



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**December 20, 2017
7:00 pm**

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**December 20, 2017 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

Items

Suggested time allotments

- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| I. | Public Participation | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">7:00-7:10</div> |
| II. | Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports | |
| III. | Superintendent's Report | |
| IV. | Time Scheduled Appointments: | |
| | A. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields: Vote to Accept Gifts | 7:10 – 7:15 |
| | B. Sidewalk Math Program at Coolidge School: Student Presentation | 7:15 – 7:30 |
| | C. Thoughtexchange Survey Data: Report | 7:30 – 7:55 |
| V. | Curriculum | |
| VI. | Policy | |
| | A. Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate: Discussion & Vote | 7:55 – 8:05 |
| | B. Five-Year Strategic Priorities & Goals: Discussion & Vote | 8:05 – 8:15 |
| VII. | Finance & Operations | |
| VIII. | Old Business | |
| IX. | New Business | |
| X. | Approval of Minutes | 8:15 – 8:20 |
| XI. | Executive Session | |
| | A. For the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association | 8:20 – 8:45 |
| XII. | Adjournment | 8:45 |

Next regular meeting: January 10, 2018



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 12/20/17

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
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Chairperson
Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary
Ms. Erin Canzano, Committee Member
Mr. Jason Palitsch, 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: **12/20/17**

A. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields: Vote to Accept Gifts

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In accordance with School Committee Policy 912: Sponsorship & Advertising, sponsorships involving an amount greater than \$5,000 must be approved by the School Committee. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will acknowledge a \$5,000 gift from John Duquette, a \$5,000 gift from Matt and Laurie Hogan, a \$5,000 gift from Matthew O'Connor, a \$5,000 gift from Greg Steinberg and Kristin Koe, a \$10,000 gift from Avidia Bank, and a \$50,000 gift from the Shrewsbury High School Boosters, for the SHS Athletic Fields Project. These gifts will assist us in reaching the \$1.8 million goal for *The Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields*.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to accept a \$5,000 gift from John Duquette, a \$5,000 gift from Matt and Laurie Hogan, a \$5,000 gift from Matthew O'Connor, a \$5,000 gift from Greg Steinberg and Kristin Koe, a \$10,000 gift from Avidia Bank, and a \$50,000 gift from the Shrewsbury High School Boosters, for the athletic field project at Shrewsbury High School.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: 12/20/17
B. Sidewalk Math Program at Coolidge School: Student Presentation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Students and teachers at Calvin Coolidge School were able to join Lesley University's Sidewalk Math Collaborative Inquiry Project - a joint initiative involving 20 kindergarten teachers across Massachusetts - to study how a creative approach to developing number sense in young children helps them to build counting skills. This evening the Committee will have an opportunity to hear about and see one of the colorful rugs students use to explore number relationships in a "hands on" way.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

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

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
Mrs. Patricia Broszeit, Teacher, Calvin Coolidge School
Mrs. Katherine Mills, Teacher, Calvin Coolidge School
Mrs. Tiffany Ostrander, Interim Principal, Calvin Coolidge School
Jaxson Decoff, Student, Calvin Coolidge School
Jack Perna, Student, Calvin Coolidge School
Sofia Singh, Student, Calvin Coolidge School

Sidewalk Math

A student presentation from Kindergarten

by Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Introduction

Thanks to the generosity of Professor and Shrewsbury resident Martha Barry McKenna, students and teachers at Coolidge School were able to join Lesley University's Sidewalk Math Collaborative Inquiry Project, a joint initiative involving 20 Kindergarten teachers across Massachusetts.

The purpose of the project is to study how a creative approach to developing number sense in young children helps them to build counting skills. Using a range of techniques from a text called The Footbook and a colorful collection of rugs designed to support counting activities, students explore number relationships in a "hands on" way. Starting in September, students at Coolidge School began practicing with several different rugs. This evening the Committee will have an opportunity to see one of these rugs and to hear about how they are used.

The Sidewalk Math project is just one of many collaborations made possible through Lesley University's Creative Commons. We're hopeful that ongoing collaboration with Professor McKenna and her colleagues will help Shrewsbury educators learn more about how to infuse creativity into our curriculum.





