

School Committee Meeting

March 26, 2014 7:00 pm

Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA



March 26, 2014 7:00pm Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room

<u>Item</u> :	<u>Sugges</u>	ted time allotments
I.	Public Participation	7:00 – 7:10
II.	Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports	
III.	Superintendent's Report	
IV.	Time Scheduled Appointments	
V.	Curriculum	
VI.	Policy A. Public Hearing on School Choice B. School Choice for 2014-2015: Vote C. Collective Bargaining – Educator Evaluation: Vote	7:10 - 7:25 7:25 - 7:30 7:30 - 7:40
VII.	Budget A. Tuition and Fees: Report & Discussion B. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Discussion	7:40 7:50 7:50 8:15
VIII.	Old Business A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Recommendation: Vote	8:15 - 8:20
IX.	New Business A. Beal Early Childhood Center: Massachusetts School Building Authority Board – Potential Action	8:20 – 8:30
X.	Approval of Minutes	8:30 – 8:35
XI.	Executive Session	8:35 – 9:00
XII.	Information Enclosures	
XIII.	Adjournment	9:00

Next meeting: April 9, 2014



ITEM NO: I. Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

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 Ms. Sandra Fryc, 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:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. John Samia, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jason Palitsch, Secretary

Ms. Erin Canzano, Committee Member

Dr. B. Dale Magee, 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.





ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointment

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:





ITEM NO: V. Curriculum

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION





ITEM NO: VI. Policy

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

A. Public Hearing on School Choice

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hold a public hearing in order to listen to feedback on the topic of the potential for participation in inter-district school choice in 2014-2015 school year?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The public and members of the School Department are invited to provide input to the School Committee and the administration regarding the school choice program option.

2. This public hearing will satisfy the requirements of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 12B which requires a public hearing prior to a potential School Committee vote to not participate in or to otherwise restrict the provisions of the interdistrict school choice program.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hold a public hearing in order to listen to feedback on the topic of the potential for participation in inter-district school choice in 2014-2015 school year.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools





Liam T. Hurley Director of Business Services

26 March 2014

To: School Committee

Subj: SCHOOL CHOICE INFORMATION

Background

On January 8, 2014 I presented a School Choice and Charter School update. This memo is intended to provide information on the School Choice program. A vote by the School Committee is required each year to determine whether the district will participate in the school choice program.

School Choice

The FY2011 school year was the first year that the district accepted school choice students. The Committee voted on 28 April 2010 to approve school choice for a maximum of 20 grade 9 students at Shrewsbury High School commencing in FY11. Currently, a total of 13 students are attending Shrewsbury High School (12 as seniors and 1 junior) as 7 students have opted out of the program since inception due attrition or family moves. Additional School Choice students were not recommended due to enrollment figures since FY11.

The school choice program allows parents to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside.

Sending:

The information below from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education summarizes Shrewsbury's history on "sending" students and the corresponding costs by fiscal year. Historically, the number of students/families who have chosen to be educated in public schools districts other than Shrewsbury has been few. The following reasons are given by those who choose to participate in the School Choice program:

- ► convenience for parent/family work schedules and students
- ▶ students having difficulty in a school and are seeking a new environment
- ▶ families who moved to Shrewsbury with students completing their education in communities they have left
- ▶ families who desire full day kindergarten and were not able to access this in Shrewsbury.

The FY14 has 30.0 students (up from 28.6 in FY13) attending the following public schools:

Auburn	2	Northbridge	1
Berlin-Boylston	2	Virtual Academy	2
West Boylston	2	Worcester	16
Boylston	1		
Clinton	2		
Grafton	1		
Ralph C Mahar	1		

The grade distribution is as follows:

K-4	10 students	5-8	12 students	9-12	8 Students

The table below provides historical enrollment and a fiscal recap for Shrewsbury students attending other schools as part of the School Choice Program.

Year	FTE Pupils	Sending Tuition
2005	17.1	\$104,140
2006	16.5	\$88,162
2007	10.0	\$61,861
2008	13.7	\$78,480
2009	18.5	\$106,835
2010	21.2	\$113,286
2011	19.5	\$107,984
2012	26.3	\$149,193
2013	28.6	\$144,191
2014*	30.0	\$168,050

*Preliminary

The School Choice program has a \$5,000 payment cap for regular education students. Additional payment amounts exist for special education students correlating to the type of services provided by the receiving school district.

