



**School Committee  
Meeting Book**

**December 21, 2016  
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall - 100 Maple Avenue  
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**December 21, 2016 7:00pm  
Town Hall—100 Maple Avenue  
Selectmen's Meeting Room**

**Items**

**Suggested time allotments**

I.	Public Participation	<div>7:00-7:10</div>
II.	Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports	
III.	Superintendent's Report	
IV.	Time Scheduled Appointments:	
	A. Beijing Chinese Language School of Massachusetts: Presentation & Vote to Accept Scholarship Donation	7:10 - 7:20
	B. Shrewsbury High School American Studies Program: Presentation	7:20 - 7:40
	C. Contract with Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A: Vote to Ratify	7:40 - 7:55
	D. Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services Partnership: Report	7:55 - 8:15
V.	Curriculum	
VI.	Policy	
VII.	Finance & Operations	
VIII.	Old Business	
IX.	New Business	
X.	Approval of Minutes	8:15 - 8:20
XI.	Executive Session	
	A. Act on a student residency issue per Policy #621	8:20 - 8:30
	B. Negotiations related to collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B	8:30 - 8:45
	C. Negotiations related to a grievance by the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A	8:45 - 9:00
XII.	Adjournment	9:00

**Next regular meeting: January 11, 2017**



## **SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM NO: I Public Participation**

MEETING DATE: 12/21/16

#### **SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

### **ITEM NO: II. Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports**

#### **SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson of the School Committee and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

#### **STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

School Committee Members  
Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson  
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary  
Ms. Erin Canzano, Committee Member  
Mr. John Samia, Committee Member

### **ITEM NO: III. Superintendent's Report**

#### **SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

#### **STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

#### **ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:**

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**  
**A.Beijing Chinese Language School of Massachusetts: Presentation & Vote**  
**to Accept Scholarship Donation**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the Committee vote to accept a scholarship donation from the Beijing Chinese Language School of Massachusetts?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- 1.The Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School (MassBCLS) offers a variety of different leveled classes in Chinese, mathematics, and art to students from preschool through grade 12. The school operates on Sundays.
2. The Beijing Chinese Language School would like to make a scholarship donation of \$5,000 to Shrewsbury Public Schools.
3. Dr. Weichu (Brian) Xu, Principal of MassBCLS, along with students Sophia and Jessica Peng, will present information about the school and the scholarship donation.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to accept a scholarship donation of \$5,000 from the Beijing Chinese Language School of Massachusetts and allow the Business Office to subsequently coordinate the annual scholarship with the High School Guidance Office.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Weichu [Brian] Xu, MassBCLS School Principal  
Sophia Peng, MassBCLS/SHS Student  
Jessica Peng, MassBCLS/SHS Student



## **Shrewsbury Public Schools**

**Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations**

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15 December 2016

To: School Committee

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FOR CREATION OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School [MassBCLS] would like to make a \$5,000 donation to create a scholarship fund for graduating Shrewsbury High School seniors. This school, founded in 1995, provides instruction in Chinese languages, math, and the arts. They currently offer their classes on the UMass Medical Center Campus. Additionally, they have added value to the larger community by conducting cultural events in Shrewsbury and the Worcester area and also assisting us in finding capable teaching staff for the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

School Principal and Board member Dr. Weichu [Brian] Xu, along with two students, Sophia and Jessica Peng, will talk briefly about their school and desire to make this contribution.

It is recommended that the School Committee accept the donation and allow the Business Office to subsequently coordinate the annual scholarship with the High School Guidance Office.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**  
**B. Shrewsbury High School American Studies Program: Presentation**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the Committee hear a presentation from Shrewsbury High School (SHS) American Studies Program students?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. Students were assigned a group topic from the 1920s and asked to support either the traditionalist or modernist point of view, and had to argue whether the modern changes of the 1920s were improving society or destroying its traditional values and culture.
2. The students attending this evening had to discuss women's rights in the 1920s -- presented from the traditional viewpoint.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee hear a presentation from Shrewsbury High School American Studies Program students and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

**STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Jenn DiFrancesca, Director, Social Sciences, Shrewsbury High School  
Matthew Brown, Social Sciences Teacher, Shrewsbury High School  
Kelly Yellin, English Teacher, Shrewsbury High School  
John Aloisi, Teacher, Social Studies, Shrewsbury High School  
Colleen Hall, English Teacher, Shrewsbury High School  
Steven Pham, SHS American Studies Student  
Grace Foley, SHS American Studies Student  
Lizzie Hight, SHS American Studies Student  
Emily Brann, SHS American Studies Student  
Noah Juairé (unable to attend), SHS American Studies Student

# **American Studies “Royal Rumble”**

## **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL AMERICAN STUDIES COMPETITION PROJECT**

On December 9, 2016, your class will engage in an epic intellectual battle for American Studies supremacy, in addition to a wealth of riches and spoils. This ten round competition will pit your American Studies class against the other American Studies class to **prove whether the modern changes of the 1920s were improving society or destroying its traditional values and culture**. The winning class will receive the much sought after American Studies Cup in addition to a Pizza Party hosted by the losing class.

### **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Each class will be assigned either the traditionalist or modernist perspective and tasked with arguing **whether the modern changes of the 1920s were improving society or destroying its traditional values and culture**. Each class will be divided into 10 groups, each assigned a different topic of the 1920s in which modernist and traditionalist views are highlighted. You will need to thoroughly research your topic with your group, making sure to understand both sides of the traditionalist/modernist debate. The group will then be responsible for creating a 6-8 minute presentation/skit that will convince the judges of the superiority of your argument. The class that accumulates the most points will be pronounced the superior class.

### **STEPS CHECKLIST:**

1. You will be assigned a group topic and guiding question and whether you will be supporting the traditionalist or modernist point of view
2. Complete a spiderweb to breakdown your topic into subtopics
3. Research your topic and annotate at least three sources. Your researched information should assist in answering your assigned question.
4. As a group, discuss and analyze research to identify a clear argument and find specific evidence to support it
5. Begin organizing information and work on drafting a script for your presentation (6-8 minutes in length)
6. Create an iMovie trailer that presents a preview of your group's presentation
7. Complete one group works cited that contains all individual sources and citations
8. Complete script and conference with teachers in class
9. Create a brief abstract for students to read prior to your presentation. They will be read on the day of presentations.
10. Rehearse presentation during class and in front of another group
11. **Presentation Day:** Friday, December 9 \*Mandatory Attendance\*

### **RESEARCH**

Research will be checked frequently for credit throughout the research process, however it is your responsibility to keep up the distributed schedule. Of particular importance will be the quality of your research and your expertise level on your assigned topic. Focus on quality, not quantity!

