

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

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

The meeting was convened by Ms Fryc at 7:03 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked Town Meeting members for approving the town budget, including the School Department budget, at Town Meeting; congratulated the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Esports team on becoming State Champions (again) in two different categories; congratulated the SHS Class of 2019 and SHS Leadership Team on outstanding Commemoration and Graduation ceremonies; and noted that a tentative agreement for a three-year contract had been reached with the Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA) Unit A, and that the SEA and School Committee would be voting on ratification next week.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Speech & Debate State Champions: Student Recognition

Advisor Marc Rischitelli and Coaches Hannah and Gabriel Hopkins appeared with members of the State Champion SHS Speech & Debate Team to talk about their successful season. Individual State Champions were introduced: Team President, Paulina Hruskoci, in Original Oratory and Programmed Oral Interpretation; Leah DeHaemer in Dramatic Performance and Prose Reading; Sophia Peng in Informative Speaking; Haleema Siddiqui in Poetry Reading; and Jessica Peng, Lanna Wang, Dan Stameris, Max Evers, Pranav Vadlamudi & Reeya Kansra in Multiple

Reading. National finalists from the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament, where the team earned a 5th place overall finish out of over 500 schools competing and also earned the Founders Award for Excellence in Speech, were also introduced: Leah DeHaemer - 2nd place in Oral Interpretation of Literature, and Steve Asthana - 3rd place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Team members were invited up to be recognized and congratulated by the Committee.

B. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Board Members Blake Poggi, Colleen Corbett, Jill DeBender, and Ashley Falandys, who is the new SEPAC school liaison to Parker Road Preschool, gave this annual report, accompanied by Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services. In the update on the past year, they discussed SEPAC's mission and goals; District support for enhanced well-being for all; workshops hosted; fundraisers held; special events; future plans; and outreach to the preschool parent community.

Committee members asked questions about helping parents connect with SEPAC and the potential for building liaisons at other schools; Dr. Sawyer noted the appointment of Jacqueline Marcello as the new Director for Preschool-Grade 4 Special Education; and Ms. Belsito thanked SEPAC for their assistance relative to the recent Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Tiered Focused Monitoring review of SPS and the associated survey to parents of students receiving special education services.

C. Social & Emotional Learning: Report

In their report, Ms. Belsito, Ms. Clouter, and Dr. Jane Lizotte, Principal, Sherwood Middle School, defined Social Emotional Learning (SEL); detailed district, school, and classroom perspectives on SEL; noted what is already being done and how to build on those existing strengths; discussed new positions and levels of support being implemented to support student mental and emotional well-being; and noted next steps relative to sharing inventory, coordinating efforts, and improving SEL skills.

Committee members expressed support for taking inventory of existing practices and building a shared understanding, and asked clarifying questions regarding future additional staffing and assessing existing inventory. Dr. Sawyer noted that this team was well-positioned to take a complex topic and frame it in an understandable way, with Dr. Lizotte's appointment (beginning in July) as the Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being providing increased capacity to move forward and provide enhanced benefits for students and the community.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2020 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Adjustments: Vote

Dr. Sawyer provided detailed information on compensation rate changes being requested for staff including door monitors, non-represented roles (salaried and non-salaried), Extended School Care provider roles (information was presented at a previous School Committee meeting), and cafeteria substitute workers (to match minimum wage laws and be more competitive).

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to approve compensation adjustments to non-represented staff for Fiscal Year 2020 as presented.

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 May 15, 2019, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

A. For the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association

B. For the purpose of negotiations with non-represented staff

C. For the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association and for the purpose of negotiations with non-represented staff, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes, and return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, on a roll call vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:28 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SEPAC Slide Presentation
2. Social & Emotional Learning Report
3. exSEL Network Orientation Packet
4. SEL Definition and CASEL Wheel
5. Social & Emotional Learning Slide Presentation
6. FY20 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Memo
7. FY20 Non-Represented Staff Pay Rate Schedules
8. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above