

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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 Dr. Sawyer at 7:00 pm in advance of the election of officers.

I. Election of Officers

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

II. Public Participation

Shrewsbury resident Bryan Moss addressed the Committee and advocated for the installation of two organically maintained natural grass fields instead of one synthetic turf field to meet demand for extended playing opportunities. Mr. Moss did not provide written materials to the Committee.

III. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Palitsch reported that he attended the Shrewsbury Public Schools Elementary & Middle School Art Festival at Sherwood Middle School and commended the students and teachers for the excellent artwork.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Clouter attended a presentation of student passion projects (long-term, technology-based class projects) by students who are part of the SHS Student Innovation Team, and she acknowledged the efforts

of Shrewsbury High School (SHS) teacher Jason Andreola and ITAMS Director Shawna Powers in overseeing the projects.

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the following MA State award winning SHS student Science Fair projects:

First Place Award

Zoe Rudnick - Robot Navigation for the Exploration of Lunar and Planetary Surfaces

Second Place Award

Shriyaa Chittibabu - Addressing Global Water Security Using Light Absorbing Nanomaterials

Third Place Award

Garima Prabhakar - An Algorithm to Differentiate between Exoplanets and Stellar Jitter

Honorable Mention

Lance Wong - An Investigation Into the In-Vitro Interactions Between Inter-Alpha-Trypsin Inhibitors and Erythrocytes Aggregation

Dr. Sawyer acknowledged National School Nurses Day and National Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked SPS nurses and teachers.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Student Recognition: SHS Class of 2018 Senior Scholars

Dr. Sawyer introduced the ten senior students at Shrewsbury High School with the highest grade point averages in their class. They were (alphabetically):

Bowers, Katharine Alene

Canzano, Mary Katherine

Kalathur, Snigdha Reddy

Kareddy, Abhinav

McCollum, Maya Elizabeth

Mukhopadhyay, Ahana

Slaughter, Matthew Thomas

Ural, Suchir Subraya

Xu, Albert Yiming

Wei, Jaymie H

Dr. Sawyer read a biography of each student, and then they had an opportunity to make brief remarks. They were invited to be recognized by the Committee and Administration and to receive a gift, and were also recognized by, and received a letter from, State Rep. Hannah Kane.

B. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Benjamin George, Student, Class of 2018, Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair; Maya McCollum, Student, Class of 2018; Erica Hanlon, Student, Class of 2019; Paulina Hruskoci, Student, Class of 2019; and Prisha Singh, Student, Class of 2019, gave a report that included information on events, student accomplishments, and continuing conversations at SHS. In response to questions from the Committee,

they provided additional information on differences between Chinese and SHS classrooms, the Reality Check fair, and the newly formed Student Wellness Ambassador Team (SWAT) that will help students manage stress. Senior members discussed their future plans. Dr. Sawyer thanked the Committee for their work and noted that SAC provides an important voice for the SHS student community. The SAC members were invited up to be recognized by the Committee.

C. State Rep. Hannah Kane: Annual Legislative Report

State Rep. Hannah Kane began her annual report to the Committee by acknowledging a wide variety of accomplishments of SPS students in aggregate, as well as in smaller groups and teams. Rep. Kane provided a summary of her work on multiple committees, described pending legislation on a variety of issues, and noted past and upcoming events being sponsored by her office for the benefit of students and the greater community. Rep. Kane discussed the current House Budget - noting revenue expectations, taxes already collected, and uncertainty around the potential impact of upcoming ballot questions; Circuit Breaker reimbursement; non-resident pupil transportation issues; the status of a pending civic education bill; and noted that the Glavin Bill (the Glavin site is the Beal Building Committee's preferred site for a proposed new K-Grade 4 school) was a priority for her office.

In response to clarifying questions, Rep. Kane addressed concerns regarding the need for additional vocational opportunities for students (noting a corresponding need for affordable housing in MA), and the potential ways to use revenue generated by passage of a proposed "millionaires' tax" in the state. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer thanked Rep. Kane for her hard work and advocacy on behalf of students on a variety of issues, including Circuit Breaker reimbursement.

D. Presentation & Public Hearing re: Town Meeting Warrant Article to Ban Polystyrene & Potential Impact on School Department

Mr. Collins and Beth Nichols, Food Service Director, gave a presentation on the potential impact that passage of a warrant article prohibiting the dispensing of prepared food in disposable food service containers made from Expanded Polystyrene would have on Shrewsbury Public Schools. Their presentation included information on the food service program at SPS, current disposal of waste and use of EPS styrofoam at SPS, and possible alternatives if the ban passes, noting that any increased costs would be borne by consumers. In discussion with the Committee it was noted this is a complex and town-wide issue, that the Food Service Department is self-funded, and that there are implications around food options and materials storage relative to the temperature-sensitive nature of some proposed alternative products.

Next, citizen petitioner Ramesh Razdan and SPS students Rahul Razdan, Siddanth Doshi, Anirudh Iyer, and Anish Warty, gave a presentation on their article that included information on: problems associated with styrofoam use and disposal methods and its impact on animals and the environment; MA towns that have banned EPS styrofoam; alternative products; anticipated results; survey data from local businesses; and the impact of the ban to schools. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer thanked the presenters for their thoughtful presentation of information on a complex issue, and asked about what other towns are doing.

Mr. Palitsch then opened the Public Hearing. Speakers were: Bob Ryan; SPS students Lucy Rajwani, Declan Daley, and Noelle Daley; Bryan Moss; John Cheniek; and Manish Dosi. Speakers provided their

perspectives on the potential styrofoam ban, both pro and con. Mr. Palitsch thanked the speakers and indicated that the School Committee would discuss the topic at its next meeting on May 16.

VI. Curriculum

None.

VII. Policy

A. Regulation of Conduct of Teachers Policy Update: Second Reading & Vote

Ms. Canzano, a member of the Policy Subcommittee with Mr. Palitsch, noted that no public feedback had been received since the draft policy was posted for viewing and comment after the meeting on April 24, but added that some Committee members felt more time was needed for additional review. Without objection from the Committee, the vote on the policy was tabled until a future meeting.

VIII. Finance & Operations

None.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on April 25, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

XII. Executive Session

A. For the Purpose of Reviewing & Approving Executive Session Minutes

B. For the Purpose of Negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association

C. For the Purpose of Negotiations with Non-Represented Administrators

D. For the Purpose of Negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of reviewing and approving executive session minutes, and for the purposes of negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association, Non-Represented Administrators, and the Superintendent of Schools, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and reconvene 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 9:44 pm.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agree to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 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. 2018 Senior Scholars Report
2. SAC Report
3. Polystyrene Ban Impact to SPS Report Slides
4. Citizen Petition on Polystyrene Ban
5. Petitioner's Polystyrene Ban Slide Presentation
6. Policy 321 Draft/Existing Policy 321
7. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above