

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 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 Mr. Palitsch at 7:00 pm.

I. Public Participation

Acknowledging the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the installation of a synthetic turf field at Shrewsbury High School (SHS), Shrewsbury resident Bryan Moss expressed his concerns with the plastic components associated with synthetic turf fields. Mr. Moss did not provide any written materials. Mr. Palitsch advised that the Committee did not intend to revisit the decision to install a synthetic turf field at SHS.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Wensky noted that he attended the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new synthetic turf field at SHS and offered congratulations to all who helped bring the project to fruition.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer noted:

He attended a successful meeting with the Facilities Subcommittee of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) regarding the submissions-to-date and received very positive feedback which noted that the Educational Plan document submitted to the MSBA was one of, if not the best, they have seen, and expressed thanks to Amy Clouter

and the leadership team for their work on the plan.

At the end of May in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1400+ teams from countries and affiliates around the world participated in the world's largest celebration of creativity, Destination Imagination's Global Finals. Shrewsbury High School's secondary level team "Shrewsbury Iced Lattes," comprised of freshmen Aabia Hasan, Diyala Bera, Divya Raghunathan, and Sneha Ramesh, were awarded first place in the "Inside Impact" service learning project. The team managers were Amber Khan and Mumtaz Hasan. The team competed against 67 other teams from different countries around the world.

For its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community, the Shrewsbury High School student council has been recognized as a 2018 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National of Student Council (NatStuCo).

SHS won Best Overall Production - the highest honor (for the second time in the last three years) at the Theatre at the Mount/Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) TAMY Awards. In addition the team won the Technical Excellence Award and the Stage Crew award. Aly Uy won Best Supporting Actress and Sophie Silverio won an award for outstanding Chorus Member. A scholarship would also be available to a SHS student attending MWCC.

Oak Middle School gave an excellent performance of Guys & Dolls the past weekend.

The SHS Class of 2018 enjoyed successful Commemoration and Graduation ceremonies last week and ended their very successful PK-12 school careers with class, and offered congratulations.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Student Recognition: SHS TV Production *Leading the Nation* Video

Maggie Korab, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Educational Television Studio (ETS) Director, attended the meeting, and students Sara Abdelouahed, Du'aa Ahmed, Andrew Hyland, Archana Purohit, and Timothy Schwab, gave a presentation on a video they created which was selected as one of four that was featured at the April 5, 2018, *Leading the Nation* (a statewide celebration in which Massachusetts public schools and local communities showcase their students' academic and creative successes) event at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. They discussed their process and showed the video. The Committee congratulated the students on a terrific video that captured the essence of Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) and thanked Ms. Korab. Dr. Sawyer noted that the video is featured on the district's website and is also shown to new hires at SPS. The students were invited up to be recognized by the Committee, and the students in turn presented Mr. Wensky with an ETS Honey Bear Award.

B. Student Recognition: SHS Robotics Team

Carol McNally, Program Director attended the meeting with other FIRST Robotics personnel. SHS students Sara Abdelouahed, Nial McNally, Akshay Ram, Sean Burns, Jasmine Duerk, Liam Wyman, and Rhea Krishnan gave a presentation noting highlights of their very successful 2017-18 season (which included winning a Chairman's Award - the most prestigious award given by FIRST Robotics - at the District and Regional levels); provided an overview of the program; discussed the program's positive impact to the community (noting multiple community service projects); and noted the future plans of graduating seniors. Team Mentor Timothy McBrayer joined the students to note how the program is growing, and to request permission for the team to host a First Robotics Competition (FRC) at the SHS Field House in 2019.

The Committee congratulated the team on their success and thanked them for the tremendous benefit they provide to the community through their service projects. Dr. Sawyer thanked Ms. McNally and the team mentors, noted that the program adds value to our schools and country, and advised that he would consult with SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo about hosting a competition next year. The team was then invited to come up and be recognized by the Committee.

C. State Senator Michael O. Moore: Annual Legislative Report

In his annual report, Sen. Moore congratulated SPS on the success of the Turf Field project and noted his visit came later in the Budget process than it had in prior years. He discussed a number of topics including the Chapter 70 program, per pupil minimum funding, and the foundation budget; the status of a pending extreme risk protective order bill in Massachusetts; and proposed state referendum questions on a "millionaire tax," a reduction to the current Massachusetts sales tax rate, and a paid family and medical leave insurance program, noting their potential impact to revenue earmarked for Kindergarten through Grade 12 education in the state.

The Committee thanked Sen. Moore for his report; advised that the transfer of the Glavin property to the town of Shrewsbury (the Glavin site is the Beal Building Committee's preferred site for a proposed new K-Grade 4 school) was a priority for them; and noted a preference for the House (versus the Senate) version of a bill regarding proposed changes to the state's civics education curriculum. Dr. Sawyer thanked Sen. Moore for his report and for his ongoing support of increased funding for public schools.

D. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Annual Report

Meghan Bartlett, Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, and Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Board Members Colleen Corbett and Jill DeBender gave the report, which included information about: SEPAC and its leadership team; topics of interest that were identified by surveying members and the resultant

events offered by the group this year; community outreach and associated benefits; potential 2018-19 events; and goals for the future. They finished by noting the importance of collaboration and mutual respect to the success of all parties in the district, and thanked the Committee and SPS Administration for listening and being responsive to their concerns.

The Committee and Dr. Sawyer expressed their appreciation for the presentation and SEPAC's hard work throughout the year on behalf of students; commented on the inclusive nature of many of the workshops they offered; and noted the potential for collaboration with different student groups at SPS to help realize future SEPAC goals like the creation of a website.

E. School Improvement Plans for Elementary Schools: Vote

Lisa Robinson, Principal, Parker Road Preschool; Chris Girardi, Principal, Beal Early Childhood Center; Tiffany Ostrander, Principal, Coolidge School; Lisa McCubrey, Principal, Floral Street School; Wendy Bell, Principal, Paton School; and Bryan Mabie, Principal, Spring Street School, gave the report, and acknowledged the contributions of Gina Kelly, Assistant Principal Intern, Floral Street School, who was in attendance at the meeting. They began by thanking the School Councils for all schools for their contributions to the report, then gave a summary of their proposed School Improvement Plans (SIP) for 2018-2020. The presentation noted common goals for all schools relative to the 2018-2022 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; then principals described their own school-specific goals.

The Committee noted the importance of prioritizing when setting goals, expressed appreciation for the holistic approach principals were taking to find effective strategies already being utilized in the district, and encouraged looking for potential sources of stress given the desire expressed by schools for enhanced social emotional learning strategies for students and staff. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer gave thanks to the School Councils for their contributions to the plans.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plans for Parker Road Preschool, Beal Early Childhood Center, Coolidge School, Floral Street School, Paton School, and Spring Street School.

F. School Improvement Plans for Middle Schools: Vote

Dr. Jane Lizotte, Principal, Sherwood Middle School and Dr. Ann Jones, Principal, Oak Middle School began by thanking their School Councils. Similar to the previous elementary presentation, Dr. Lizotte and Dr. Jones first presented common goals across both middle schools relative to the 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities, then provided information on unique goals for each school.

The Committee and Dr. Sawyer noted the plans were ambitious but achievable, asked clarifying questions about the self-assessment plan at Oak Middle and its potential for use at Sherwood Middle, and expressed appreciation for the focus on careers and project-based learning experiences. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plan for the Oak & Sherwood Middle Schools.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. SHS Athletic Field Project: Update

Mr. Collins began his report with photos of the groundbreaking ceremony held on June 5th for the SHS Athletic Field Project. He went on to provide updated information on the procurement process and construction schedule, and noted associated short-term impacts to the community around facility use and parking. Mr. Collins provided an update on fundraising, noted brick sales had been reopened, and advised that details on a grand opening celebration would be released soon. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Collins provided clarifying information on the track resurfacing project (and its associated funding that had been previously authorized through Town Meeting) that will happen concurrently with the installation of the synthetic turf field.

VIII. Old Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative Update: Report

Dr. Sawyer advised that this was the third of four updates (updates are required of member school districts) on the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC). He provided details on the *Approved Amended Agreement - 2018* presented to the Committee, which notes that Auburn Public Schools will become a voting member of the Collaborative effective July 1, and added that new members are a signal of the Collaborative's good health.

B. Superintendent's Contract: Vote

Mr. Palitsch noted the Committee had been negotiating an updated employment agreement for Dr. Sawyer in Executive Session meetings and had arrived at a tentative agreement, and that a

vote was required to authorize the Chair to approve an updated employment agreement with the Superintendent of Schools. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to execute an updated employment agreement between the School Committee and Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer as Superintendent of Schools for a period commencing July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023, which will include a 2.0% salary increase to \$194,360 and other updated terms as negotiated.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Palitsch noted an error in the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on May 16, 2018, and suggested amending them by striking the superfluous word “to” in the Public Participation section. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve minutes as amended.

XI. Executive Session

A. For the purpose of approving executive session minutes

B. For the purpose of negotiations with non-represented employees

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and approving executive session minutes, and for the purpose of negotiations with non-represented employees, 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 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 9:38 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SHS Robotics Slide Presentation
2. Leading the Nation Slide Presentation
3. SEPAC Annual Report Slides
4. AVC Approved Amended Agreement - 2018
5. All Elementary 2018-20 School Improvement Plans (SIP)
6. All Elementary SIP Slide Presentation
7. Sherwood and Oak Middle 2018-20 SIP
8. Sherwood and Oak Middle SIP Slide Presentation
9. SHS Athletic Field Update Slide Presentation
10. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above