

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 10, 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 7:02 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

None.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

Dr. Magee reported that he and Ms. Lynsey Heffernan recently attended a seminar in support of later school start times where districts addressed how they implemented the change, and reported results and successes associated with making the change.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Clouter noted attending the "From My Heart" event sponsored by the Rotary Club that featured art and writing from SHS and other area high school students. Dr. Sawyer acknowledged recent student successes enjoyed at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) festival, Destination Imagination State Tournament, and Massachusetts State Speech Finals; noted that the SPS Colonial Fund had sponsored successful events for staff and the community by presenter Lynn Lyons on managing anxiety and depression; and provided the Committee with a recently received final copy of the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management organizational study of the district's Central Office positions and functions.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**B. Public Facilities Division of Department of Public Works: Report**

Mr. Palitsch noted this agenda item was being taken out of order.

Angela Snell, Director of Public Facilities, and Keith Baldinger, Public Buildings Division Manager, presented information to the Committee on a recent reorganization of the Department of Public Works (DPW), and on major planned projects including those at Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) sites. Ms. Fryc, a member of the Beal Building Project Committee, advised that Mr. Baldinger had been added to the Beal Building Committee in his role as Public Buildings Division Manager, with retired Superintendent of Public Buildings, Mr. Robert Cox, shifting to becoming the community representative that previously was held by Mr. John Masiello, who resigned from the Beal Building Committee. Mr. Collins advised that the HVAC Tech position sought by the DPW was supported by SPS, and Dr. Sawyer added that communication between the departments was very good.

### **C. Designated Person for School-Based Asbestos Management: Vote**

Ms. Snell and Mr. Baldinger remained before the Committee for this agenda item.

Mr Palitsch advised that all public and private kindergarten - grade 12 schools must assign a person responsible for overseeing the management of asbestos-containing materials in the school buildings, and added that Mr. Baldinger had attended the 8-hour Asbestos Coordinator/LEA Designated Person course at the Institute for Environmental Education.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Keith Baldinger the designated person for school-based asbestos management for all of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

### **A. Student Recognition: SHS State Indoor Track Champions**

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Jason Costa, Athletic Director; Wendy Marshall, Girls Indoor Track Coach; and Kurt Gustafson, Teacher, Physical Education, and Boys Indoor Track Coach, introduced the following Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Indoor Track Division I State Champions:

Reagan Gillooly - Indoor Track 600 meter Division I State Champion  
Joseph O'Brien - Indoor Track 300 meter Division I State Champion  
Max Evers, Anthony Pikula, Shaun Daley Jr., and Cameron Riley - 4 x 800 m Relay  
Team Division I State Champions

The students talked about their seasons and state championship wins; thanked coaches, families, and supporters; and grade 12 athletes discussed future plans. The students were congratulated, invited up to be recognized by the Committee, and presented with certificates.

### **D. Request by non-profit organization to hold event at school site with alcohol: Vote**

Dr. Sawyer presented background information on the non-profit 15-40 Connection organization; detailed their request to rent the SHS field house for their annual gala dinner on June 1, which would include the serving of alcohol; and noted that school districts can allow non-profit

organizations who possess the proper license to serve alcohol at an event during non-school hours, with the approval of the local school committee.

Mr. Jim Coghlin, Sr., Founder and Chief Volunteer, represented 15-40 Connection at the meeting, noting they needed a large venue for the event, with acoustics being an important component. Committee members asked clarifying questions relative to the date of the event; planning and coordination with SHS staff; and the organization's work around early cancer detection. Mr. Coghlin provided an event brochure to the Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the rental of the Shrewsbury High School field house by the 15-40 Connection to hold a gala dinner that will include the serving of alcoholic beverages, per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 272, Section 40A, subject to 15-40 Connection also meeting the requirements of MGL Chapter 138, Section 14 and that the Shrewsbury Public Schools administration determines that the remaining elements related to the rental of the facility for this event are satisfactory.

## **V. Curriculum**

### **A. Visual Arts Department: Report**

Ms. Pamela LeBlanc, Visual Arts Director, K-12, gave the report with students Veronica Shanoudy, Dhiogo Machado, and Lanna Wang. Ms. LeBlanc provided information on community art partnerships, competitions and exhibits, and the National Arts Honor Society (NAHS); and noted that the complete Visual Arts 2019-2020 Program of Study was included in the report. The students discussed their individual art experiences and showed examples of their work.

The Committee asked clarifying questions about prerequisites for art courses and AP assessment. Ms. LeBlanc noted there is some flexibility around scheduling, and that there is high demand for the ceramics course at SHS. The student presenters were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and to receive certificates.