Receiving:

FY11 was the first year the district began hosting school choice students. Of the 20 existing slots, 17 were filled by 1 September 2010. The remaining 3 openings were filled during the month of November. This translated to 19.2 FTE (Full Time Equivalency) for FY 11. As mentioned above, no new school choice students were recommended since FY11, and the FTE has now dropped to 13 students.

Once students are enrolled in the program they are entitled to attend until graduation.

The sending districts and corresponding students for FY14 include 13 students from the following districts:

Berlin Boylston	1	Quabbin	1
Grafton	1	Worcester	9
Mendon Upton	1		

Receipts for school choice occur in December, March and June. The revenue is deposited to a revolving account established for school choice receipts for the district's use; no further appropriation by local governance is required.

Year	FTE Pupils	Receiving Tuition
2011	19.2	\$96,050
2012	15	\$79,568
2013	13	\$69,167
2014	13	\$69,167





ITEM NO: VI. Policy MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

B. School Choice for 2014-2015: Vote

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee discuss and vote to approve the recommendation regarding the potential for participation in inter-district school choice in 2014-2015 school year?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Shrewsbury Public Schools has only participated in school choice on a limited basis which includes 12 students in the current senior class and one student in the junior class, all of whom entered as freshmen during the 2010-2011 school year when the capacity existed to enroll these students without requiring additional resources.

2. These students have generated \$5000 annually per student over this time, funds that are

used to offset high school program costs.

3. Because enrollment capacity is uncertain based on unknown levels of resources, the district administration is not recommending participation in school choice next year.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to decline participation in inter-district school choice in 2014-2015 school year.

AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools





ITEM NO: VI. Policy MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

C. Collective Bargaining – Educator Evaluation: Vote

Will the School Committee discuss and vote to ratify an agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association regarding the new educator evaluation system?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The state regulations regarding the evaluation of educators in Massachusetts public schools went into effect for Shrewsbury this year.

2. Certain elements of the education evaluation system are subject to collective bargaining. The School Committee reviewed a copy of a tentative agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association in executive session on March 19.

3. It is recommended that the School Committee ratify the tentative agreement. This agreement will then be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for review. It is anticipated that the DESE will certify that the agreement is in accordance with the new state regulations.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to ratify the written agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association that specifies how educator evaluation will be conducted in the Shrewsbury Public Schools, in accordance with new state regulations.

AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools





ITEM NO: VII. Budget

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

A. Tuition and Fees: Report & Discussion

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report on the current tuition and fees structure and discuss a proposed plan for the 2014-2015 school year?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Enclosed is a report from Mr. Hurley that provides an overview of the district's current tuition and fees structure.

2. As tuition and fees are key sources of revenue for the operation of the School Department, the administration recommends that they remain in place, regardless of the ultimate level of budget resources received from other sources.

3. Because tuition and fees have been subject to rate increases in recent years, and because families are shouldering significant costs as a result, the administration recommends that fees and tuition remain unchanged in Fiscal Year 2015.

4. If the School Committee agrees to maintain fees and tuition as they currently are, no action is required.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and provide feedback to the administration.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Liam T. Hurley, Director of Business Services Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools





Liam T. Hurley Director of Business Services

26 March 2014

To: School Committee

Subj: Recommendation regarding fees and tuition for Fiscal Year 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the current level of tuition and fees for various district programs and to recommend that the School Committee consider that the district keep its existing tuition rates and fees at current levels for Fiscal Year 2015. As you are aware, the School Committee has increase the tuition and fees in recent years and we believe that parents are paying a substantial amount in order to provide much needed revenue to the School Department. This memo outlines the current tuition and fee schedule and recommends no change for Fiscal Year 2015.

Full Day Kindergarten Recommendation

Keep the Full Day Kindergarten Fee at \$3,700 which was last increased in FY 14. The rate increased in FY13 from \$2,800 to \$3,200, however, the rate had not changed from the previous six years. The increased revenue along with the additional sections has helped to offset our budget during this challenging fiscal climate. The current rate is comparable with similar districts and still well below competitors in Shrewsbury. Additionally, we provide a state-mandated sliding financial aid scale for families in need.

Preschool Recommendation

Keep the Preschool Tuition rates that were increased (by 15%) in FY 14 and outlined below. The rate had also increased in FY13 by 10%, however, the rate had not changed from the previous four years. The increased revenue has helped offset our budget during this challenging fiscal climate. This increase is comparable with similar districts and still below competitors in Shrewsbury. Additionally, we provide a state-mandated sliding scale for families in need.

The existing Preschool tuition for FY15 is recommended.

