facilities	$ 123,758
K. Franjul, Director of Community Engagement	$ 122,978
B. Goodreau, Program Co-Director	$ 120,978
D. Rivera, Program Co-Director	$ 120,978

Executive Director - Provides leadership in the planning, development and operations of all educational programs and services offered to participating members of the Collaborative.
Director of Edcuational Technology - Responsible for oversight of the Collaborative's technology
Director of Facilities - Responsible for oversight of the Collaborative's facilities, grounds and vehicles.

Director of Community Engagement and Program Co-Directors - Responsible for the operation, maintenance, and general administration of their respective programs.

The amounts expended on administration and overhead:

Administration and overhead	$ 1,302,396

Any accounts held by the Collaborative that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity:

None

Amounts expended on services for individuals aged 22 years and older:

None

Any other items as may be required by regulation:

None

Annual determination and disclosure of cumulative surplus:

Cumulative Surplus Calculation - FY23				Page(s) in financial statements
(A)	**Surplus as of June 30, 2022**		$ 2,475,619	(A) **p.12**
	(Breakdown of use of 2022 surplus)			
	B(1) used to support the FY23 budget		$ 455,187	
	B(2) issued as credits to member districts		$ -	
	B(3) issued as a check(s) to member district(s)		$ -	
	B(4) deposited to a restricted account(s)		$ -	
(B)	**Board voted uses of surplus funds during FY23**	*(total from B1:B4)*	$ 455,187	(B) **p.12**
(C)	**Unexpended FY23 General Funds**		$ -	(C) **p.12**
(D)	Cumulative Surplus as of June 30, 2023	(A) - (B) + (C) = (D)	$ 2,020,432	(D) **p.12**
(E)	**FY23 Total General Fund Expenditures***		$ 16,916,309	(E) **p.12**
(F)	Cumulative Surplus Percentage	(D) ÷ (E)	**11.94%**	(F) **p.12**

CUMULATIVE SURPLUS REDUCTION
Allowable uses of surplus - in excess of the 25% limit

(G)	Cumulative surplus as of June 30, 2023	$ 2,020,432
	25% limit (allowed)	$ 4,229,077
(H)	Cumulative Surplus **REDUCTIONS**	
	(H)1 Credited to member districts for tuition, services, etc.	$ -
	(H)2 Depositd to an established trust and/or reserve fund	$ -
	(H)3 Returned (check) to school districts/towns	$ -
	Total Reductions	$ -
	FY23 Cumulative Surplus Percentage after Reductions	**11.94%**

* Excludes Intergovernmental expense, includes transfers to capital reserve and OPEB trust fund.

FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
& BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Board of Directors of
Assabet Valley Collaborative
Marlborough, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Assabet Valley Collaborative (a collaborative organized under the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Assabet Valley Collaborative's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 1, 2023.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Assabet Valley Collaborative's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Assabet Valley Collaborative's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

8 Essex Street • Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950 • Tel: (978) 462-2161 • Fax: (978) 462-8005
www.fd-cpa.com

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Newburyport, Massachusetts
December 1, 2023

Assabet Valley
COLLABORATIVE

Providing joint programs and services for school districts of:
Assabet Valley Region
Auburn
Berlin/Boylston Region
Berlin
Boylston
Grafton
Hudson
Marlborough
Maynard
Millbury
Nashoba Region
Northborough
Northborough/Southborough Region
Southborough
Shrewsbury
Westborough

Offering the following programs:
Orchard Street Academy
Consultation Services
Evolution
Family Success Partnership
Professional Development
REACH
SOAR
Transportation Services

December 1, 2023

ACCEPTANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We, the Board of Directors of the Assabet Valley Collaborative, have voted to accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions made by Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC as embodied in the financial statements, supplemental schedules and independent auditor's reports for the year ended June 30, 2023.

We also certify that the representations made by management and the disclosures in the financial statements are accurate and have been correctly and completely disclosed as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and under Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws for the year ended June 30, 2023.

____
Board Chair

12/1/23
____
Date

28 Lord Road, Suite 125
Marlborough, MA 01752
P 508-460-0491
F 508-460-0493
www.avcollaborative.org

December 1, 2023

To the Board of Directors of
Assabet Valley Collaborative
28 Lord Rd, Suite 130
Marlborough, MA 01752

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Assabet Valley Collaborative for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated July 11, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Assabet Valley Collaborative are described in Note B to the financial statements. The Collaborative fully implemented the requirements of GASB 96 during fiscal year 2023, which impacts recording and reporting of Collaborative subscription-based information technology agreements ("SBITAs"). We noted no transactions entered into by the Collaborative during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of depreciation expense is based on guidelines established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for contracting purposes. Management's estimate of the post-retirement health benefit obligation is based on an actuarial valuation, which included actuarial assumptions of returns on investments, inflation, and annual compensation increase rates. Management's estimate of pension on-behalf payments is based on audited plan financial statements issued by the retirement systems. Management's calculation of lease assets, liabilities, amortization and interest based on actual lease payments and a discount rate of the Collaborative's implicit borrowing rate. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 1, 2023.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Collaborative's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Collaborative's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

<u>Other Matters</u>

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, OPEB Plan – Required Supplementary Information and pension schedules, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report other supplementary information which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

<u>Restriction on Use</u>

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Assabet Valley Collaborative and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC

Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on December 6, 2023, are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on December 6, 2023.