## **VI. Policy**

### **A. Crowdfunding Policy: Second Reading & Vote**

Mr. Palitsch and Ms. Canzano are members of Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Palitsch advised that no public feedback had been received by the Committee since the first reading of the policy on March 27, 2019. Mr. Collins advised that he recently participated in a Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials Professional Development event where attendees reported a surge of activity relative to crowdfunding and the need for policies to regulate it. In response to questioning, Dr. Magee was advised that periodic reports on crowdfunding in the district would be provided.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the new Policy 914: Crowdfunding.

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

## **A. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget: Updated Recommendation**

Mr. Collins began the report with a current FY20 Budget status, and listed gap closing measures that would allow the district to meet the Town Manager's recommendation for a status quo budget. Dr. Sawyer noted new resources that could be included beyond the status quo budget that would still fall within the current level of recommended funding from the Town Manager. He advised that the district recently received news that it was being awarded a mental health grant from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that would provide \$10K in the current year, and \$90K in the next school year; that Chapter 70 aid was still being determined at the state level; and that SPS enrollment numbers at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School were below those initially projected. Dr. Sawyer went on to detail his recommendations for additional resources, prioritized by tier and by associated district Strategic Priority, if more funding should become available.

Mr. Palitsch noted that the Committee would vote on an updated FY 2020 budget recommendation at their April 24 meeting.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Establishing Position of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & WellBeing: Vote**

Mr. Palitsch advised that agenda items VIII.A., VIII.B., and IX.A., were interrelated and would be discussed in aggregate.

Dr. Sawyer gave a presentation on the proposed "Colonial Connections" partnership with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union (SFCU), detailing how it would offer resources to assist in meeting goals associated with the district's Strategic Priority of connected learning for a complex world, and provide funding to purchase a van, fund a new Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being position (adding the position was a recommendation in the recently completed Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management report) initially in full and then in part over the five-year agreement, and support program events. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to approve the actions recommended for all three agenda items.

Committee members thanked SFCU and offered their perspectives in turn on the proposed partnership. Discussion included comments around support for the program and proposed Assistant Superintendent position; a need to monitor this new type of budget model and the fiscal impact to the district after the first year (sustainability); and challenges associated with establishing/defining a brand new position and the need for feedback to assess the value provided by it.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to establish the position of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being.

**B. Job Description for Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & WellBeing: Vote**

Please see agenda item VIII.A..

Dr. Magee advised the Committee that given the novelty of the new position, he would like to amend the job description presented to include that feedback be provided via regular reports, at least annually, regarding the intent of the proposed position. Dr. Magee moved that the Committee vote to approve the job description of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Wensky.

Dr. Magee offered an amendment to the aforementioned motion that the following language be added to the job description for the Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being under “Responsibilities”:

Report to the Superintendent to enable him to report to the School Committee at least annually on items referenced on page one of the Superintendent’s memo to the School Committee dated April 10, 2019, regarding the establishment of the position of Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being.

The amendment was seconded by Ms. Fryc. Dr. Magee read from Dr. Sawyer’s enclosed memo, noting the components that drove development of the position. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the amendment to the main motion.

Dr. Magee then offered a further amendment that the job description be revisited in five years, noting that this would allow the position to be tailored to be most effective. Dr. Sawyer advised that language noting the job description be revisited in five years could be incorporated into the job description at bottom. The amendment was seconded by Ms. Fryc. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the further amendment.

The Committee then proceeded to a vote on the twice amended main motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**IX. Old Business**

**A. Memorandum of Understanding with Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union to establish the Colonial Connections program: Vote**

Please see agenda item VIII.A..

Ms. Fryc suggested that the word “pilot” be inserted into to the verbiage in the pending vote relative to this agenda item. On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the memorandum of understanding between Shrewsbury Public Schools and Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union regarding Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union becoming the signature sponsor of the Colonial Connections pilot program and to approve the receipt of \$400,000 over fiscal years 2020 through 2024 as delineated in the memorandum of understanding.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on March 27, 2019, were accepted as distributed.

## **XI. Executive Session**

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

**B. For the purpose of negotiations with the superintendent of schools**

**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 the Shrewsbury Education Association and for the purpose of negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools, 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 9:17 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 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. Collins Center CO Study Final Report
2. Shrewsbury Public Facilities Report
3. AHERA Designated Person Documents
4. Non-profit Event Request Letter
5. 15-40 Connection Brochure
6. General Law - Part I, Title XX, Chapter 138, Section 14
7. General Law - Part IV, Title I, Chapter 272, Section 40A
8. Visual Arts Report
9. Visual Arts Slide Presentation
10. Proposed Crowdfunding Policy
11. FY20 Updated Budget Recommendation Slide Presentation

12. Establishing Assistant Superintendent Position Memo
13. School Committee Policy 217
14. Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being Job Description
15. Colonial Connections Memo
16. SFCU Colonial Connections MOU
17. Colonial Connections Van Projection
18. Colonial Connections Slide Presentation
19. School Committee Policy 912
20. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above