Throughout the research process, you will utilize a variety of source types, but remember that the Media Center has a wealth of electronic databases and print sources (books and reference books) for your research pleasure. You will not need to use (and we will not see or accept) websites as source types for this project.

What will be checked for credit:

1. Individual spiderweb on topic
2. Chosen method of annotation
3. At least **three** annotated sources (both print and database source types)
4. MLA Works Cited
5. There will be check-ins and additional grades along the way

## **PRESENTATIONS**

While topics would easily lend themselves to a formal debate format, you and your group will be required to create a unique and engaging presentation to win over the judges. You will only have 6-8 minutes to make your argument clear, so the more creative the better. All group members must actively participate in the presentation, including a speaking role. Your group will be asked to provide a detailed script for the presentation, as extemporaneous speaking will be interpreted as a lack of preparation. During the presentation you may use notecards as long as you do not rely entirely on them. No scripts will be allowed during the presentation.

## **JUDGES AND POINTS**

There will be three guest judges who score your presentations. Each judge will be scoring your presentation based on either the content, persuasiveness of the argument, and the creativity of the presentation. In addition to the judges' scores, the audience will be periodically asked questions to assess how well members of each American Studies class are paying attention. These questions will be scored and will be added to the team's overall score. Not only is it important that you are well prepared for your presentation, it is also crucial that you are attentive during each and every presentation.

## **iMOVIE TRAILER:**

In preparation for the presentation, each group will create an iMovie Trailer as a preview of your argument. These trailers will be shown to both classes the week before the presentation. In creating these trailers, you must use iMovie and it is strongly recommended that you use one of the trailer templates to ensure the preview is 1-2 minutes in length. In the trailer you must make your argument very clear to your audience. Also, be creative and try to outshine your American Studies counterpart with your 1-2 minute preview.

## **GRADING**

Advertisement - iMovie Trailer (15% of your grade)

- ☐ Element that generates interest and excitement
- ☐ Clear articulation of your group's argument

Process (50% of your grade)

- ☐ Engagement with each step
- ☐ Identifies and implements steps necessary to completing goal
- ☐ Creativity and discussion



- ☐ Incorporates feedback and revision into the project
- ☐ Reflection on successes and struggles

Script (15% of your grade)

- ☐ Must be complete and include roles for all members of the group
- ☐ Must be 6-8min in length (during timed run-throughs)

Participation (20% of your grade)

- ☐ Completed group journal or division of labor sheet documenting what work is done, work yet to be done, and who is doing what (Each member will take turns completing this for the group)
- ☐ Respectful and active participant throughout the process: All group members are to actively participate in all portions of the process including: research, planning, rehearsal and presentation (as audience member and presenter).

**\*Failure to meet deadlines will result in loss of credit for the entire group**

# Division of Responsibilities

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Group Tasks: Collected and/or assessed

- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed group spiderweb
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thoroughly annotated at least 3 sources
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thoroughly researched your assigned topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Created a Works Consulted from your research
- \_\_\_\_\_ Created iMovie trailer that generates interest and excitement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Created an abstract that covers your topic clearly and concisely
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed a script that demonstrates knowledge and creativity of all subtopics and group topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed this tracking sheet

# Process Rubric

50% of Grade

		<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Lacking</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>
15pts	<b>Creativity</b>	Takes significant intellectual risk at each stage in process to enhance class engagement with the presentation	Takes some intellectual risks aimed at enhancing class engagement with the presentation	Takes limited intellectual risks in order to enhance the presentation	Little to no risk taken to enhance the presentation
15pts	<b>Reflection</b>	Extensively assesses own work throughout the process  Makes substantial revisions to portions of the project in response to self and peer assessment	Demonstrates some assessment of own work during the process  Makes some revisions to portions of the project in response to self or peer assessment	Demonstrates limited self assessment during the process  Makes limited revisions to the project in response to self or peer assessment	Does not demonstrate substantive self assessment or revision
10pts	<b>Engagement</b>	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of and a plan to accomplish the steps involved to achieving a final product	Demonstrates a basic understanding of and a basic plan for the steps needed to achieve a final product	Demonstrates some understanding of the steps but lacks a clear plan to achieve a final product	Demonstrates a limited understanding of and plan for implementing the steps to achieve the final product
10pts	<b>Communication</b>	Group works together cohesively and creates clear and equal divisions of responsibility  Creates an atmosphere in which all contribute equally	Group works together productively and divides responsibilities relatively equally  Most group members make significant contributions	Group works together but struggles to divide responsibilities  Only a few group members make significant contributions	Group does not work together productively and only one or two group members make significant contributions

## Participation Rubric

**20 % of Grade**

	<b>A (20-18)</b>	<b>B (17-16)</b>	<b>C (15-13)</b>	<b>D/F (12-0)</b>
<b>Individual Participation</b>	Listens intently. Does not make distracting noises or movements.	Listens intently but has a couple of distracting noises or movement.	Sometimes does not appear to be listening but is not distracting.	Sometimes does not appear to be listening and has distracting noises or movements.
<b>Journal</b>	Made significant contributions to group and actively participated in journal process.	Made many contributions to group and participated in journal process.	Made some contributions to group and made some participation in journal process.	Made little to no contributions to group and made little to no participation in journal process.

## iMovie Trailer Rubric

**15% of Grade**

	<b>A (15-14)</b>	<b>B (13-12)</b>	<b>C (11-10)</b>	<b>D/F (9-0)</b>
<b>Advertisement</b>	Demonstrates creativity in engaging the audience with your argument and includes multiple elements of persuasion.	Demonstrates basic understanding of the topic and argument and at least one element of persuasion	Demonstrates a vague idea of the group topic and argument and lacks clear elements of persuasion	Demonstrates little effort in engaging the audience or elements of persuasion or does not contain a clear argument

## Script Rubric

**15% of Grade**

	<b>A (15-14)</b>	<b>B (13-12)</b>	<b>C (11)</b>	<b>D/F (10-0)</b>
<b>Script</b>	<p>Presents a clear argument and uses significant historical detail to support it</p> <p>Creative way of conveying historical information</p> <p>Demonstrates revision and adjustments</p>	<p>Argument is mostly clear and historical events are used throughout</p> <p>Demonstrates attempts at creativity</p> <p>Demonstrates some changes</p>	<p>Argument and historical details are somewhat vague</p> <p>Little attempt at creativity is made</p> <p>Script is mostly complete but does not demonstrate thorough revision</p>	<p>Argument and historical details are missing or do not work well together.</p> <p>Presentation lacks originality</p>





