

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 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 and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; 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 7:02 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated two current Shrewsbury High School (SHS) students, Jack Foley and TJ Morgera, who partnered with the *15-40 Connection* organization to hold a successful fundraiser in honor of Michael Bodge, SHS Class of 2009, who passed away recently after a battle with cancer; noted the upcoming SHS Art Show; congratulated SHS scholarship, academic, and athletic award winners who were honored at Academic Awards Night, including student Suhas Jeevanand who was appointed to the US Air Force Academy; congratulated Oak Middle School students who won awards at the state science fair; and noted a successful final Professional Development (PD) day for staff, acknowledging the work of Ms. Clouter and the PD Committee.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Science Olympiad & Science Fair State Champions: Student Recognition

David Hruskoci, Director of Science & Engineering, described the path taken by students that successfully advance to the State Science & Engineering Fair, then introduced First Place winner Garima Prabhakar, who discussed her project *Increasing Exoplanetary Detection Accuracy using Orbital Parameter Relations*. Ms. Prabhakar answered questions about her project, and was invited up to be recognized by the Committee.

Zachary Tashjian, SHS Teacher, Science & Engineering, and Science Olympiad Advisor, introduced Science Olympiad Team Captain Armita Padam and students Michelle Kim and Sankalp Katnal, who received a First Place award in the Mystery Architecture category. Ms. Padam described the Science Olympiad program, and Ms. Kim and Mr. Katnal discussed their winning project. They were then invited up to be recognized by the Committee.

B. Beal School Building Project: Design Update

Mr. Sean Brennan and Ms. Natalie Gabrielle, Architects at Lamoureux Pagano Associates, provided the update. Mr. Brennan provided an overview of the design and construction schedule for the project; Ms. Gabrielle provided detailed information on site development and circulation (traffic flows and parking) and design development, which included an animated video that illustrated current design thinking regarding external and internal layouts.

The Committee asked clarifying questions about the location of kindergarten students, the makerspace area (which will be utilized for project-based learning activities), and a tree motif being proposed as part of the layout.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. State Aid for Education: Update

In his report, Mr. Collins provided both historical and estimated FY20 Budget information for state aid being provided to Shrewsbury in the following categories: Chapter 70 funding; special education Circuit Breaker reimbursement; charter schools; and transportation for homeless and non-resident vocational students. Mr. Collins also provided an overview of the state budget process timeline. Committee members acknowledged an ongoing, significant decline in charter school enrollment, and noted that increased Chapter 70 aid could be offset by cuts in other aid areas, with Dr. Sawyer adding that Shrewsbury might not be a beneficiary if the Chapter 70 formula were to be updated.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being: Vote

Ms. Fryc gave a history of the process for establishing and defining the Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being position. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the

Committee vote to appoint Dr. Jane O. Lizotte - who is the current Sherwood Middle School Principal - as Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being, then provided detailed information on the hiring process, feedback from interviews with stakeholders, and his reasons for recommending Dr. Lizotte for the position. Committee members advised that they enthusiastically support the appointment of Dr. Lizotte as Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Jane O. Lizotte, as recommended by the Superintendent, for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on May 8, 2019, and the School Committee Candidate Interview held on May 8, 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 8:31 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Science State Champions Slide Presentation
2. Beal School Project Slide/Video Presentation
3. State Aid Slide Presentation
4. State Aid Report Information
5. Superintendent's Memo: Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being Recommendation for Appointment
6. Resume and references of Dr. Jane Lizotte, Principal of Sherwood Middle School
7. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above