

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Present: Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Mr. Jon Wensky; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Dr. B. Dale Magee, School Committee Member; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources.

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

The meeting was convened by Mr. Palitsch at 7:00 pm.

Special Opening

The Shrewsbury High School (SHS) A Cappella Choir, under the direction of Music Teacher Michael Lapomardo, performed “The Star Spangled Banner.” Dr. Sawyer congratulated Mr. Lapomardo on being recognized earlier in the week with a Superintendent’s Award at Opening Day for Staff at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS).

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson’s Report & Members’ Reports

None.

III. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Sawyer recognized the other winners of Superintendent’s Awards at Opening Day for staff: Jennifer DiFrancesca, Director of Social Sciences, Shrewsbury High School (Jayne M. Wilkin Award); Chris Girardi, Principal, Beal Early Childhood Center (Thomas M. Kennedy Award); Robert Cox, Superintendent of Public Buildings, Town of Shrewsbury; Norma Chico, Physics Teacher, Shrewsbury High School; Greg Marceau, Video Technician/Telecommunications Specialist, Shrewsbury High School; Kelly Sutton, ABA Technician, Spring Street School; Kristen Minio, Adjustment Counselor, Oak Middle School; Bryant Clark, Music Teacher,

Sherwood and Oak Middle Schools; Karin Freeman, Secretary, Beal Early Childhood Center.

Dr. Sawyer announced that he received permission from the School Committee to rename Ms. Meg Belsito's position in the district to *Assistant Superintendent for Student Services* to better reflect the breadth, scope, and responsibilities of the role.

Dr. Sawyer advised that SPS enjoyed an outstanding opening to the start of the school year even while high heat and humidity made the physical environment difficult in the many classrooms and spaces in the district without climate control to address those conditions. Dr. Sawyer advised that, in addition to the new Beal Building Project, existing infrastructure over time needs to move to a place that will provide appropriate conditions during increasingly frequent, and dramatic, heat-related weather events.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Report & Discussion

Ms. Kathryn Crockett, President, Lamoureux Pagano Associates; Mr. Sean Brennan, Architect, Lamoureux Pagano Associates; and Mr. Paul Queeney, Owner's Project Manager, PMA Associates, gave a report to the Committee on the status of the Beal Early Childhood Center (BECC) project that incorporated an overview, history, cost information, next steps, and detailed information on the Schematic Design phase (size, design, layout). The team, Dr. Sawyer, and Mr. Collins addressed clarifying questions from the Committee on MSBA reimbursement, baseline costs, differences between proposed and MSBA gross square footage (GSF) and shared space usage.

Mr. Palitsch requested feedback on this phase of the project for Ms. Fryc (who represents the School Committee on the BECC Building Committee). Committee members noted the importance of "right-sizing" the new school and addressing issues at other schools; appreciated thoughtful use of green spaces; and felt cost information was thoroughly explained and were supportive of the schematic design as presented. Dr. Sawyer noted that he has received feedback that the Glavin Center site works well for a school and that the educational program plan for the building authored by Ms. Clouter was cited by the MSBA as one of the best they have received, and added that the new school was much needed and represented good value for the community.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. Adoption of Town Policies for Energy Reduction & Fuel Efficient Vehicles: Discussion

Dr. Sawyer advised that in order for the Town of Shrewsbury to be designated a "Green Community" through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Green Community Designation & Grant Program, the school district must adopt the town's Energy Reduction Plan and the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins noted that presently the fuel policy

only applies to one SPS vehicle since buses are not included, and advised that since SPS buildings are maintained by the Public Buildings Department, much of the energy reduction plan falls under their purview.

Mr. Palitsch noted he would be happy to see SPS participate, and advised that the Committee would vote at their September 12, 2018, meeting.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. SHS Athletic Facilities Project & Summer School Maintenance: Report

In his report, Mr. Collins provided an update on track and field construction, as well as related projects, at Shrewsbury High School; gave a budget status (noting that the athletic facility project is “on budget” as of August 20, 2018); described the impact of the project on athletic schedules; and discussed other summer facility projects at SPS. The Committee asked about the timeframes of related turf projects and thanked Mr. Collins and the fundraising team for their work on the Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields.

B. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields: Vote to Accept Gifts

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to accept gifts of \$5,000 each from Flint Pond Village, Lamoreaux Pagano & Associates, Tom & Barbara Peters/Mid State Kitchens, and David & Andrea Lowy, for the Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields.

C. Fiscal Year 2019 State Aid: Report

Mr. Collins’s report compared prior estimates and charges for state aid for FY19 to actual amounts finalized in the state budget process. He listed General Fund (Town) receipts and charges by category, and School Department receipts by category, noting that actual FY19 state aid and charges amounts budgeted by the Town Manager and School Department were very close to the actuals/updated estimates published at the completion of the state budget process.

D. Fiscal Year 2019 Grants: Report & Vote to Accept

In his report, Mr. Collins listed federal and state grants for FY19, compared these to FY18 (SPS will receive \$183,056 less, primarily due to a reduction in Title I funding), and provided a five year history. It was noted that many entitlement grants are noncompetitive and based on need. In response to questioning from the Committee, Ms. Clouter provided additional information on Title I funding, and Dr. Sawyer noted the loss of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) grant funding for the past three years due to the state discontinuing this grant as the vast majority of school districts in Massachusetts now offer full day kindergarten to all students, and that space limitations prevent Shrewsbury from offering it to all interested students.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to accept all FY19 grant funds noted in the enclosed chart and use such funds for their intended purpose.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on August 22, 2018 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Beal Early Childhood Center Project Report
2. Town of Shrewsbury Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy
3. Town of Shrewsbury Energy Reduction Plan Draft
4. FY19 State Aid Status Update Report
5. FY19 State Aid Status Update Slide Presentation
6. FY19 Grant Acceptances Report
7. Turf and Summer Project Update Slides
8. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above