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, December 6, 2023

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Boucher, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jonathan Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Barbara Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mr. Chris Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM and Ms. Fryc immediately requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session: A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(4) "to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto" ("Purpose 4"). On a motion by Ms. Heffernan, seconded by Ms. Boucher, 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 6:00 PM. The Committee returned to open session at 7:00 PM, and the meeting was recessed. The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 PM.

I. Public Participation
None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports
Ms. Boucher reported attending one of the Winter Concerts at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) and congratulated students and staff on a job well done.

III. Superintendent's Report
Dr. Sawyer congratulated student musicians at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS); reported attending an all-school meeting at Sherwood Middle School (SMS) where students from the RISE Program (Reaching Independence Through Supported Employment) gave a presentation; noted the *Maple & Main* retail business, presented by RISE, recently participated in a successful Yuletide Market and would be hosting a pop-up market with other area merchants the following day; and reported 30 SHS students attended a recent STEM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) hosted by Olympus in Westborough, MA, which included some hands-on learning opportunities.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:
A. Safety and Security Audit: Report

After Mr. Girardi gave introductory remarks and shared background information on the project, Mr. Zachary Pope and Mr. Eric Petroski, consultants from the Olson Group Ltd who conducted the safety and security audit, presented general information on The Olson Group Ltd. and introduced their Project Team; detailed the purpose, scope, timeline, and methodology of the project; described Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED); and provided a high-level overview of the project findings relative to policies, plans, procedures, interviews, survey data, and site assessments. Dr. Sawyer added that during an Executive Session held with municipal partners prior to the start of the open meeting the full report - which is not a public document due to the need to protect the confidentiality of safety and security plans - was discussed in greater detail, was very positive overall relative to existing strengths in the district, and cited some areas where there is opportunity for improvement.
Committee members noted the importance of student "belonging" as a component of school safety, and expressed appreciation for the objective perspective of the report which resulted from partnering with an outside entity - The Olson Group Ltd - to conduct and prepare it.

V. Curriculum
A. Literacy Program: Personnel & Processes Update
The report was given by Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Ms. Kristin Osborne, Literacy Consultant, Mass Tiered Literacy Initiative; Reading Specialists: Maureen Henry (Calvin Coolidge School), Vanessa Colleran (Floral Street School and Walter J. Paton School), Heather Mistretta (Maj. Howard W. Beal School and Spring Street School), Susan Direnzo (Sherwood Middle School); and Walter J. Paton School Literacy Tutor Kristin Sayegh. The report included: total Tutor headcount and hours by school; the district's vision for literacy; a job description of the Reading Specialist role; Fall and Winter 2023 student data on Classroom, Tutor, and/or Intensive support by grade; a description of staff and system support; information on new data cycles and the use of the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment for tracking students in Grades 7 and 8; observations from Trimester 1; and emerging needs from Trimester 2. Additional information was provided in response to clarifying questions from the Committee on differences between assessments and screeners, determining how much support (staffing, budget) is needed for literacy initiatives (e.g. students getting support in foundational reading is an important metric at the middle level), student experiences (shared examples of frequency and length of support sessions, and group sizes) and how progress is communicated to parents (progress reports that align with report cards are one mode).

VI. Policy
None.

VII. Finance & Operations
A. Summer Enrichment Program Tuition Rates: Vote
Director of Extended Learning Karen Isaacson reported that the teaching stipend for Summer Enrichment had not increased in at least a decade, the class fee had also not changed in that time frame, and the type and number of proposals from teachers has decreased in recent years. In order to increase the stipend to bring it in alignment with current market rates, and to drive more teacher participation and proposals, Ms. Isaacson recommended that the School Committee increase the class fee from $80 to $100, which remains a competitive rate for families.
In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Isaacson advised that the cost was $100 per morning session and $100 per afternoon session, and that extended day options were available to families. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to increase the class fee.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to increase the summer enrichment class fee to $100 per class.

VIII. Old Business
None.

IX. New Business
None.

X. Approval of Minutes
Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on November 29, 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 8:23 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Sharifipour, seconded by Ms. Boucher, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 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:
Safety and Security Review Report
Safety and Security Review Infographic
Safety and Security Review Slide Presentation
Literacy Personnel & Processes Report
Literacy Personnel & Processes Slide Presentation
Summer Enrichment Program Tuition Rate Report

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session** MEETING DATE: **12/20/23**

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.**

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, 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.

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**