Session	Annual fee	Monthly fee (9 Month Schedule)
2 day session	\$1,897.00/year	\$210.77/month
3 day session	\$2,466.00/year	\$274.00/month
4 day session	\$2,972.00/year	\$330.22/month
5 day session	\$3,637.00/year	\$404.11/month

The snack fee is currently \$1.00 to meet the actual cost of food services personnel and the snack and drinks provided and no change is recommended.

Extended School Care Recommendation

Extended School Care (E.S.C.) is a successful before and after school program which hosts over 500 children. The program has been operating for over 20 years. Currently, 43 staff support the children's academic and social development by providing challenging and entertaining activities.

It is recommended that rates for the E.S.C. Program remain unchanged and continue as the tuition rates outlined below. It is important to note that rates were increase in both FY14 and FY13 by 15% each year. However, previously the rates had not increased in over a decade and our rates compared to other programs are still below market. We do not recommend eliminating the sibling rate as this has been a long standing practice and believe it encourages families to participate in the program. We are recommending no tuition increase but believe we remain a competitive and reasonable option for families looking for before and after school options.

It is expected that E.S.C. will continue to help defray some of the costs associated with our operational budget as well as materials and supplies will be used for regular day programs whenever possible and allowable.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ESC FOR FY 15 - NO CHANGE IN EXISTING TUITION

AM	FY15 Monthly
Program	Regular/Sibling
2-Days	\$ 55.00/49.00
3-Days	\$ 82.00/74.00
4-Days	\$ 109.00/98.00
5-Days	\$136.00/122.00

PM	FY15 Monthly
Program	Regular/Sibling
2-Days	\$120.00/108.00
3-Days	\$179.00/161.00
4-Days	\$239.00/215.00
5-Days	\$299.00/269.00

AM/PM Program	FY15 Monthly Regular/Sibling
2-Days	\$175.00/157.00
3-Days	\$261.00/236.00
4-Days	\$348.00/314.00
5-Days	\$435.00/391.00

Registration Fee: \$20 returning student/ \$25 new student/ \$30 family



Shrewsbury Public Schools Massachusetts 01545

Liam T. Hurley Director of Business Services

Facility Rental Recommendation

All revenues for this function are deposited into the facility rental revolving account. All labor expenses (custodial, kitchen, audio visual) related to rental functions are paid out of this account as well as an appropriated budget System Wide Custodian OT account. We increased rates for FY13 (as shown below) and FY14 due to the rising cost of business and the 3 hour minimum custodian charge that was eroding revenue. We are recommending no increase to our facility rental rates as they have increase considerably in recent years.

The previous rate increases and recommended rates are listed in the table below. Labor costs for custodians and audio visual techs are typically paid at their hourly rate unless it is a night or weekend event where they are paid time and half.

Group	FY12 Rates	FY13 Rates	FY14 Rate	FY15 Recommended Rate	Dollar/% Increase
Category A: Recognized school or civic groups in Shrewsbury	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	N/A
Category B: Non-profit groups with majority participants from Shrewsbury	\$39/hour	\$75/hour	\$80/hour	\$80/hour	\$0
Category C: For profit groups and non-profits with fewer than half participants from Shrewsbury	\$78/hour (classroom) \$225/hour (gym, cafeteria, auditorium)	\$100/hour (classroom) \$250/hour (gym, cafeteria, auditorium)	\$105/hour (classroom) \$260/hour (gym, cafeteria, auditorium)	\$105/hour (classroom) \$260/hour (gym, cafeteria, auditorium)	\$0
Category D: For profit camps	11% of gross revenue	13% of gross revenue	15% of gross revenue	15% of gross revenue	0%

Current Additional charges that apply and no change recommended:

Cafeteria Worker: \$30/hour AV Technician: \$45/hour Additional Custodian: \$35/hour Police: billed by Police Dept.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools in partnership with the community, will provide students with the skills and knowledge for the 21^{st} century, an appreciation of our democratic tradition, and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.

Athletic Fee Recommendation

Starting in the fall of 2006, the School Committee introduced an athletic fee to all students participating in high school athletics. Athletes were required to pay an athletic fee of \$225.00 per sport with a maximum fee of \$675.00 per family per school year. Students approved for a free or reduced lunch paid \$25 per sport with a family cap of \$75. The following year the athletic fee was raised to its current pricing of \$290/Sport and \$870 family cap and free/reduced did not change. The athletic fee has not changed since 2007, despite increased costs since that time. Given the amount of fees that students and families are facing we are not recommending any increase to the current athletic fee structure.

