

**School Committee Workshop
Shrewsbury High School
Principal's Conference Room
64 Holden Street
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Mr. Patrick Collins

Ms. Fryc called the meeting to order at 5:10

Dr. Sawyer discussed the budget presentation for the 1/25/17 School Committee meeting. During the discussion, there were references to the State of the District presentation & Fiscal Projections review provided to the public at the 1/13/17 School Committee meeting. Dr. Sawyer advised that the overall focus of the budget presentation would factor in rising student enrollment, lack of space in our elementary school, and the importance of the Beal School project to the future of the school district. Additionally, the educational needs of special population would be emphasized. In addition to SPED student needs, English Language Learners (ELL) are becoming a larger population and can vary in intensity, facing state mandates – less English, more mandated services must be provided to ELL students by the district. Dr. Sawyer advised that SPED volume has not changed, but the intensity level of the student needs have increased, requiring additional services. He also advised that 81% of the FY 18 budget is centered on staffing costs. Dr. Sawyer also advised that the SPS curriculum budget is level due in large part to the sustained benefits of technology in the classroom.

Dr. Magee advised educating the town on the budget cycle and explains how education costs run the school district. He added that the school district provides a service to the community and 81% of the budget is the personnel that provide the service to their children. Mr. Samia followed up these comments by advising that the cost increases for personnel are modest (4-5%) when considering there are over 6,000 students in the district. He advised that there is very little room to remove personnel without significantly impacting the services we are providing to these students. Mr. Samia feels it's important to convey that education costs money and our schools are what is driving our community, as we are a destination for good schools and lack the revenue to support the required services.

Ms. Canzano wants to see where the potential budget cuts would put the district in comparison to before the 2014 override approval. She's concerned that we are going backwards on the gains SPS experienced after the override and the conflict that the Beal project would present to provide adequate funding for the existing schools in the district.

The committee recommended that the 1/25 budget presentation provide a high level overview of the FY 18 budget proposal. The request was made for more charts and less focus on the granular details that are available for review in the budget packet.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Samia, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:01pm. 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