

Shrewsbury Public Schools  
Preschool - Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee  
Monday, September 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Erin Boucher (School Committee Vice Chair)  
Theresa Flynn (Select Board Vice Chair)  
John Sarnia (Select Board Clerk)  
Keith Baldinger (Assistant Town Manager for Operations)  
Bryan Mabie (Principal, Spring Street School)  
Lisa McCubrey (Principal, Floral Street School)  
Tiffany Ostrander (Principal, Coolidge School)  
Scott Mulcahy (Principal, Paton School)  
Kristen Gasper (Principal, Beal School)  
Bridget Nichols (Director, Parker Road Preschool)  
Peter Welland (Parent, Spring Street School)  
Justine Maloy (Parent, Coolidge School)  
Colleen Luzzo (Parent, Paton School)  
Rajesh Velagapudi (Parent, Beal School)  
Alison Kimball (Staff Member, Spring Street School)  
Kelly Finnaran (Staff Member, Coolidge School)  
Aaron Detrick (Staff Member, Paton School)  
Jennifer Foran (Staff Member, Parker Road Preschool)  
Chris Girardi (Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations)  
Joe Sawyer (Superintendent)

Attended Remotely (Telephone)

Varanasi Pokala (Parent, Floral Street School)

Members Absent

Sandra Fryc (School Committee Chair)  
William Tuttle (Division Manager, Public Buildings)  
James Dealy (Parent, Parker Road Preschool)

Representative Not Yet Named

Staff Member, Floral Street School  
Staff Member, Beal School

Non-Members Attending

Sean Brennan (Lamoureux Pagano Associates|Architects)  
Bill Lupini (Collins Center for Public Management)

Interested Committee members were provided with a tour of the Coolidge School at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Superintendent Sawyer opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with introductions of Committee members. In addition to the Committee members present, Dr. Sawyer introduced Sean Brennan, who will present a summary of the LPA|A *Pre-K Through 12 Capital Investment and Assessment Study* and Bill Lupini, who will facilitate the process for this Committee.

Dr. Sawyer then provided the membership with the Charge to the Committee, which was outlined in his April 26, 2022 memorandum to the School Committee:

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.

Finally, Dr. Sawyer noted that this Committee will utilize a consensus model (after hearing all views) in making a set of recommendations to the School Committee and Select Board in March 2024.

Mr. Brennan then presented slides designed to provide an overview of the study that his firm conducted (slides available here). Following are some of the key areas highlighted during this presentation:

- A key charge in the current study was to revamp and update the 1997 study.
- Shrewsbury uses class size parameters, available in district policy, that provide smaller class sizes than the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) guidance.
- The use of modular classrooms is excluded in this present study for a number of reasons, including fire suppression concerns, expense, etc. Specifically, their use would open up other thresholds that would be very difficult for the district to deal with.
- The priorities of this study came from observations and assistance from LPA|A as to what areas might need attention.
- The School Committee and Board of Selectmen recently submitted a Statement of Interest regarding space at Shrewsbury High School. MSB is currently considering approximately 30 projects for funding. Shrewsbury High School is one of these being considered.
- A major idea behind the Beal project was to get art and music (along with other areas) back into the elementary schools.
- With respect to the goal of unifying the central administration offices, a separate report is being prepared by another architect to address these concerns.
- In addition to construction costs, Committee members should assume 30-35% for FFE, legal, site, and architectural costs.
- MSBA is looking for cities and towns to develop 50 year school building solutions.

- MSBA is looking at 85% usage for spaces that they fund.

Following this presentation, Committee members engaged Mr. Brennan in a discussion regarding the possible scenarios, focused on possible timeline, usage of current facilities, possible MSBA participation and guidance, and possible next steps.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Sawyer indicated that the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Paton School, will focus on current enrollment and enrollment projections. A tour of Paton School will be available for Committee members at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.