Activity Fee Recommendation

In order to provide revenue required for academic programming, the Shrewsbury School Committee instituted an activity fee in FY08. The fee has remained the same since its inception and we recommend keeping the current fee structure:

Student Activity Fee: Middle School \$50 per activity/\$150 family cap

High School \$100 per activity/\$300 family cap

This fee will allow participation in as many activities as the student wishes. The only exceptions to the participation fee are those activities involving student government, honor societies or other elected positions, as well as programs that are entirely self-funded by a separate fee. The activity fees generate approximately \$80,000 a year which offsets the costs of these programs.

Transportation Fee Recommendation

The transportation fees generate additional revenues to aid in reducing amounts expensed to the appropriated budget for these services. The School department typically collects approximately \$600,000 from families to cover transportation expenses. The \$600,000 is approximately 27% of the \$2,209,320 (38 buses x \$323 per day in FY15 x 180 days) regular education busing cost.

The current fee is \$250 per student with a \$500 family cap and a late fee of \$50/rider (\$600 family cap late fee) for payment after June 1. The Transportation Fee went up in FY 10 from \$210 to \$250.

The recommendation is to keep the existing Transportation Fee of \$250 per student with a \$500 family cap and a late fee of \$50/rider (\$600 family cap late fee).

Technology Fee Recommendation

On June 6, 2012 the School Committee approved a Personal iPad Program for all 5th and 6th graders starting in the fall of 2012. As part of our Strategic Priorities to implement a one-to-one technology model for Students in Grade 5-12, we believe this fee will help fund and sustain this initiative. Our current fee structure is:

Annual Personal Take Home Technology Fee: \$165

Fee for "Bring Your Own iPad" to cover apps and management: \$40

School Use of iPad Only: \$0

There is a sliding financial aid scale for families who qualify for subsidized lunches.

Technology Fee Recommendation: No change is recommended for FY15 for the Personal iPad Program. The program is expected to be rolled out to 8th graders for this coming school year, so that it will be in effect for all middle grades (5-8).

Conclusion

Although we are facing significant budget constraints, it is recommended that we keep all fees and tuitions at their current levels. Many of the fees and tuitions have been raised in recent years and, although we would prefer not to have to charge fees or tuitions at all, we believe families are paying a fair rate and reasonable rate given our circumstances and when compared to other school districts. Increase fees will have the likely impact of reducing participation. These fees generate substantial money to help our operational budget, keep programs, and mitigate layoffs. We welcome your feedback in this challenging exercise.





ITEM NO: VII. Budget

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

B. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Discussion

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee discuss its Fiscal Year 2015 Budget recommendation?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The School Committee voted on an official recommendation for the FY15 budget 1. on March 19.
- The School Committee may wish to further discuss its recommendation and the 2. rationale.
- The administration will provide information as needed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee discuss its recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services

Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent





ITEM NO: VIII. Old Business
A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Vote

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee vote on its recommendation for the School Department's Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 1. The School Committee voted on an official recommendation for the FY15 budget on March 19.
- 2. For the purpose of ensuring clarity, it is recommended that the School Committee vote again using the specific language below.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to recommend a Fiscal Year 2015 School Department Budget of \$58,828,708, which represents an increase of \$6,788,062 over the Fiscal Year 2014 School Department appropriation.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services





ITEM NO: IX. New Business MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

A. Beal Early Childhood Center: Massachusetts School Building Authority - Potential Board Action

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report regarding action that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) Board of Directors may take relative to the community's Statement of Interest that was submitted regarding the Beal Early Childhood Center at its meeting on March 26, 2014?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

 The School Committee and Board of Selectmen voted to submit a "Statement of Interest" to the MSBA to consider the eligibility for the potential replacement or renovation of the Beal Early Childhood.

2. The MSBA board is considering the Beal Statement of Interest when it meets on the

morning of March 26, 2014 at its offices in Boston.

3. Dr. Sawyer intends to attend the MSBA board meeting, and will report information to the School Committee that evening at its meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take whatever action it deems in the best interest of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services





ITEM NO: X. Approval of Min

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:





ITEM NO: XI. Executive Session

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations where discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

That the School Committee discuss the information presented and take such action as it deems to be in best interests of Shrewsbury Public Schools.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee enter into executive session.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

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





ITEM NO: XII. Information Enclosures

ITEM NO: XIII. Adjournment

MEETING DATE: 3/26/14

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION: