

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

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

Not Present: Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

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

The meeting was convened by Mr. Palitsch at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Dr. Magee announced his intention to run for another term on the School Committee as his current term expires in May.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked donors to the Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) Colonial Fund, acknowledging year-end contributions totalling approximately \$15,000, which included matching gifts from the Shrewsbury Public Schools Foundation (aka The Garden Party). He noted that tickets are available for the annual Shrewsbury Education Foundation Awards Dinner on January 26, 2019, which will include recognition of Paula and Jim Buonomo as the recipients of the 2019 Community Service Award. Dr. Sawyer recognized Ms. Pamela Leblanc, Director of Visual Arts, who was in attendance at the meeting, noting her students' recent work on the Memory Project and an origami installation at Shrewsbury High School (SHS).

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Shrewsbury Education Association: Discussion of State Funding for Public Education

Mr. Gary Chalmers, Teacher, Sherwood Middle School, and President, Shrewsbury Education Association (SEA); and Ms. Lori Blasioli, Teacher, SHS, and Vice President, SEA, addressed the Committee regarding a resolution in support of full state funding for our public schools recently passed by the SEA Board. Mr. Chalmers read the resolution in its entirety and requested that the Committee vote in support of the resolution and send letters of support to state officials. Committee members and Dr. Sawyer expressed their support for the resolution, and Mr. Palitsch noted the Committee's June 2017 vote to recommend that the MA Foundation Budget Review Commission's October 2015 recommendations for changing the state funding formula be adopted. Dr. Magee advised that if a new formula was adopted, the amount of potential additional aid for Shrewsbury might be less impactful due to the way the formula's income and property wealth affect its eligibility. Dr. Sawyer added that any approved per student funding for districts receiving only Chapter 70 "minimum aid" would allow for improved accuracy of forecasting in addition to providing much needed revenue.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the resolution in support of full funding for our public schools as outlined in the meeting materials with the amendment that in the last section the phrase *Shrewsbury Educators Association* be changed to *Shrewsbury School Committee*, and further that the support be communicated via letter to the state legislative delegation, Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and the Chairs of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees.

V. Curriculum

A. Shrewsbury High School Program of Studies Proposed Changes: Report

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal; Ms. Maureen Monopoli, Assistant Principal; Ms. Pamela Leblanc, Director of Visual Arts; and Mr. Thomas O'Toole, Director of Music & Performing Arts, gave the report. Mr. Bazydlo described the course selection timeline, scheduling, and space issues, and discussed new career-focused opportunities (Innovation Pathways) in computer science and biomedical science that would allow students to pursue work-based learning with leading industry partners. He also noted an opportunity to apply for designation in the Innovation Pathways program which, if successful, would allow for submission of requests for associated grant funding. Ms. Monopoli addressed proposed changes in Foreign Language, Health, Mathematics, Science, and Engineering. Mr. O'Toole noted proposed course description changes and new courses in Performing Arts, and Ms. Leblanc noted proposed course description changes and new courses in Visual Arts.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Bazydlo provided additional information on challenges around staff shared between the middle schools and SHS (noting an estimated additional 1.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions would be required to uncouple SHS and middle school staff to enact some of the proposed changes). Dr. Sawyer advised that a vote on the proposed changes would take place at the next meeting, adding that the potential addition of

any additional positions would be contingent upon Town Meeting approving the SPS budget request.

VI. Policy

A. Enrollment of Non-Resident Students Policy Revision: First Reading

Mr. Palitsch advised that he and Ms. Canzano are members of the Policy Subcommittee and had reviewed the revised draft of Policy 621: Enrollment of Non-Resident Pupils. Ms. Canzano gave a detailed description of the proposed changes to the policy, noting the most significant changes were around non-residency due to extreme circumstances. Dr. Sawyer advised that non-discrimination categories had been expanded, and that legal counsel would be sought regarding all changes.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on how other districts approach non-resident students and how the cutoff date for continued attendance was determined, suggested that the expanded non-discrimination language also be added to School Committee Policy 502, and requested more specificity in the language around what constitutes extreme circumstances and significant hardships relative to non-residency. Mr. Palitsch welcomed feedback from the community in advance of a vote on the revised policy at a future meeting.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2019 Staffing Levels: Report

Ms. Malone began her report by giving an overview of changes to its preparation this year, and noting that information is derived from two different systems: the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) uses staffing data from the PowerSchool System, and SPS/Town of Shrewsbury uses staffing data from the MUNIS system. She gave an overview of FY19 staffing that noted relevant factors, and provided detailed appendices that gave the information at varying levels of complexity to meet the needs of different stakeholders.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the glossary of terms provided, and for the new reporting of data at varying depth levels.

B. Student Activity Funds Audit: Report

Mr. Collins advised that an external audit of Student Activity Funds, which is required every three years by law, had been completed in the summer of 2018 and focused primarily on the middle schools and SHS. He noted that SPS acts only as an agent for Student Activity Funds, and detailed the recommendations for improvement (there were no findings) in the reports for the middle schools and SHS.

The Committee asked clarifying questions about state guidelines relative to Student Activity Funds, account balances (\$900K total for FY18) and their relationship to the SPS budget (they fall outside the budget), and how the recommendations will be addressed.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Fryc noted that a minor correction was necessary on the December 13, 2018 Workshop minutes relative to the day/date. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the School Committee Workshop Meetings held on December 10, December 13 as amended, and December 17, 2018, and the School Committee Meeting held on December 19, 2018.

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association and for the purpose of negotiations with non-represented school administrators, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes, and return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:46 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SEA Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public Schools
2. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Report

3. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Slide Presentation
4. Non-Resident Student Policy Revision Draft
5. FY19 Staffing Level Report
6. FY19 Staffing Level Report Appendix A
7. FY19 Staffing Level Report Appendix B
8. FY19 Staffing Level Report Appendix C
9. FY19 Staffing Level Report Appendix D
10. FY19 Staffing Level Slide Presentation
11. Student Activity Funds Audit Report
12. SHS Student Activity Fund Independent Accountant's Report
13. SPS Middle/Elementary Schools Student Activity Fund Independent Accountant's Report
14. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above