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**  
**C. Contract with Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A: Vote to Ratify**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the Committee vote to ratify the contract with Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. In June, the School Committee reached a tentative agreement for a successor contract with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A, which represents teachers and other education professionals through collective bargaining.
2. The tentative agreement was outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties (provided under separate cover), and covers the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 school years.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to ratify the contract with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A per the terms outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**  
**D. Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services Partnership: Report**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the Committee hear a report from Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services (SYFS) on its partnership with Shrewsbury Public Schools?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- 1.Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. (SYFS) enhances the quality of life for the Shrewsbury community by working collaboratively to provide counseling, education, and social services.
- 2.The mission of SYFS is to work in collaboration with local organizations like SPS to provide counseling and education services to strengthen and enhance the lives of Shrewsbury families. A copy of their 2015-2016 annual report is enclosed as background information.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee accept the report and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools  
Annamaria Chittim, M.Ed. L.M.H.C - Co-Executive Director, Clinical Services, SYFS  
Justin Mussler - Co-Executive Director, Operations And Development, SYFS  
Thomas M. Kennedy, Chair of the Board, SYFS

# 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



SHREWSBURY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.  
STRENGTHENING SHREWSBURY'S FAMILIES  
SINCE 1983

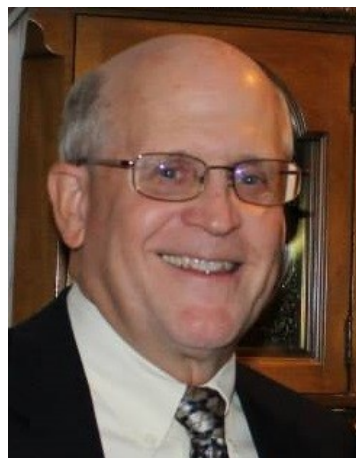




# From the President

Dear SYFS Friends,

The Greek philosopher and scientist, Aristotle, said, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." At Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services (SYFS) we realize that our strength lies in the efforts of many, including counselors, interns, office staff, board members, community stakeholders (including the Town of Shrewsbury and the Shrewsbury Public Schools), faith-based organizations, corporate sponsors, individual donors, volunteers, and of course, the clients we serve. Through the collective efforts of the entire SYFS family, and as stated in our mission statement, our goal is to strengthen and enhance the lives of all those who live or work in Shrewsbury. The Board of Directors is pleased to present this report to the community summarizing our accomplishments as an agency over the past year. It is critical that we anticipate the needs of our community and start new initiatives to address community well-being.



We were successful in winning a three year competitive grant to address youth mental health. Please see more information further in this report. The agency is also actively involved with the Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education (SCAPE). SCAPE was formed in 2015 to reduce youth substance use and to create a safer community. Through this program, community leaders, youth, parents, business, law enforcement, school and public service officials, health care professionals, faith-based organizations, media, state and local government agencies, social service providers and other community representatives have joined forces to work collaboratively to identify and implement communitywide strategies to decrease substance abuse and its consequences and impact among youth and adults in Shrewsbury. The mission statement of SCAPE is as follows: The coalition will work collaboratively to identify and implement strategies to decrease substance abuse and its consequences and impact among youth and adults in our community.

The need for our counseling services, youth development programs, and case management services continues to grow. While we are pleased that our visibility within the Shrewsbury community continue to increase, this growth also presents challenges. During the past year the Board of Directors commenced discussions to address the need to locate to a larger facility. At our present location at 240 Maple Avenue, we are not able to adequately serve the number of clients needing services. In addition, this leased facility is in need of repairs and upgrading to provide quality work space for our staff to interact with clients, including space for group counseling. The Board is in continued discussions with the Knights of Columbus to lease the upper floor of their building at 206 South Quinsigamond Avenue. While the move will provide additional space and parking, there are associated costs involved to convert the current open floor plan to individual counseling offices, as well as the associated costs for moving. During the coming months we hope to finalize plans for the move to a new facility.

It is important for us to share data regarding our services, recognizing that while numbers are important, the real story is the actual work accomplished by providing sound therapeutic and case management services with excellent outcomes.

- 221 referrals were received in the office for counseling or case management
- 62 new clinical cases were opened, resulting in 162 open office based clinical cases
- 164 students received school based counseling
- 167 citizens received assistance with accessing resources and services and completing applications to meet basic needs. This includes help with food, housing, healthcare, utility payment, disability applications, childcare, holiday assistance, and school supplies. The majority of these services were provided through face-to-face sessions at our Maple Avenue facility.
- 79 residents were provided help with fuel assistance
- 82 students participated in our Coghlin Youth Development programs:  
You Go Girl! A program for middle school girls designed to blend discussion with fun and interactive activities to promote self-esteem and self-confidence while exploring what it means to be female.  
Way to Go Guys! An activity-based group for middle school boys designed to build and develop self-esteem, social skills and personal confidence.

The Board of Directors, along with the entire SYFS family, wishes to publically acknowledge the contributions and leadership of Terry Cassidy, LICSW, who served as our Executive Director for the past three years. Terry recently accepted a leadership position within the Tenet Healthcare organization. SYFS is certainly a better agency through her dedicated work and commitment over the past three years. We wish Terry continued success. As this annual report is going to the printer, the Board of Directors is in the final stage of selecting new leadership for the agency. The board is extremely appreciative of the efforts of all the SYFS staff, and in particular Anna Chittim, LMHC, Senior Clinical Coordinator and Interim Executive Director, who have joined forces to be sure the agency continued its mission of meeting the needs of all our clients.

We are appreciative for the continued financial support we receive from the Town of Shrewsbury, the business community and the residents of Shrewsbury. We are also extremely grateful and proud to have raised \$83,000 at our 2016 Annual Gala. The \$83,000 coupled with the town appropriation of \$75,000, individual and corporate donations, client co-pays, grants, and third party reimbursements, allow SYFS to continue to deliver a wide range of social services to the residents of Shrewsbury in a most cost-efficient manner.

The generosity of all our donors and supporters give further witness to Aristotle's words, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Respectfully Submitted,

*Thomas M. Kennedy*

Thomas M. Kennedy  
 Chair, Board of Directors

# Our Mission

It is the mission of Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. (SYFS) to work in collaboration with others to provide counseling, education and prevention services to strengthen and enhance the lives of all those who live or work in Shrewsbury.

# Our Services

## Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services

### Counseling Services

- Comprehensive Assessments
- Treatment Planning
- Psycho-educational Groups
- Individual, Family, Couples
- Risk Assessments/Safety Planning
- Trauma Informed Care
- Relapse Prevention
- School-based Counseling
- Support Groups
- Transition and Discharge Planning
- Parent Support
- Employee Assistance Programs

### Positive Youth Development Programs

- 5,2,1,0 Obesity Prevention
- You Go, Girl! (Middle School Girls)
- Way to Go, Guys! (Middle School boys)
- T.R.A.I.L. Blazers (High School Leadership)
- Anti-Bullying Programs (All Programs)
- Partnerships for Healthy Pathways
- Youth Board Liaisons (High School)
- Youth Volunteers
- TheraPM- (High School)

### Empower Shrewsbury Programs

- Case Management
- Community Outreach
- Advocacy
- Fuel Assistance
  - SMOC
  - SELCO
  - SOAR
- Referral & linkages
  - Shelter/Housing
  - Food
  - State Resources
  - Financial/Debt
  - Links to special program
  - Insurance Applications
- Holiday Gift Giving Program
- Health Care Linkages
- SCAPE Drug Free Coalition

# How We Help

**We are proud that for over 32 years we have helped strengthen and improve the quality of life for the residents of Shrewsbury who need us. We would not be here without your support. Here are some of the ways we helped this year:**

- We helped empower young girls and build confidence with after-school and summer programs.
- We worked to foster community collaboration to address social issues that threaten our community.
- We ensured Shrewsbury citizens had access to affordable quality counseling in their community. No one was ever turned away based on inability to pay.
- We worked toward promoting overall health and well-being within the community through such programs as “5,2,1,0 Let’s Go!” for youth, and “Live Your Life Well” for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- We trained future therapists, counselors, psychologists and social workers and fostered a holistic, strength-based and collaborative approach with colleges and universities.
- We ensured that families in need received assistance in applying for federal fuel programs and had a plan to keep warm in winter.
- We provided opportunities for high school students to learn and practice leadership skills that will guide them in their future.
- We helped disadvantaged families by finding needed resources through our free case management services.
- We provided opportunities for young girls to hear from female role models in the community and to learn about opportunities for their futures.
- We were a resource for many town departments and community partners.
- We helped young boys strengthen social skills and self-confidence through our in school, after school and summer programs.
- SYFS provided onsite services to the individuals that live at the Shrewsbury Housing Authority. Services were geared to helping residents improve self-care, increase support and decrease isolation. Staff were available to any of the 400+ residents.
- We worked to eradicate bullying of every type by embedding an anti-bullying curriculum in all our youth and parent programs.
- We used evidence-based and research supported practices to ensure optimal care and the best possible outcomes for the people we work with.
- We were a resource to staff and students in the public schools and private schools in Shrewsbury.
- We worked with our regional Department of Public Health to learn what we can do about the Opioid problem.
- We strived to stay abreast of the community needs and address them to the best of our ability.

# SYFS Highlights

**July:** Summer Programs are in full swing offering 4 weeks of summer activities.

**August:** Hannah Kane generously hosts the Hannah Kane Charity Classic and raises \$17,000 for SYFS.

**September:** Graduate interns begin placement in several community locations. SYFS sponsors a table at The Spirit of Shrewsbury.

**October:** Knights of Columbus hosts the Annual Breakfast. Speaker Ellen Dolan shared the progress on the Library project and Dan Barbour received the Mike Gregory Award for Outstanding Service.

**November:** Fuel Assistance Program is in full swing. Donations of Thanksgiving turkeys are distributed to families in need.

**December:** SYFS staff and interns assist with the Annual Holiday Toy Drive organized by LouAnn Geer.

**January:** Shrewsbury Library Staff and Northborough Police Department are trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

**February:** Everyone is working hard on Gala preparations. Auction items are coming in: thank you to all the generous donors.

**March:** Maria Munro generously chairs our annual gala. Our heartfelt appreciation to Karen Bean for her help with the auction, to our generous sponsors, donors, supporters and volunteers!

**April:** New graduate interns are interviewed and selected for the new school year.

**May:** A summer program coordinator is hired and summer interns are interviewed and selected.

**June:** Summer programs begin!

## Numbers Served

**1627 program participants**

**221 Referrals were received for counseling or case management services**

**162 Individuals were provided in office counseling**

**164 Students received school based counseling**

**167 Citizens received case management services**

**79 Disadvantaged families received fuel assistance**

**82 Students participated in our Coghlin Youth Development Programs**

**154 Citizens certified in YMHFA directly impacting 338 youth**

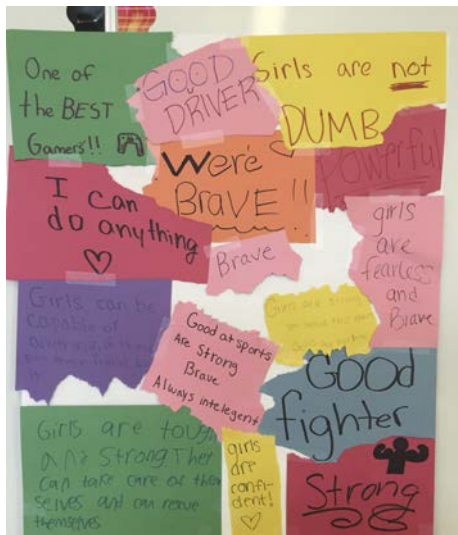




# THE COGHLIN PROGRAMS:



**Way To Go Guys**



**You Go, Girl!!**



YOUTH  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
FIRST AID®

In September 2015, SYFS was awarded a 3-year Project Aware grant, funded by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association, to implement The National Council on Behavioral Health's Youth Mental Health First Aid Certification program in the Shrewsbury, Worcester, Grafton, Westborough, Northborough and Southborough communities. This grant requires that SYFS train and certify a minimum of 100 community members in Youth Mental Health First Aid during the first year, and 200 community members each year in years two and three. Statistics tell us that over 50% of mental illness begins before the age of 14 and suicide is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among adolescents. We also know that 90% of mental illness is responsive to treatment with early intervention. Our task is to disseminate information to educators, first responders, parents, faith based leaders, coaches and other caring citizens who are in contact with adolescents. By participating in this 8-hour certification program, community members are taught how to identify early signs and symptoms of the more common mental illnesses and challenges affecting today's young people and are then given a 5 step action plan to intervene and link the young person to the appropriate services. We are thrilled to report that the community has embraced this program with open arms and we successfully certified over 150 people during year one. Among the many who have partnered with us in this program are The Northborough Police Department, The Shrewsbury Public Library, The Northborough Public Library, St Bernadette School, the Department of Developmental Services, Westborough and Grafton High Schools and many more. We will continue to deepen our relationships with our community partners through this impactful program over the next two years. Classes will be scheduled regularly and registration is available through the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services website.