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:
C. Thoughtexchange Survey Data: Report**

MEETING DATE: 12/20/17

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Feedback from SPS students, parents, community members, and staff members regarding ongoing and new priorities was solicited this past November via a joint school council forum, a public forum, and an online Thoughtexchange survey, and that feedback was used to inform the Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate and the Five-Year Strategic Priorities & Goals being voted on later in the meeting.

The Thoughtexchange online survey was divided into two separate exchanges, one for staff, parents, and community members which was also broken down by school, and another for students at Sherwood Middle School, Oak Middle School, and Shrewsbury High School. The district-wide exchange included 1,249 people who contributed 2,750 thoughts and assigned 31,965 stars to those thoughts in a ratings element that is part of the process. The student exchange included 3,324 participants, 12,587 thoughts, and 127,620 stars.

Mr. Kyle Empringham, the district's liaison with Thoughtexchange, will present data from the exchanges in an interactive video conference during the meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

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

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools
Kyle Empringham, Service Team Lead, Thoughtexchange

Teachers are invested in the wellbeing of their students. Happy to be assured that our kids are in good hands.

Make it more interactive for students and teach them life skills that are going to be important in the near future. It's important because if you don't know key life skills then it will be difficult to live and get a job here.

I appreciate the advancement of our curriculum. Compared to other schools, our district has a higher level of curriculum. The courses we take are very advanced.

Add Your Voice

Fall 2017

Shrewsbury Public Schools



Agenda

1. Project Overview
2. Understanding Top Thoughts
3. Digging Deeper
4. Next Steps

Overview

PARTICIPATION OPEN BETWEEN

November 2, 2017

TO

November 13, 2017

13

THOUGHT EXCHANGE PROCESSES

INCLUDING PARENTS/GUARDIANS,
STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS,
COMMUNITY MEMBERS & OTHER

Overview - Steps



Participants share answers
to open ended questions



Participants consider ideas
from others and add stars
to the ones they like best



Everyone discovers
what is important to the group

Overview - Questions



1. What are some things you appreciate about our school and school district?
2. What are some things you think our school and school district should improve upon?
3. *(District-wide only)* What are the most important things our school and school district should focus on over the next five years to benefit our students?
4. *(Students only)* What are some specific things that could be done in future years to make school better for you and for other students?

Overview - Participation Numbers (District-wide)



1,249

PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED



2,750

THOUGHTS
CONTRIBUTED



31,965

STARS
ASSIGNED

Overview – Demographic (District-wide)

66.0% 667
Parents/Guardians

5.0% 46
Community Members

24.0% 241
Staff Members

6.0% 56
Other

Overview - Participation Numbers (Students)



3,324

PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED



12,587

THOUGHTS
CONTRIBUTED



127,620

STARS
ASSIGNED

Overview – Demographic (Students)

13.0% 415
Grade 5

13.0% 426
Grade 9

13.0% 430
Grade 6

13.0% 443
Grade 10

12.0% 396
Grade 7

12.0% 389
Grade 11

13.0% 441
Grade 8

11.0% 366
Grade 12

Top Thoughts

Three Tips for Understanding Top Thoughts

1. All thoughts are important and true for that individual.
2. Top Thoughts are what was important to participants during Star.
3. Simply reading the top prioritized thoughts is powerful.

Digging Deeper

BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

1. Interesting to read thoughts in both the themed and un-themed reports
2. Using filters can sharpen insights
3. Sorting by stars, people and passion can help answer questions

ANALYSIS

1. Thoughts are themed to provide quick access
2. Bar charts show where people have assigned their stars across themes
3. Specific topics and groups can be analyzed more deeply so you can understand issues better

Resources Available

1

Working with Results Document

1. Identify questions and topics for further exploration
2. Find overarching connections
3. Plan and prioritize action steps

2



Next Steps – Taking Action

- Share and celebrate your results!
- Review results and further develop your understanding
- Consider questions you have for further analysis.
- Schedule a follow-up call for two weeks from now.
- Begin thinking about a plan for your next engagement.
- Look forward to a review with our team.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

A. Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate: Discussion & Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A team of 23 educators and community members met last spring to create a working draft of Shrewsbury's Portrait of a Graduate. The Portrait of a Graduate defines what we believe are the most critical characteristics and skills we wish for our students to develop during their preschool through high school experience and take with them when they graduate from Shrewsbury High School.

