

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 13, 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 7:03 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Girls softball on a successful post-season, noting they would play the following weekend at the district finals, and the SHS Boys Track team, who were the outdoor 4x100m relay New England Champions. Dr. Sawyer also noted that Dr. Jean Fitzgerald will serve as the interim principal at Calvin Coolidge School this fall while Principal Tiffany Ostrander is out on maternity leave.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Staff Retirements: Recognition

Ms. Malone recognized 16 educators and support staff who are ending their education careers at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) with a well-deserved retirement (those in bold were in attendance at the meeting): **Allen Beer**, Lauren Cacela, **Janet Duggan**, **Deborah Friedman**, **Susan Hirsh**, **Martha Kinback**, **Mary Beth Leifer**, Joanne MacLaughlin, **Patrice McCabe**, **Janet Pope**, **Rosann Silver**, **Stephen Winters**, Barbara Andreano, **Barbara Andrukonis**, **Laura-Kay Cosenza**, and Mary Ricker.

Some of the retirees in attendance gave brief remarks about their experiences at SPS. The Committee and Dr. Sawyer offered their thanks and congratulations to the group, then the retirees were invited up to be recognized by the Committee and to receive a token of appreciation for their service.

B. Student Recognition: State Science Fair Champion

Mr. David Hruskoci, Director of Science and Engineering, introduced SHS student Zoe Rudnick, and described Zoe's path from wins at local and regional science fairs to the Massachusetts State Science Fair, where she won a First Place Award for her project *Robot Navigation for the Exploration of Lunar and Planetary Surfaces*. Noting that the project was done for her Honors Chemistry Research Methods course, Zoe's presentation included a project overview, her results, and applications for the algorithm she wrote. Zoe answered clarifying questions from Dr. Sawyer and the Committee, and added that the Research Methods course helped hone her educational and technical writing skills, and her ability to collect and analyze data. Zoe was invited up to be recognized and congratulated by the Committee.

C. SHS School Improvement Plan: Report & Vote

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, began by introducing SHS student, School Council member, and co-presenter Nicholas Zecco, and thanking School Council members (including parent Robert Ryan, who was in attendance at the meeting) for their contributions to the 2018-2020 School Improvement Plan (SIP). The presentation noted SHS-specific goals relative to strategic goals associated with 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 - with Mr. Bazydlo and Nicholas offering perspectives from administration and student perspectives, respectively. They went on to answer questions from the Committee and Dr. Sawyer on topics including homework, connected learning, potential use of data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and internships.

On a motion by Ms. Fryc, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Improvement Plan for Shrewsbury High School.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

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

Mr. Palitsch gave a history of the work involved in updating *Policy 321: Regulations for the Conduct of Staff*, noting that while no feedback was received from the public after the first reading and posting of the draft, Committee members at the May 9 meeting felt more time was needed for additional consideration. Based on that review, minor language changes were made

to the original draft to address concerns, which resulted in the current policy draft being presented for approval. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to approve updated *Policy 321: Regulations for the Conduct of Staff*.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Report & Vote on Fund Transfer

For his final report on the FY 2018 budget, Mr. Collins predicted that the district would end the year having fully expended the FY 2018 appropriation, gave an overview highlighting a few categories showing variances, and noted that the district would be able to carry forward some FY18 Circuit Breaker funds into FY19. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer provided additional detail on costs associated with homeless and foster student transportation, and noted the evolving nature of federal law relative to foster student transportation.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the administration to make budget transfers from the original budget plan as necessary to eliminate deficits and surpluses with the intent of fully expending the total FY18 appropriation by June 30, 2018 and balancing all accounts.

B. Fiscal Year 2019 Non-represented Staff Compensation Adjustments: Vote

Ms. Malone described three requests for rate changes for non-represented staff - a 2% cost of living adjustment for non-represented roles, an increase of 1% for Extended Day Child Provider and Lead Child Provider roles, and a new pay scale for the Tier II IT Support Specialist position. Dr. Sawyer provided detail on the request for adjustments to the stipends for the Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Services, noting increasing time demands and evolving responsibilities associated with the positions relative to development, and thanked Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union and Audubon Shrewsbury for partially funding the positions through donations of \$7,500 each.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve compensation adjustments to non-represented staff for Fiscal Year 2019 as presented in the materials provided.

C. Use of Polystyrene in Food Services Program: Discussion

Mr. Palitsch provided background information on a recent warrant article that was not approved at the Annual Town Meeting which would have prohibit the dispensing of prepared food in disposable food service containers made from Expanded Polystyrene, with Ms. Fryc noting that early in the process the Committee decided that they would consider taking a look at doing things differently around sustainability if the article did not pass. Committee members offered

their perspectives, noting that looking at Polystyrene and sustainability would be worthwhile exercises. Overall there was consensus on taking a thoughtful two-pronged approach that included convening a workshop that specifically addressed Polystyrene, and having the Policy Subcommittee examine sustainability in a broader sense from a policy perspective. Mr. Collins added that as a result of the conversation on Polystyrene, Beth Nichols, Food Service Director, advised that information had already emerged on ways to potentially reduce or eliminate some Polystyrene in school cafeterias.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on June 6, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

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

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

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purposes of reviewing and approving executive session minutes, and negotiations with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and to reconvene to open session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, 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 8:44 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 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. Retiree Recognition Memo
2. Science Fair Slide Presentation
3. SHS School Improvement Plan (SIP) Report
4. SHS SIP Slide Presentation
5. Policy 321 Draft
6. FY18 Budget Status Report
7. FY19 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Memo
8. Non-Represented Staff Compensation Table
9. Clerical and Non-Certified Staff Rate Schedule
10. Development/Fundraising Spreadsheet
11. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above