**Testimony from Certified Youth Mental Health First Aiders:**

*"I view things differently after having taken this class. I now have a better understanding of my role with regard to those around me in need. I know when to speak up."*

*"I feel confident, now having taken the course, that if and when a situation occurs, I can take the necessary steps to make a referral to the appropriate adult."*

*"This program has significantly increased my awareness of when it is appropriate to intervene in a situation, and how to do so. I believe that everyone will benefit from this program."*

# Hannah Kane 2nd Annual Charity Classic



To State Representative Hannah Kane, her supporters, community volunteers, The  
Haven Country Club and all the generous donors of

The Hannah Kane 2nd Annual

Charity Classic:

The staff and clients of Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services would like to offer our congratulations on the success of this year's tournament and extend a warm and heart felt thank you for all your hard work and continued support of our agency. The event was the perfect opportunity for all to connect with friends, both old and new, while enjoying a beautiful, fun-filled summer day and supporting three very worthy organizations. The commitment of the sponsors, the donors and the golfers once again resulted in exceedingly generous donations to SYFS, St. Anne's Human Services and The Westborough Food Pantry. Please know that your donation will be used to support our clinical programs, youth development and programs for the elder population in our community. Your contributions allow us to persistently work toward our continued mission of strengthening Shrewsbury's families.



# 2016 GALA





# 2016 Gala



## Gala Committee

Maria Munro— 2016

Gala Chair

Terry Cassidy

Liz Clemenzi

Karen Donovan Bean

Brian Dugan

Lisa Easson

Michelle Duke

Michael Gregory

Derek Grillo

James Heald

Tom Hopkins

Tom Kennedy

Kathleen Keohane

Christine Mowry

Lynn Lynch

Sara Port

Melissa Pride-Fahs

## Photography

Joyce Maranto of Ma-  
ranto Studios

## Flowers

Danielson Flowers

## Audio/Visual

Shrewsbury Media Con-  
nection

## Entertainment

Say It Again

Gail Fabbri

## Youth Volunteers

Erin Bean

Abby Bryant

Liam Davidson

Shivum Patel

Hannah Plifka

Madison Dugan

Patrick Duke

Madison Kane

Hannah Dugan

Michael Keohane

Margaret Easson

Kam Kristen

Dan Laursen

Ava Munro

Ela Berkman

Grace Pride

Evan Radovanic

Chase Munro

Ryan Conant





*In Appreciation of our Generous Sponsors:*

***Presenting Sponsor***

*Grossman Development Group*

***Platinum II Sponsor***

*Navin, Haffty & Associates*

***Platinum Sponsor***

*Webster Five Foundation*

***Platinum Sponsor***

*Wheelabrator Technologies*

***Gold Sponsor***

*Central One Federal Credit Union*

***Gold Sponsor***

*Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union*

***Gold Sponsor***

*Dunkin Donuts*

# Client Testimonial

“Just a short note, but with a lot of tears. I can’t believe how thoughtful you are. You are an angel, always picking me up and dusting me off and letting me know, in your way, that it’s okay and everything will be fine. I know in my heart without my two doctors and you and your interns, I would not be here. I am so grateful that I am lost for words. I hope you know I consider you my family. I have no one else. Thanks from the bottom of my heart and may the angel wings cover you and keep you warm and don’t worry, God has the rest. God bless from someone who is lost for words but can only say thanks for being in my corner and caring.”

“I don’t know if it’s possible to thank you enough for everything you have done for me. Looking back now, I can’t even believe how far I’ve come and how much have grown as a person. Thanks to your advice, and strategies to help me cope, as well as your in-



sightful words of wisdom, I have totally transformed. I will never forget all the help you have given me and how you built me up to make me even stronger than I was before. I believe I can handle anything now! And if it turns out I can’t, I know where to find you.”

“Our therapist provided wonderful care for our son. He happily went each week to see her. We are very grateful.”

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

## OFFICERS

<b>Thomas Kennedy, Chairman</b>	Director of Human Resources, Shrewsbury Public Schools (retired)
<b>Kim Kusiak, M.D., Vice Chair</b>	Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
<b>Michael Rooney, Treasurer</b>	Vice President & CFO, Central One Federal Credit Union
<b>Liz Clemenzi, Secretary</b>	Principal, Commonwealth Appraisal Services
<b>Michael Gregory</b>	Manager, UMASS Medical (retired)
<b>Brian Dugan</b>	General Manager, The Haven Country Club
<b>Susan Haffty</b>	Social Worker
<b>Melissa Pride-Fahs</b>	President and CEO, Emerge Marketing, Inc.
<b>Ron Alarie</b>	Shrewsbury Building Inspector (retired)
<b>James Heald</b>	Owner, Heald & Chiampa Funeral Home
<b>Thomas Hopkins</b>	LICSW –Director, UMASS EAP
<b>Sandy Jenkins-Bryant, Esq.</b>	Attorney-at-Law, member of A.D.V.I.S.E
<b>Hannah Kane</b>	Massachusetts State Representative
<b>Kim Long</b>	Community Activist, Volunteer and Organizer
<b>Jason Palitsch</b>	Government & Public Affairs Specialist at Veterans, Inc.
<b>Helen McLaughlin</b>	Shrewsbury Resident, Retired member of A.D.V.I.S.E.
<b>Joseph Palomba, M.D.</b>	Emergency Department Physician, Shrewsbury Resident
<b>Melanie Petrucci</b>	Shrewsbury Town Meeting Member, Shrewsbury Social Club
<b>Antonio Simas</b>	Director, Customer Interaction Center - NSTAR (retired)
<b>Joanne Tyndall</b>	Co-Chair A.D.V.I.S.E., Shrewsbury Resident

## STUDENT LIAISONS

<b>Liam Davidson</b>	<i>St. John's HS Class of 2016</i>
<b>Erin Bean</b>	<i>Shrewsbury HS Class of 2017</i>
<b>Bruce Dolan</b>	<i>Shrewsbury HS Class of 2016</i>
<b>Madison Dugan</b>	<i>Shrewsbury HS Class of 2017</i>
<b>Shivum Patel</b>	<i>Shrewsbury HS Class of 2017</i>

# Staff and Personnel 2015-2016

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * <i>Terry Cassidy, LICSW, Executive Director</i>            | * <i>Pooja Khialani, Psy.D, Psychologist</i> |
| * <i>Anna Chittim, LMHC, Senior Clinical Coordinator</i>     | * <i>Nicole Muratore, LMHC, Therapist</i>    |
| * <i>Christine Mowry, BA, Development , YMHFA Instructor</i> | * <i>Kristyn Chevalier, LMHC, Therapist</i>  |
| * <i>Lynn Lynch, MBA, Administrative Assistant</i>           | * <i>Judith Tully, LICSW, Therapist</i>      |
| * <i>Justin Mussler, BA, YMHFA Project Director</i>          | * <i>Emily Van Ness, LICSW , Therapist</i>   |
| * <i>Rachel Baldino LCSW, Therapist</i>                      | * <i>Kyra Berube, LMHC, Therapist</i>        |