Over the past several months, input from stakeholders has been solicited through public forums, an online survey process called Thoughtexchange, and by School Committee members visiting school PTO meetings and conversing with parents, staff, and principals there. Based on this feedback, an updated draft of Portrait of a Graduate was presented to the School Committee meeting held on December 6, 2017.

The draft presented on December 6 was provided to all staff and community members via email and web links, with an invitation for final feedback. A final version of the Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate is enclosed. Based on additional feedback, there is one small language addition highlighted in orange.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to approve the enclosed, recommended draft of the Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools
Portrait of a Graduate
Final Draft for School Committee Review & Approval
December 20, 2017

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Students:

- Listen with an open mind to understand others' situations and treat all with kindness and respect
- Learn from and engage collaboratively and reflectively with individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, digital, and community conversations
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of society's impact on the natural world
- Access, analyze, and evaluate information in order to understand the local, national, and global implications of civic decisions
- Contribute to society in important ways by serving others

COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

Students:

- Demonstrate ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams
- Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work, and value the individual contributions made by each team member
- Listen effectively to decipher meaning of knowledge, values, attitudes, and intentions
- Communicate for a range of purposes (e.g., to inform, instruct, motivate, and persuade)
- Articulate thoughts and ideas effectively through oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills, utilizing a variety of forms and media

RESILIENCE & FOCUS

Students:

- Persevere to accomplish difficult tasks and to overcome academic and personal barriers to meet goals
- Work effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities
- Employ strategies to maintain personal wellness, focus, and intention in their lives
- Incorporate feedback effectively and deal positively with praise, setbacks, and criticism
- Monitor and direct their own learning, adapting their approach as needed to successfully complete a task or solve a problem

INNOVATION

Students :

- Use a wide range of idea creation techniques and problem solving techniques (such as brainstorming, divergent and convergent thinking, effective reasoning, and systems thinking)
- Elaborate, refine, analyze, and evaluate their own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts
- Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work and understand the real-world limits to adopting new ideas
- View failure as an opportunity to learn; understand that creativity and innovation is a long-term, cyclical process of small successes and frequent mistakes
- Act on creative ideas to make tangible and useful contributions
- Reflect critically on learning experiences, processes, and solutions

CRITICAL THINKING & CONTENT MASTERY

Students:

- Develop and draw from a baseline understanding of knowledge in an academic discipline
- Transfer knowledge to other situations
- **Demonstrate curiosity** and identify, define, and solve authentic problems and essential questions
- Reflect critically on learning experiences, processes, and solutions
- **Make good decisions by clarifying values, analyzing information, considering alternatives and tradeoffs, and applying sound reasoning**

LEADERSHIP

Students:

- Use interpersonal and problem-solving skills to influence and guide others toward a goal
- Demonstrate integrity, humility, and flexibility of response
- Recognize and support the leadership of others
- Act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

B. Five-Year Strategic Priorities & Goals: Discussion & Vote

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the spring of 2011, the Shrewsbury School Committee asked the administrative team to lead an effort to set strategic priorities and goals for the district for 2012-2016. The district has recently completed its five-year commitment to that set of four strategic priorities, and during 2017 continued the work while assessing the district's successes and needs, and has been working to develop a new set of priorities and goals for 2018 through 2022.

Feedback from SPS students, parents, community members, and staff members regarding ongoing and new priorities was solicited this past fall via a school council forum, a public forum, and an online ThoughtExchange survey, and that feedback was used to inform the Five-Year Strategic Priorities & Goals draft presented on December 6. At a prior meeting, a detailed report on three key topics that had emerged from feedback (social and emotional learning, inclusion, and 21st century skills) was presented as background information. Additionally, various leadership teams within the district vetted earlier drafts and provided suggestions that were incorporated into this draft.

The draft presented on December 6 was provided to all staff and community members via email and web links, with an invitation for final feedback. At the time of the printing of this document, no additional feedback was received by the district administration. The enclosed final draft is identical to that presented on December 6.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to approve the enclosed, recommended draft of the 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities & Goals.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Strategic Priorities & Goals Final Draft for School Committee Review & Approval December 20, 2017

Strategic Priority:

Space and resources to support effective learning

2022 strategic goals:

- Address stressed enrollment capacity by increasing physical space and making programmatic adaptations:
 - Assess Preschool through Grade 12 facility needs, including completion of a space and enrollment capacity study to facilitate planning
 - Partner with the community to build a new Beal School to address Kindergarten through Grade Four space needs and to provide access to a full-day program with no tuition to all kindergarten students
 - Relieve overcrowded conditions wherever necessary by providing additional space and/or revising use of existing space, especially at Shrewsbury High School
 - Secure the necessary resources for a high quality educational program:
 - Address growing enrollment with adequate staffing to maintain appropriate class sizes according to School Committee guidelines
 - Ensure that students have access to personnel, technology, and instructional materials to achieve expected levels of learning
 - Provide effective professional learning opportunities for staff to build teaching and leadership capacity
-

Strategic Priority:

Learning environments where everyone's success matters

2022 strategic goals:

- Create a common understanding of the benefits of inclusive schools and develop a shared, systematic approach to ensure that everyone has equitable access and opportunity for successful learning
 - Ensure that all staff actively participate in professional development focused on inclusive and culturally proficient practices that improve learning and school cultures
 - Analyze data related to academic performance and other indicators of success to identify existing gaps among populations; determine and implement action steps for improvement; and demonstrate success at closing these gaps
-
-

Strategic Priority:

Enhanced well-being of all

2022 Strategic Goals:

- Create a common understanding of the benefits of the skills, habits, and mindsets of social and emotional learning and develop a shared, systematic approach to explicitly teach, integrate, and assess these competencies
 - Ensure that all staff actively participate in professional development focused on the skills, habits, and mindsets of social and emotional learning that improve students' learning, resilience, and focus
 - Investigate, recommend, and plan for potential changes to school start times to better align with adolescent health needs for adequate sleep
 - Improve support systems and resources to enhance the well-being of students and staff
-

Strategic Priority:

Connected learning for a complex world

2022 Strategic Goals:

- Integrate project-based learning experiences that require students at all grade levels to create complex, high-quality work for an authentic audience, with an emphasis on critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration
- Review and adapt curriculum and instructional approaches to help students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become ethical, empathetic, informed, and financially self-sufficient citizens who make thoughtful decisions and contribute positively to their community
- Review and adapt feedback and homework systems in order to implement effective, research-based practices that enhance learning and build stronger partnerships with students and families
- Build community partnerships with businesses, institutions, and individuals in order to increase access to experiential learning and career awareness and to enhance learning in the STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics)



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee vote to approve the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on December 6, 2017.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. B. Dale Magee, Chairperson

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Present: Dr. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Dr. Magee at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Wensky congratulated students, faculty, and staff on a successful holiday concert at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) the previous evening.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated students, faculty, and staff on a successful holiday concert at Shrewsbury High School (SHS); noted the Lego Robotics Team recently hosted a successful middle school "MindStorm Mayhem" tournament; thanked the Shrewsbury Fire Department for visiting the Little Colonials Preschool to talk about fire safety; noted SPS students throughout the district participated in the "Hour of Code" national computer programming education initiative; and acknowledged the ongoing success of the Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Profile of a Graduate: Revised Draft for Review & Discussion

Dr. Sawyer began his presentation on *Portrait of a Graduate* - a vision of what the district wants students to be by the time they graduate that will inform where we are going as a district - with a history of the project dating back to January 2017. He advised that input was recently solicited on the initial working draft of *Portrait of a Graduate* (presented to the Committee in May 2017) through PTO meetings, an all school council meeting, and an online survey, and that the revised draft exhibited a strong level of agreement with the content in the working draft. Dr. Sawyer described the six categories - Global Citizenship & Engagement; Collaboration & Communication; Resilience & Focus; Innovation; Critical Thinking & Content Mastery; and Leadership - and noted the changes in language from the working to the updated draft, including the addition of verbiage around good decision making in the Critical Thinking category. He concluded by discussing next steps, noting the Committee would have an opportunity to formally adopt the draft at their meeting on December 20th.

Committee members thanked all participants in the process to develop *Portrait of a Graduate*, commended it for distilling a lot of important information to its essential elements, and noted that in addition to defining a vision for the district, it was an optimistic document that would assist in providing benchmarking going forward.

