

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 12, 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. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

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

Shrewsbury resident Bryan Moss noted his history of communicating his concerns around artificial turf fields with the Committee, and added that he had recently requested, via email, information relative to the fields in advance of their initial use at Shrewsbury High School. Mr. Palitsch noted that Mr. Moss would receive a response from Administration within the next few weeks. Mr. Moss did not provide any written materials.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Wensky thanked teachers, faculty, and staff for keeping the community updated on what is happening in classrooms by sharing information via social media, with Mr. Palitsch noting the Twitter hashtag #ShrewsburyLearns.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer also noted the increase in information being communicated on social media, which resulted from a request to the District Leadership Team to utilize these platforms to keep the community informed, and added that work was in process to add a news feed to the Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) website. He advised that the district continued to enjoy a strong start to the school year.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Student Recognition: Destination Imagination Global Champions

Destination Imagination (DI) team members/Shrewsbury High School (SHS) students Diyala Bera, Aabia Hasan, Divya Raghunathan, and Sneha Ramesh, with Team Manager Amber Khan, gave a presentation to the Committee that included general information on the DI program, and detailed information on their "Inside Impact" service learning project, which garnered their team - "Shrewsbury Iced Lattes" - a First

Place win (out of 67 teams) at the Global Finals competition in May 2018, in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Committee offered congratulations and asked clarifying questions, and Dr. Sawyer acknowledged Eric Craft, Destination Imagination Coordinator, and Team Manager Mumtaz Hasan, who were in attendance in the audience. The team was invited up to receive certificates and be recognized by the Committee.

B. Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association: Vote to Ratify

Per state law, in addition to the members of the School Committee, the Town Manager also may vote on municipal school district collective bargaining agreements. Town Manager Kevin Mizikar joined the meeting at 7:22 pm. Ms. Malone thanked Ms. Fryc and Mr. Wensky (the School Committee representatives during the negotiations) and Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, for their assistance during negotiations, and described how the new three-year Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association (SPA) Unit D contract, which is effective with the current 2018-2019 school year and extends through the 2020-2021 school year, differs from the previous contract. Ms. Fryc acknowledged the work of Noreen Christie and David Lowy (representing SPA) during negotiations and noted that open and honest dialogue was utilized throughout the process. Dr. Sawyer thanked all parties for a successful negotiation and noted that the SPA voted to ratify the agreement earlier in the week.

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion that the Committee vote to ratify the new Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association, Unit D contract per the terms outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Mizikar, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; the Committee voted to ratify the new Shrewsbury Paraprofessionals Association, Unit D contract per the terms outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Mizikar left the meeting at 7:29 pm.

C. State Rep. Hannah Kane & State Sen. Michael Moore: Legislative Report

Mr. Palitsch thanked State Representative Hannah Kane and State Senator Michael Moore for their assistance and advocacy regarding the transfer of the Glavin Center property to the Town of Shrewsbury for the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project. Rep. Kane and Sen. Moore gave a comprehensive report to the Committee on developments at the state legislature relative to public education and local entities that included information on: Chapter 70 funding/local aid; Circuit Breaker funding; Charter School reimbursement; Foundation budget; the status of a pending Civics Bill for schools; Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services (SYFS) funding; out-of-district transportation funding; road signage; and local traffic management relative to pedestrian safety. The Committee noted the need for parity regarding expenses and fees for out-of-district transportation and for additional vocational education opportunities for students due to high demand, and thanked Rep. Kane and Sen. Moore for their advocacy around Foundation Budget funding. Dr. Sawyer also thanked both for their advocacy on budget-related issues, school safety, and student mental health, and noted that while SPS cannot provide a physical vocational school environment, SPS is creating more real-world educational experiences for students, like the Project Lead The Way program at SHS.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. Adoption of Town Policies for Energy Reduction & Fuel Efficient Vehicles: Vote

For the Town of Shrewsbury to gain designation as a “Green Community,” a letter from the superintendent of its public school district must be provided to confirm that the school district has adopted the municipality’s Energy Reduction Plan and the municipality’s Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. At the School Committee meeting on August 29, 2018, Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins provided a summary of how the town’s Energy Reduction Plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy apply to the school district in advance of an anticipated vote this evening by the School Committee regarding adoption of the policies. Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins advised that they had received no feedback since the meeting on August 29.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the Town of Shrewsbury’s Energy Reduction Plan and the Town of Shrewsbury’s Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign all necessary documents noting said adoption regarding the Town’s application for Green Community status.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Personnel Hiring for the 2018-2019 School Year: Report

Ms. Malone’s report provided information on the rigorous hiring process for applicants as well as detailed statistics on hiring in the district for 2018-19 (only 1.6% of those who applied were appointed to a professional position; only 7% of those who applied were appointed to a paraprofessional position), and she acknowledged the important role of SPS staff and community partners in the hiring process. Committee members noted the volume and diverse educational backgrounds of applicants, and Dr. Sawyer added that several SHS graduates were recently hired.

B. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Update

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins presented an update on the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project that included a timeline (noting the Schematic Design proposal was submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority -MSBA- earlier in the day); noted current conditions at the existing Beal Early Childhood Center; detailed space needs at multiple SPS schools; noted the opportunity for state funding, which is time-sensitive; described the process of how the physical site was identified and acquired; described the school’s capacity and design details and noted how the project would meet the long-term needs of the community for all Kindergarten-Grade 4 students; and noted important dates going forward. Dr. Sawyer advised that the Beal Building Committee would be hosting tours of the existing Beal building for interested community members on September 24, 2018. Committee members noted: the importance of “right-sizing” the school and meeting the needs of all elementary students; the time-sensitive nature of associated state funding; the need for space for Full Day Kindergarten for all students; that ongoing utilization of the current Beal site is not workable; and that SPS has a history of making responsible, cost-effective choices when building new schools.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Appointment to the Board of Directors of Shrewsbury Media Connection, Inc.: Vote

Mr. Palitsch noted that the Committee has been seeking one member to fill its appointment to the newly formed Shrewsbury Media Connection, Inc. Board of Directors, following the transition of Shrewsbury Media Connection to a nonprofit organization, and Dr. Sawyer advised that he had received two applications. Detailing his many qualifications for the role, Dr. Sawyer recommended that Dr. Weichu (Brian) Xu be the Committee's candidate for the SMC, Inc. Board of Directors. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Weichu (Brian) Xu as its appointed member to the Board of Directors of Shrewsbury Media Connection, Inc. for a three-year term from October 1, 2018 through October 1, 2021.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee meeting held on August 29, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

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

B. 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, 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. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, 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 8:43 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Destination Imagination Slide Presentation
2. Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association (SPA) Unit D Contract Memo
3. SPA Unit D Memorandum of Agreement
4. SPA Unit D Rate Sheet
5. 2018 Personnel Report
6. 2018 Personnel Hiring Slide Presentation
7. Beal Project Update Slides

8. Shrewsbury Media Connection Board Recommendation Memo
9. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above