## Graduate Students and Counseling Interns

- \* Christina Brown (Masters in Counseling Psychology, Assumption College)
- \* Leanne Carson (Psy.D. , William James College)
- \* Alessandra Frissora (Psy.D. , William James College)
- \* Donna Lang (Masters in Social Work, Boston University)
- \* Kelsy Rondeau (Masters in Counseling, Bridgewater State University)
- \* Jonathan Scully (Masters in Counseling Psychology, Assumption College)
- \* Anita Tapia (Psy.D. , William James College)

## Summer Program Volunteer & Interns

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| * Julianne Roderick | Program Coordinator                    |
| * Julia Schaefer    | Shrewsbury High School                 |
| * Olivia Juairé     | Shrewsbury High School                 |
| * Mark Joyce        | M.A. in Counseling, Assumption College |

## Michael Gregory Award

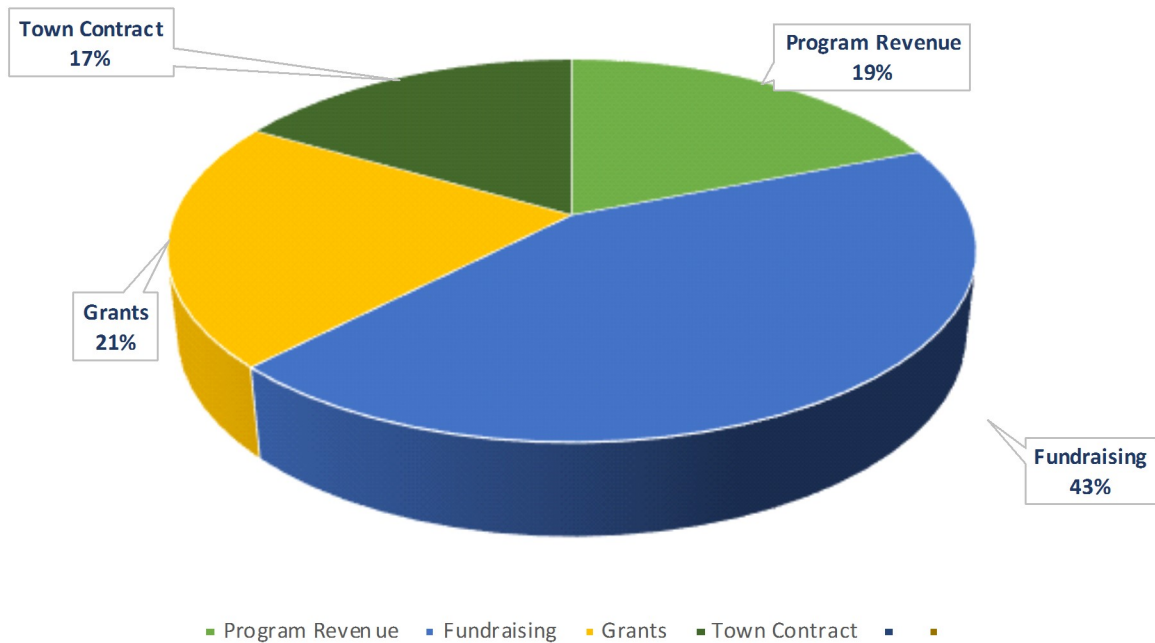
The Michael Gregory award, named in recognition of its inaugural recipient, honors an **exceptional individual** whose efforts have worked to serve Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. This individual is a true champion of the agency.

### **2016 Winner**

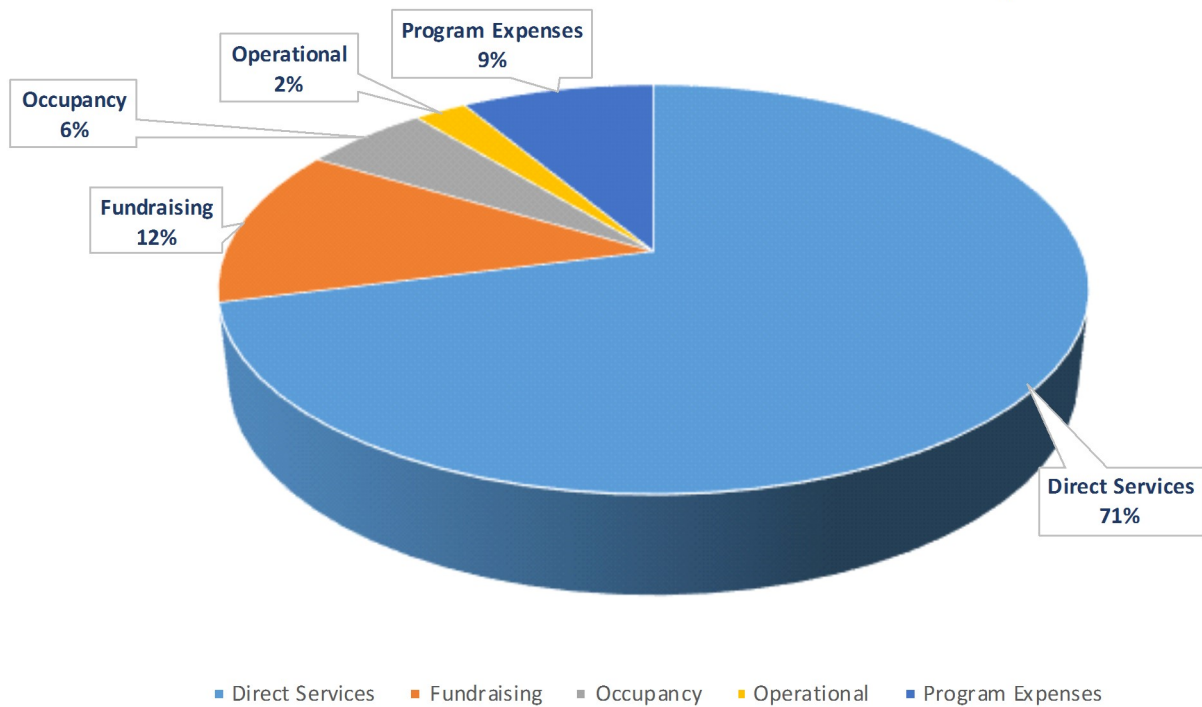
This year we are honored to recognize **Kathleen Keohane** for her passion and dedication to the mission of SYFS and for the community as a whole. Kathleen has tirelessly volunteered her time and energy to SYFS for the past several years, with particular attention during Gala season. Her patience with staff and volunteers as she teaches us how to streamline gala procedures is very much appreciated! Many thanks, Kathleen!

