

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano and Mr. John Samia; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

The meeting was convened at 7:04 PM by Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The Superintendent of Schools called the meeting to order according to the guidelines of School Committee Policy 112 for the first meeting following the Town election.

I. Election of Officers

Dr. Sawyer requested and accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the School Committee. Mr. Samia nominated Ms. Fryc for the Chairperson of the School Committee and Dr. Magee seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Ms. Fryc as Chairperson of the School Committee. As the elected Chairperson of the School Committee, Ms. Fryc requested nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the School Committee. Mr. Wensky nominated Dr. Magee for the position of Vice Chair of the School Committee and Ms. Canzano seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Dr. Magee as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Fryc requested nominations for the position of Secretary for the School Committee. Dr. Magee nominated Mr. Wensky for the position of Secretary of the School Committee and Ms. Canzano seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Mr. Wensky as Secretary of the School Committee.

II. Public Participation

None

III. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

None

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer noted that it was National Teacher Appreciation Week and that Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) celebrated with a number of activities to recognize and show appreciation for the hard work that our teachers do every day on behalf of our students and school community.

Dr. Sawyer advised that he had recently visited the classroom of high school English teacher Jennifer Steinberg to discuss the book "The Things They Carried" as part of a community outreach collaboration with Veterans Inc. Three local Vietnam War veterans affiliated with the Worcester Vietnam Memorial were also present and answered questions from the students.

Dr. Sawyer announced the appointment of Ms. Meg Belsito as the new Director of Special Education after a very rigorous search process. Ms. Besito has held the same position in Milford and Dr. Sawyer noted that SPS looked forward to Ms. Belsito starting in the role. Dr. Sawyer announced that the current Director of Special Education, Ms. Melissa Maguire, would be taking on a new role at Monomoy Public Schools, and noted that Ms. Maguire would be recognized later in the meeting.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Senator Michael O. Moore: State Update

Senator Michael Moore presented a report to the School Committee regarding the status of state funding for public education and other state level issues. Senator Moore discussed the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget and noted that there would be an increase in Chapter 70 aid, and that recently Shrewsbury exhibited a stable trend in enrollment. He also noted that Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, which serves students in our district, was one of several local vocational schools that would benefit from new capital for vocational equipment to expand and improve technical education for our students.

Ms. Fryc requested continued assistance regarding Chapter 70 funding and unfunded mandates. The Committee asked some clarifying questions about Charter Schools, Chapter 70 funding, Circuit Breaker funding, and non-residential vocational student transportation funding. Additional discussion ensued surrounding screening for opioid abuse and any costs that might be associated with it, as well as transportation for homeless students. Dr. Sawyer noted that Senator Moore's office has always been responsive to requests from Shrewsbury and Ms. Fryc also expressed her appreciation.

B. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

The SAC is required to meet with the School Committee during the year to review various issues of concern to the student body. SAC members Lindsay Mahowald, Class of 2016; Hari Kumar, Class of 2016; Vikram Pathalam, Class of 2017 and Benjamin George, Class of 2018 presented the report to the School Committee.

SAC members provided updates on the 1:1 technology program at SHS, end of year events, various activities at the high school, and budget considerations – especially as they relate to class size. School committee member followed up with questions on the topics discussed, and Ms. Banios addressed the issue of distractibility surrounding the 1:1 technology program, and distinguishing between “policing” versus “educating” students.

Senior students discussed their future school plans, and Dr. Sawyer thanked the entire group for their service to SPS as members of the SAC.

C. Student Recognition: U.S. Senate Youth Leadership Program

Student Hari Kumar was selected to attend the U.S. Senate Youth Leadership Program- which is sponsored by the U.S. Senate and the Hearst Foundation - in Washington DC. Two students are selected to attend from each state, and Mr. Kumar was one of two students attending from MA. Attendees are encouraged to spread awareness about the political process; Mr. Kumar advised that his biggest takeaway was that more civics engagement and political involvement from the American people is needed. A highlight of the trip was meeting President Barack Obama. Mr. Bazydlo presented a certificate to Mr. Kumar on behalf of State Senator Michael Moore, who was not able to stay for this portion of the meeting.

D. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report

Director of Special Education, Ms. Melissa Maguire, is leaving the district and began the presentation by thanking all the parents on the committee for their efforts. Ms. Maguire introduced the members present: Bashar Jarkasy, Blake Poggi, and Jill Debender.

Mr. Jarkasy began with acknowledgments and announced the SEPAC board members. Ms. Debender discussed how the committee elected officers and began to take shape. Topics included analysis of the SEPAC 2015-16 survey results, ongoing and upcoming events, and the SEPAC goals. The group advised that they look forward to working with neighboring SEPACs.

Dr. Sawyer and the Committee recognized Ms. Maguire's many years of service to the district and thanked her for the tremendous value she has added as an advocate for students in our community.

VI. Curriculum

None

VII. Policy

A. Update to Medication Policy: Second Reading & Vote

Ms. Canzano highlighted changes made to the prior draft. Dr. Magee liked the changes, Ms. Fryc expressed some concern with the potential cost burden for families relative to stock supplies. Mr. Samia advised that while he appreciated the work done on this, he did not support the changes due to concerns regarding the school district becoming involved in this issue to an extent beyond what is necessary. Dr. Sawyer noted he appreciated the work done to improve the policy and recommended the policy as presented to the School Committee.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, and seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee voted 4-1, with Mr. Samia dissenting.

B. Fundraising Policy: First Reading

Mr. Wensky advised that the proposed policy would provide a framework around fundraising in the district for schools and PTOs. Ms. Canzano liked that it would provide cohesive guidelines going forward, and Dr. Magee noted that he supported reviewing the guidelines every five years. It was noted that information on the policy would be available on the SPS website for public review prior to a vote at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. Finance and Operations

A. Safety & Security: Update

Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Steve Rocco, Coordinator of Safety, Transportation, and Security, who has been with SPS for one and a half years after a long career at Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Rocco's work in that time has enhanced existing relationships with local police and fire department personnel. Mr. Rocco reviewed his activities over the past year, and discussed topics including procedures and protocols, emergency radio communications, and standard response protocols for students and staff.

Mr. Rocco also discussed emergency tabletop exercises and Mr. Collins noted that these presented an opportunity to partner with our municipal peers in the police and fire departments, and with the Town Manager's office. Mr. Collins also added that drills with other municipal departments were usually conducted during breaks when students were not in school.

Members of the committee thanked Mr. Rocco for his thoughtful presentation, and asked questions about the lookback time on video surveillance (two weeks – 30 days) and about the potential costs associated with expanding video surveillance equipment. Dr. Sawyer also noted the importance of Mr. Rocco’s work as an additional component of the safety and security work done by municipal peers in the fire and police departments.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

None

XI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Magee and seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on February 24, 2016.

XII. Executive Session

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with represented and/or non-represented employees including Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A; cafeteria workers; and/or strategy regarding a potential matter of litigation where deliberation and/or strategy in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, on a roll call vote: Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 9:30 pm.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, open session was adjourned at 10:06pm. Roll call votes are as follow: John Samia, yes; Erin Canzano, yes; Jon Wensky, yes; Dale Magee, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted
Kimberlee Cantin, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SEPAC Annual Report
2. Medication Policy Draft
3. Fundraising Policy Draft
4. Safety and Security Update