

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 27, 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 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer noted that students from the 8 White team at Oak Middle School would be displaying a poetry and art project at Shrewsbury Public Library starting March 6, 2019; tickets for the annual Shrewsbury High School (SHS) musical, *Seussical the Musical*, were available for sale; and a screening of a documentary about the dangers of mixing prescription medication with alcohol, "If They Had Known," would be held on March 21 at the SHS auditorium at 6:30 PM.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

SHS students Prisha Singh (Chairperson), Erica Hanlon, Paulina Hruskoci, Sophia Peng, and Max Evers gave a report that included information on extracurriculars (noting a number of successes in sports and other activities, including Ms. Hruskoci receiving the annual New England District Student of the Year Award in Speech and Debate); how SHS students engage with the community; and a wide variety of school events.

The students and Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal, answered follow up questions from the Committee on a recent school council leadership summit, the number of students in the

Work-Study Program (35 in semester one; 38 in semester two), and successful prior fundraising events.

B. School Start Time Research: Student Report & Discussion

Mr. Palitsch noted that this agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

C. Extended School Care Program: Report & Tuition Recommendation

In her report, Ms. Karen Isaacson, Director of Extended Learning, provided detailed information on program participation and growth, value to the community, and current enrollment/staffing ratios; a financial update; factors that impact expenses; a comparison of FY20 budget projections including/not including proposed tuition increase of 3.5% (based on a wage increase of 1.5%); rate history, recommendations, and comparisons to local communities; and financial aid information that included proposed changes to realign reduced fees for the program with the free and reduced lunch program.

Mr. Palitsch advised that a vote on proposed changes for FY20 would be held at a future School Committee meeting. Ms. Isaacson provided additional information on employee demographics and benefits, funding for the program, Early Release day expenses, wait lists, and the online pay program. Dr. Sawyer added that he supports a vote in favor of the recommendations for FY20 around tuition and wage increases and realigning financial aid relative to subsidies, and noted that opening the new Beal School will provide space for more students to participate in the program in the future.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. School Year Calendar for 2019-2020: Vote

Mr. Palitsch advised that a draft school calendar was presented to the Committee at the meeting on February 13, 2019, and posted afterwards for public viewing and comment. It was noted that no feedback had been received by the Committee or Dr. Sawyer regarding the proposed calendar.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2019-2020 School Year Calendar.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2020 Special Education Budget: Report

In her report, Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, gave detailed information for the current school year on areas of focus and co-teaching (with data illustrating student successes); student demographics relative to Section 504 Accommodation Plans and

Individualized Educational Programs; and placement options for students. She went on to provide current and projected FY20 budget information on Circuit Breaker funding, out of district placements and tuitions (with input from Mr. Collins), transportation, and extended school year costs. Ms. Belsito also provided sample data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health grant relative to behavioral and mental health and priority student populations; proposed tiered personnel recommendations; and described partner resources and programming in the community.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Belsito provided additional information on the co-teaching model and associated training, active referrals for Special Education services (83 as of February 2019), and calculating the Proportionate Share of grant funds for parentally-placed students who attend private schools in Shrewsbury regardless of where they live. Dr. Sawyer commended Ms. Belsito's leadership and noted the great importance of, and challenges around, providing educational equity for all students.

B. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Update: Report

In his update on the FY19 budget, Mr. Collins provided detailed information by category and highlighted areas where there was a variance of 5% or greater, and projected a year-end surplus of \$1.7 million, which represents 2.6% of the School Department appropriated budget. Mr. Collins also provided additional information on fluctuations in vocational technical school enrollment and tuitions in response to questions from the Committee.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Memorandum of Understanding with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union for Partnership to Fund the Colonial Connections Program: Vote

Dr. Sawyer provided information on a proposed multi-year partnership with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union (SFCU) to sponsor a "Colonial Connections" program that would align with the district's strategic priority and goals around connected learning for a complex world. Dr. Sawyer detailed the use of sponsorship funds by fiscal year and amount, noted SFCU's Board of Directors recently voted in support of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and detailed next steps that included a future School Committee vote on the proposal.

Committee members expressed their appreciation to SFCU for the proposed sponsorship, noting it would address critical needs in the district. They also requested additional details to be provided at a future meeting regarding different components of the program, particularly the proposed assistant superintendent position that would be subsidized through the partnership, and expressed concerns about the fiduciary aspects of the proposal relative to sustainability and future funding of this position proposed in the agreement.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2019 were accepted as distributed.

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 Ms. Canzano, 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 9:05 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 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. Student Advisory Committee Report Agenda
2. Extended School Care Report
3. Extended School Care Slide Presentation
4. Draft 2019-2020 School Calendar
5. FY20 Special Education Budget Report
6. FY20 Special Education Budget Slide Presentation
7. FY19 Budget Update Report
8. Proposed SFCU Colonial Connections MOU
9. Proposed SFCU Colonial Connections MOU Slide Presentation
10. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above