# SYFS FINANCES

## 2015-2016 Revenue



## 2015-2016 Expense



# Community Partners

**SYFS values our collaborative relationships with so many dedicated partners, all working to make this community stronger. We thank you for your efforts.**

**A.D.V.I.S.E. (Against Domestic Violence in Shrewsbury Education)**

**First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury**

**Central One Federal Credit Union**

**Central MA Department of Public Health**

**Emerald Club**

**Fallon Health**

**Knights of Columbus**

**Reliant Medical Group Foundation**

**Rotary Club of Shrewsbury**

**Shrewsbury Council on Aging**

**Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union**

**Shrewsbury Fire Fighters Association**

**Shrewsbury Lion's Club**

**Shrewsbury Media Connection**

**Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation**

**Shrewsbury Police Department**

**Shrewsbury Public Library**

**Shrewsbury Public School District**

**Shrewsbury Public Housing Authority**

**Shrewsbury Social Club**

**St. Mary's School**

**SOAR– Shrewsbury Oil Assistance Relief**

**Town of Shrewsbury**



As John F. Kennedy noted:

*“There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction.”*

*We do our best to list our sponsors and community partners accurately. If we have made any errors, please contact an Executive Director at (508) 845-6932.*

*Please visit our website:*

*[www.syfs-ma.org](http://www.syfs-ma.org)*

*Like us on Facebook!*





**SHREWSBURY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.**  
STRENGTHENING SHREWSBURY'S FAMILIES  
SINCE 1983

**240 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545-2655  
[www.syfs-ma.org](http://www.syfs-ma.org)**

**Phone: 508.845.6932  
Fax: 508.845.7264  
Email: [SYFS@townisp.com](mailto:SYFS@townisp.com)**





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the Committee approve the minutes of the School Committee meetings on September 8, 2016 (Workshop) and December 7, 2016?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. The minutes are enclosed.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee approve the minutes of the School Committee meetings on September 8, 2016 (Workshop) and December 7, 2016.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

**School Committee Workshop  
Shrewsbury Town Hall  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

**Thursday, September 8, 2016**

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano, Mr. John Samia

The meeting was convened by Sandy Fryc at 7:00pm

**Sub Committee Assignments**

Ms. Fryc announced the following sub committee assignments for the 2016-2017 School Committee year: Student Advisory Council – Jon Wensky; Health & Wellness – Dale Magee; Fiscal 17 Guidelines, Priorities/Projections – John Samia & Dale Magee; Policy – Erin Canzano & Jon Wensky; PTO Presidents Meetings – Dale Magee & Sandy Fryc; Turf Field Project – Jon Wensky. In addition to these sub committee assignments, Ms. Fryc also discussed attending PTO meetings in late Fall (before budget season) and then again in March to continue community outreach and awareness.

**Long Term Fiscal Projections**

Ms. Fryc opened discussion on the critical need for long term fiscal projections and priorities. The committee discussed the goal of this exercise, being lead by Mr. Samia and Dr. Magee along with the Central Office team. Mr. Samia said that with 80% of budget as head count, we should be able to present clear and concise projections that include an estimate, by category, of the remaining 20% of expenses - over a 5 year period. Dr. Magee said the message communicated should be specific to how low funding is vs. actual expenditures and illustrate how the state is not keeping up with the current state of educational expenses. Additionally, Dr. Magee requested that we breakdown of special education costs and explain that special education has multiple sources of revenue (Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, and Federal Grants). It is important to show the public exactly where the money comes from – define what circuit breaker is, explain the scope of the special education program, and highlight how many spikes in cost and what contributed to these spikes.

**School Committee Priorities**

The committee discussed the priorities of the board for the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Samia wants the committee to think about how we can better function as a committee, including receiving consistent access to other members of the front office staff, paying sufficient attention to school finances, and obtaining documentation well in advance of any upcoming meetings. The committee unanimously agreed that receiving General meeting information on the Friday before a Wednesday meeting provides sufficient time to review materials.

**School Outreach/Visits with Principals**

Mr. Wensky expressed interest in doing more school visits and scheduling meetings with each of the principals throughout the year. Ms. Fryc recommended working with Dr. Sawyer to schedule.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Dale Magee, seconded by Erin Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Roll call votes are as follows: John Samia, Yes; Erin Canzano, yes;, Jon Wensky, yes; Dale Magee, yes; Sandy Fryc, Yes;

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon Wensky  
Secretary

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**December 7, 2016**

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. John Samia; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, 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**

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

Dr. Magee reported that the Massachusetts Medical Society passed a resolution on Epi-pens that was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatricians and reflected the policy passed by the Shrewsbury School Committee earlier in 2016.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer noted that the Feasibility Study for the Beal Early Childhood Building Project was unanimously approved at the Special Town Meeting held on December 5, 2016, and noted that next steps include hiring a Project Manager and Designer. Dr. Sawyer congratulated the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Football team on being the Division 2 state runners-up, noted that the Shrewsbury School Journal was delivered to homes the previous week, and encouraged students to follow him on Twitter, which he is using to promote increased awareness around substance abuse.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. Shrewsbury High School Student Advisory Committee (SAC): Report**

Benjamin George, Student, Class of 2018, SAC Chair; Vikram Pathalam, Student, Class of 2017; Mark Bray, Student, Class of 2017; Maya McCollum, Student, Class of 2018; and Prisha Singh, Student, Class of 2019, presented to the Committee, and Mr. Andrew Smith, SHS Teacher and Faculty Advisor to the SAC; and Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal, were in attendance.

The students provided information on a variety of issues that were brought up at the student Town Meeting, discussed the results of the SHS mock election, and talked about the work of the Technology Advisory Group. They also highlighted recent activities at SHS, including the Chinese Student Exchange Program, food drive, the Fall Play, and the phenomenal success enjoyed by all Fall sports teams at SHS.

The Committee and Dr. Sawyer thanked the SAC for their work and noted the importance of students having a voice in their community.

## **V. Curriculum**

### **A. Shrewsbury High School Testing: Annual Report**

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling, Shrewsbury High School, gave a presentation on testing at SHS, and noted that the statistics to be discussed had already been shared with other members of the leadership team. Tests addressed included SATs, ACTs, Subject Tests, PSAT/NMSQT and Advanced Placement (AP). A tremendous amount of data was presented, including information on year to year results and gender differences on exams. It was noted that while mean SAT scores had dropped very slightly from the previous year, our students' scores still placed well above state and national averages.

Mr. Bazydlo advised that SHS would continue to offer affordable SAT prep courses to students, and would work to expand opportunities for AP courses, but noted that space would be a factor in determining the extent of any potential expansion. He added that student participation had increased on the ACT, and that a Redesigned SAT exam would be administered going forward.

