

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Principal's Conference Room
Shrewsbury High School
64 Holden Street
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Present: Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary; Dr. Dale Magee; Mr. Jon Wensky; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Workshop was opened by Mr. Palitsch at 6:30 pm.

Topic I

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on June 13, 2018 were approved to be distributed.

Topic II

Dr. Sawyer and the Committee discussed the district climate relative to stress and potential ways to adapt culture and climate to mitigate it. The Committee discussed areas they perceive as adding stress in the district including increasing class sizes; issues not directly related to education and learning that are being addressed within the schools on a daily basis; fiscal constraints; safety and security concerns expressed by students and staff; and demands that leave less time to make connection with students and outstrip capacity.

The Committee and Dr. Sawyer discussed the need to actively assess stress within the district and make an effort to mitigate wherever possible. It was noted that areas of stress cannot be adequately addressed without understanding the underlying causes. Comments made included possibly giving a survey to administrators and teachers to understand contributing factors to a stressful environment from their perspective; addressing expectations and partnering with parents; exploring integrated software that could assist in allowing less data input and freeing up time for other work; considering having an outside consultant assess workflow and staffing levels; assessing what is necessary and doable within the district's education plan and consider removing items that are no longer required or don't add value; and making wellness and emotional health a priority.

Topic III

Dr. Sawyer provided the committee with a copy of the proposed School Committee Meetings calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.

Topic IV

Mr. Palitsch provided the committee with a copy of the 2017-2018 School Committee Subcommittees and indicated that he would make the same assignments for 2018-2019 unless hearing otherwise from members in the near future.

Mr. Palitsch stated that he will also look at the calendar and schedule a workshop to discuss the Styrofoam ban issue that was defeated at the annual Town Meeting in May 2018. After Town Meeting the Committee discussed having a workshop to discuss the issue of reusable and/or other biodegradable, compostable paper or plant products for use in the school cafeterias.

Topic V – Executive Session

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of approving Executive Session Meeting Minutes. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 7:49pm.

Adjournment

On a motion Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary

Documents Referenced:

June 13, 2018 School Committee Meeting Minutes

2018-2019 Proposed School Committee Meetings Calendar

2017-2018 School Committee Subcommittees