B. Five-Year Strategic Priorities & Goals: Draft for Review & Discussion

Dr. Sawyer began his presentation on proposed strategic priorities and goals for the district for the next five years (2018-2022) by noting they had been informed by the previous strategies, input and perspectives from multiple entities, and data from the Thoughtexchange online survey given to parents, community members, and staff. He went on to provide a detailed description of the four priorities being recommended that included details on the specific goals associated with each: Space & Resources to Support Effective Learning; Learning Environments Where Everyone's Success Matters; Enhanced Well-Being of All; and Connected Learning for a Complex World. Dr. Sawyer noted that next steps in the process included posting the information for review and getting feedback in advance of a vote by the Committee to adopt the Strategic Priorities and associated goals at their meeting on December 20th.

Committee members noted the draft was bold and ambitious, but still attainable; recognized the importance of community partnerships; addressed tuition-free, full-day kindergarten; was inclusive; and noted the importance of adequate space, with Dr. Magee adding that the current demand for vocational training was greater than the supply of available space and resources.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Testing Results: Annual Report

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling, Shrewsbury High School (SHS), provided information on the following standardized tests in their report: SAT (noting SHS students had higher combined mean scores than their state or national peers,

and had a 91% participation rate); Subject tests (SHS performed well versus state and national scores with Chemistry being an exception): PSAT/NMSQT; ACT (2017 saw higher scores and lower participation); and Advanced Placement - AP (97% of students taking the exams were in Grades 11 and 12; 92% of scores were 3 or better; SHS outperformed their state and national peers in Chemistry; overall scores trended very slightly down). They went on to discuss the information included in SHS's school profile that is provided to college admissions, and to advise regarding how SHS would work to maintain and improve student scores on the different tests going forward.

Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the various exams and the data associated with them, and noted the difference in student performance on the AP and SAT subject tests in Chemistry. Ms. Huynh responded that they are very different tests in terms of the level of information being looked at, and advised that it was a small population of students -14- that took the subject test. Dr. Sawyer cautioned against overinterpreting one year of data for a small subset of students (14) in a national pool of high-achieving students, and cited the high AP scores SHS students achieved in Chemistry. Dr. Sawyer later noted he felt the results for all the standardized tests indicate that the overall academic program at SHS is healthy.

B. State Testing: Annual Report

Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment began her presentation by noting that 2017 was a transition year, with some students taking "legacy" MCAS exams and some taking "Next-Generation" MCAS exams (newer, more rigorous assessments). Having been administered for the first time in the spring, this made 2017 a baseline year for the *Next-Generation* exams. Ms. Clouter described the new Achievement Level designations for the *Next-Generation* exams and the rationale for the changes. Ms. Clouter also noted the challenges of interpreting results in a year of transition. Prior to giving a very detailed district overview, Ms. Clouter described *achievement* versus *growth* and defined student growth percentiles (SGP), noting the state defines moderate (or expected) growth to be between the 40-60 percentile. In her overview, Ms. Clouter provided district testing results as applicable for Science and Technology/Engineering, English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics at different grade levels and for High Needs Subgroups. For *legacy* tests, data was provided to show how SPS students fared relative to other districts in 2017; how they compared within the district from 2016 to 2017; and the percentage of SPS students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Comparable District Comparisons. For *Next-Generation* tests, data was provided to illustrate how SPS students fared relative to other districts in 2017, and to show the percentage of SPS students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Comparable District Comparisons.

Ms. Clouter noted the challenges of comparing districts, and discussed how to use the data provided going forward. She added that with 2017 establishing a new baseline and since participation and graduation rates remained high in Shrewsbury last year, the current district accountability level is "No Level."

Committee members asked clarifying questions and noted challenges associated with establishing a new baseline, doing accurate comparisons, and tracking students who don't fall into easily identifiable subgroups. They felt the overall results presented were a good news story, citing elementary math as a standout category, and noted time would be needed to see year to year trends. Dr. Sawyer cautioned that regarding continuous improvements, it was critical to look at improvements in curriculum and overall practices in addition to test scores.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes of the School Committee meeting on November 29, 2017 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Portrait of a Graduate Updated Draft
2. Portrait of a Graduate Slides
3. Memo from Superintendent Re: Strategic Priorities Draft
4. Strategic Priorities: Definition & Checklist
5. Strategic Priorities Draft
6. Strategic Priorities Draft Slides
7. SHS Testing Report
8. SHS Testing Slides
9. State Testing Report
10. State Testing Slides
11. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above
- 12.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **12/20/17**

**A. For the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury
Paraprofessionals Association**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Executive session is warranted for these purposes.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

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

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**