

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 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. 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 Mr. Palitsch at 7:00 pm, who requested a moment of silence to remember two former Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) leaders who recently passed away: Dr. John P. Collins who served as Superintendent, and Ms. Ellen Meyers who served as a special educator, Assistant Principal at Shrewsbury High School, and then as Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services, for the district.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer also expressed his condolences on the recent passing of Dr. Collins and Ms. Meyers, describing both as "fierce advocates for students." He acknowledged an outstanding Black History Month assembly and Science Fair recently at Shrewsbury High School, and congratulated students who enjoyed much recent success in Speech and Debate and the Performing and Visual Arts at the middle and high school levels.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Shrewsbury High School Esports State Champions: Recognition

SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo introduced *Gatekeepers* team members John "Jack" Doyle, Thomas Wang (Captain), Gerry Dang, and Jerry Du, (Steven McKinstry, Esports Coach, IT Support Specialist, SHS; and students Varisra Upatising and Tristan Duerk were not in attendance). Mr. Bazydlo provided information on the advent of electronic sports (Esports) and its popularity at

SHS, and the students talked about the regular season, their style of play and strategy, and the League of Legends event at Showcase Live! Patriot Place in January where the *Gatekeepers* finished on top as the Fall 2018 Esports State Champions. They provided additional information on teamwork, scouting the opposition, and preparation time in response to clarifying questions, and were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and presented with certificates.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. School Year Calendar for 2019-2020: Discussion

Noting that the draft FY20 calendar being presented reflected extensive feedback from the Calendar Committee that convened a few years ago, Dr. Sawyer provided detailed information regarding vacations, professional development days and early release days, parent conferences, etc. - and the rationale behind those choices - and highlighted one change from the current year calendar relative to Veterans Day and the absence of an election in November 2019, where the parent conference/professional development day that typically falls on election day is proposed for Tuesday, November 12 to follow the Veterans Day holiday. It was noted that the draft calendar would be posted for public viewing and feedback in advance of an anticipated vote on the calendar at the School Committee meeting on February 27, 2019.

B. Enrollment of Non-Resident Students Policy Revision: Vote on Updated Language

Mr. Palitsch advised that a vote on an amended draft of Policy 621: Enrollment of Non-Resident Pupils at the School Committee meeting on January 23, 2019, did not achieve the intent of the Committee regarding updating the policy verbiage. It was determined that the policy should be further amended so that the phrase "parent or guardian," or the plural thereof as appropriate, be used in place of the terms "family," "families," "parent," or "parents," which was reflected in the current policy draft being presented at the meeting.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve updated Policy 621: Enrollment of Non-Resident Pupils.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal 2020 Budget – Superintendent’s Recommendation: Report & Discussion

Dr. Sawyer, Mr. Collins, Ms. Clouter, Ms. Malone, and Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, gave the report, and acknowledged Ms. Kim Fitzpatrick, Financial Coordinator/Budget Analyst, for her work on the FY20 Superintendent’s Budget Recommendation Book. Noting the budget recommendation would be separated into two parts, Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins began by presenting information on a “status quo” budget that would carry forward existing programs and staff with expected cost inflation, which included detailed

information on funding sources, budget increase drivers, enrollment data, per pupil costs and comparisons, state aid, and other revenue opportunities.

Next, additional budget information was provided on strategic investments that would align with the district's four 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities and facilitate meeting community expectations around the skills, knowledge, and dispositions Shrewsbury students should attain and develop at SPS as expressed in the district's *Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate*. Presenters took turns providing detailed information on the goals and associated costs of strategic investments specific to each of the four Strategic Priorities: space and resources to support effective learning; learning environments where everyone's success matters; enhanced well-being of all; and connected learning for a complex world. Mr. Collins noted that the FY20 Strategic Investments budget recommendation would represent a 7.70% increase (versus a "status quo" FY20 budget recommendation increase of 4.59%) over the FY19 appropriated budget.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the two-tiered budget recommendation, the level of detail provided, and the way goals/funding were aligned with the Strategic Priorities in the report. Dr. Sawyer added that it was not realistic to expect that all the desired strategic investments could be implemented in one year, but that they might be realized over time. Mr. Palitsch noted there would be a public hearing on the budget in the future, and advised that the Committee welcomed and encouraged feedback on the budget from the community.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Informational Update

The Assabet Valley Collaborative's (AVC) Annual Report and Financial Statements must be provided to member school committees annually. In his informational update, Dr. Sawyer advised that he appreciates the quality of AVC's annual report, that their resources are being utilized well, and the Collaborative is in good financial health.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshop held on January 16, 2019, and the School Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2019 were accepted as distributed

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XI. Executive Session

A. For the purpose of collective bargaining with cafeteria workers

B. For the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association

C. For the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining with cafeteria workers and for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association, 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 Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, 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 9:07 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 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. SHS Esports State Champions Slide Presentation
2. Draft FY20 School Year Calendar
3. Updated Draft Policy 621: Enrollment of Non-Resident Pupils
4. FY20 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation
5. FY20 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation with Strategic Investments Slide Presentation
6. Assabet Valley Collaborative FY18 Annual Report
7. Assabet Valley Collaborative FY18 Annual Financial Audit Report
8. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above