

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; 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. Sawyer at 7:02 pm in advance of the election of officers. Dr. Sawyer congratulated Dr. Magee on his reelection to the Committee, and welcomed Ms. Heffernan as a newly elected member of the Committee.

**I. Election of Officers**

Dr. Sawyer requested and accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the School Committee. Mr. Palitsch nominated Ms. Fryc for Chairperson, and Dr. Magee seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Fryc Chairperson of the Committee. As the elected Chairperson of the School Committee, Ms. Fryc requested nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson; Dr. Magee nominated Mr. Wensky and Mr. Palitsch seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Wensky Vice Chairperson. Ms. Fryc requested nominations for the position of Secretary; Mr. Wensky nominated Dr. Magee and Mr. Palitsch seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Magee Secretary.

**II. Public Participation**

None.

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

None.

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated students of Shrewsbury High School (SHS) teacher Lucas White who participated in a national Stock Market Game competition and comprised teams finishing in first and third places out of 724 teams at the state level; and noted a successful Grades K-8 Art Festival was held recently at Sherwood Middle School.

## **V. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

### **A. Student Recognition: SHS Class of 2019 Senior Scholars**

Dr. Sawyer introduced (alphabetically) the ten senior students with the highest grade point averages in their class by reading a brief biography of each student. The students had an opportunity to speak and acknowledge family, friends, and educators who had an impact on their education and experiences at SPS. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer congratulated students on their success, then students were invited up to receive gifts and be recognized by the Committee and school administrators. The students recognized were: Loren Patrice Cardani, James Anthony Chacharone, Chi Ki Chan, Ian Chandra, Siddhant Dosi, Julia Anna Duda, Megan Elizabeth O'Connell, Thomas Hugh O'Neill, Arashleen K Pannu, and Felice Siyue Xie.

### **B. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report**

In their final report for the year, students Prisha Singh (Chairperson), Erica Hanlon, Paulina Hruskoci, Sophia Peng, and Maxfield Evers presented information on school spirit (noting SHS students volunteered over 22,000 community service hours this year), school events, and future areas of interest (including various wellness initiatives, and a new email platform SHS students can use to submit questions by way of the SAC group). During the discussion, the students gave wellness-themed t-shirts to the Committee and administrators that were provided by Mr. Jeffrey Lane Director of Health, Physical Education, & Family and Consumer Sciences. The Committee asked clarifying questions and inquired about the future plans of the graduating seniors. Mr. Andrew Smith, SHS Teacher and Faculty Advisor to the SAC, was in attendance at the meeting. The group was invited up to be recognized by the Committee and presented with certificates.

## **VI. Curriculum**

None.

## **VII. Policy**

None.

## **VIII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Mental Health Grants: Vote to Accept**

Ms. Fryc provided background information on two mental health grants recently awarded to SPS that will address key strategic priorities in the coming years. Dr. Sawyer advised that the Committee would need to vote to accept the grants; thanked Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Noelle Freeman, Director of School Nursing, for their work on the grant awarded by the MA Department of Public Health; and thanked Ms. Belsito and Meghan Bartlett, Assistant Director Special Education, for their work on the grant from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Comprehensive Health Services Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for \$100,000 annually for a ten-year period, beginning in Fiscal Year 2020.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 and \$90,000 in Fiscal Year 2020.

#### **B. Donation for Sign at Spring Street School: Vote to Accept**

Ms. Fryc noted that Mr. Robert Terkanian has donated other signs in the district in addition to the sign he has generously offered to donate to Spring Street School (SSS). Mr. Collins added that SSS Principal Bryan Mabie supports installation of the new sign, which would be slated for early June.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the donation of a new sign at Spring Street School valued at approximately \$7,000 from donor Robert Terkanian.

#### **IX. Old Business**

None.

#### **X. New Business**

##### **A. Superintendent's Goals: Presentation & Vote**

Dr. Sawyer advised that his proposed goals for Student Learning and Professional Practice were in keeping with guidelines provided by the state, and informed by feedback from the Committee. He proposed a student learning goal related to the district's strategic goal regarding building partnerships with businesses and other organizations and promoting learning experiences outside of school, particularly through working with the new Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being. He proposed a professional practice goal related to enhancing communication with various stakeholder groups, including the School Committee. Regarding District Goals, it was noted that Dr. Sawyer is currently in year one (of two) of the District Goals 2018 – 2020. Committee members voiced support for the proposed goals.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's Goals through December 2019 as presented.

#### **XI. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on April 24, 2019, were accepted as distributed.

#### **XII. Executive Session**

- A. For the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association**
- B. For the purpose of an employee request for contractual emergency leave**
- C. For the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes**

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session 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; for the purpose of an employee request for contractual emergency leave; 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 Mr. Palitsch, on a roll call

vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:10 pm.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. 2019 SHS Senior Scholars Report
2. Student Advisory Committee Report
3. School Health Grant Memo
4. Spring Street School Sign Donation Memo
5. Superintendent's 2019 Goals Memo
6. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above