The Committee asked clarifying questions on the growing nationwide trend of grade nine students taking AP courses, the availability of information to SHS students regarding which colleges and universities provide college credit for AP courses taken, what schools look for in students' portfolios when standardized test scores are not reported, and the accessibility of college classes to existing SHS seniors. Dr. Sawyer noted that a consortium of colleges was exploring the use electronic portfolios started in grade nine by students, and that the reception so far was mixed. He added that the Naviance software program used by students at SHS might offer information on AP credit at colleges, and Mr. Bazydlo advised that students were very cognizant of which schools provided credit.

Ms. Fryc asked about taking a deeper dive around information related to test scores. Mr. Bazydlo noted they would be looking at analysis from the College Board, and noted that new

metrics for the SAT would be utilized next year with the Redesigned SAT. He also advised that each class of students varies in terms of collective versus focused academic strength.

Dr. Sawyer thanked Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Nguyen for the detailed report. He noted that the data would be used to strengthen any areas where there might be a need, was indicative of an overall strong performance, and offered assurance that students had access to an academic program needed to be successful.

## **V. Curriculum**

### **B. State Standardized Testing: Annual Report**

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Michelle Dillon, Oak Middle Science Teacher; and Jennifer Dufault, Oak Middle Math Teacher gave a presentation on state testing that included information on the PARCC and MCAS exams. Principal Ann Jones was in attendance at the meeting but did not present.

Ms. Banios began the presentation by advising that state testing in Massachusetts is in a state of transition. She noted that different exams - PARCC, MCAS - are currently taken across the state, and added that no state averages or item analysis is available for the PARCC exam. Other variables include the testing mode (computer-based or paper-based) and different performance level designations between PARCC and MCAS.

Ms. Dillon provided information on PARCC English Language Arts (ELA) data, and Ms. Dufault reported PARCC Mathematics data; both provided an example of a Released Item. Ms. Banios provided information on MCAS ELA and Mathematics levels, and noted that different comparison districts were used for the PARCC and MCAS results because different school districts chose different exams during the state's transition period. Ms. Dillon presented information on MCAS science results and noted that students were stronger on complex questions than recall questions. When discussing growth scores in ELA and Mathematics, Ms. Banios noted that these are intended to show a student's change in growth from the beginning to the end of the school year. The report also included information on Spring 2017 testing, and changes for the 2018-19 school year.

The Committee asked questions about measuring growth, data accessibility, and the use of technology for online test taking. Ms. Banios noted that while state testing is in transition, we do have other test data and internal measures and assessments that can be utilized in the interim.

Dr. Sawyer noted that Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) has a strong curriculum, strong teachers, and engaged students, and represents a strong socio-economic demographic. He added that doing the right thing educationally doesn't necessarily improve test scores, such as focusing on deeper understanding of science concepts vs. drilling students on content recall to prepare for the Grade 8 science test. He also noted that on the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) test, results of which had just been released, Massachusetts was considered as its own country and tied for first in the world in reading, tied for second in the world in

science, and had relatively strong results in math. He went on to say that given the PISA results, and the fact that SPS is among top performing districts in Massachusetts, this is evidence that our students are the beneficiaries of a world class education. Dr. Sawyer added that a recent initiative tasked with determining the skills and knowledge needed for high school students called “Portrait of a Graduate” had garnered over 50 applications from individuals who wanted to be on the working group. He closed by noting that as state testing protocol evolves, it may overlap more and more with SPS’s Strategic Priorities. Finally, he thanked the presenters for their report.

## **VI. Policy**

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Enrollment Projections: Annual Report**

Mr. Collins noted that the purpose of the annual enrollment report was to provide information for the next school year so that staffing and classroom numbers can be determined, and to provide long-term information for space planning needs. Mr. Collins provided two sets of enrollment information representing different methodologies utilized by the Town Manager, and by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), and noted that both show growth for next year. Mr. Collins also presented a third projection provided by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on K-4 enrollment, and noted that SPS had agreed to use this data in order to continue with the Beal Early Childhood Building Project with MSBA. Mr. Collins advised that the MSBA projection included additional variables, and Dr. Sawyer added that the MSBA projection is conservative in that they set the design number below peak enrollment.

Mr. Collins presented historical information and future projections using the Town Manager and NESDEC data, and noted that actual enrollment for 2016-17 exceeded both predictions. He added that both projections indicate a K-12 enrollment increase for next year, with high school enrollment expected to exceed the design capacity of the building.

Mr. Samia noted that some previous projections of future enrollment decreases did not materialize, and that SPS actually experienced enrollment increases. Dr. Sawyer noted factors that contributed to this, including the changes in the district retaining a greater number of students entering Grade 6, where a previous trend was for many students to leave for charter schools, and this year fewer students leaving the district at the grade 8 to grade 9 transition. He stressed the importance of the Beal Early Childhood Building Project moving forward to address space and enrollment issues at the K-4 level and that the district would continue to be thoughtful in its use of space.

## **VIII. Old Business**

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update**

Dr. Sawyer gave the first of four annual updates on the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC). He provided a report prepared by AVC Executive Director Cathy Cummins, which contained multiple links to information on legislative updates, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines, FY16 accomplishments, and current priorities and challenges.

Dr. Sawyer noted that space continues to be an issue for AVC, and advised that relocation options are being investigated, and include the potential for purchase of additional building spaces. He also advised that the quality of programming keeps improving for the high-need students at AVC. There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on November 16, 2016, and the minutes of the School Committee meeting on November 9, 2016, **as amended** by replacing the verbiage *Dr. Magee thanked the group for the vast amount of information provided.* with the verbiage *Dr. Magee thanked the district staff for all of their work on the health and environmental report. He also stated that Gale Associates should have anticipated the need for information on the health and environmental effects of the turf fields and that they should consider providing this for their clients in the future.*

## **XI. Executive Session**

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations related to collective bargaining with, and a grievance by, the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A, and negotiations related to collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes, the Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:03 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Dr. Magee, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.



Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. NESDEC Enrollment Projection
2. Town Manager's Enrollment Projection
3. Assabet Valley Collaborative 1st School Committee Report
4. Enrollment Projection Presentation Slides
5. Enrollment Projection Report
6. Student Advisory Council Agenda
7. SHS Testing Report
8. SHS Testing Slide Presentation
9. State Testing Report
10. State Testing Slide Presentation



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **12/21/16**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of acting on and/or discussing:

- A. a student residency issue per Policy #621
- B. negotiations related to collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B
- C. negotiations related to a grievance by the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A

where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Executive session is warranted for these purposes.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee enter into executive session.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Director of Human Resources  
Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ITEM NO: XII. Adjournment**