

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 26, 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 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked community members for touring the existing Beal School earlier in the week, noted the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project was going well, provided important dates associated with the project (including a November 6 vote on a ballot question to approve a debt exclusion to provide funding for a proposed new school), and invited the public to contact him or Mr. Palitsch with questions about the project. Dr. Sawyer noted that MCAS results would be released the following morning and that Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) would make a subsequent report on the results.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

None.

V. Curriculum

A. Professional Development: Report

Ms. Clouter's report included a description of Professional Development (PD); noted hallmarks of high quality PD; described how educators inform school goals, and district goals drive PD

content; noted the importance of continuous learning and learning pathways; described PD for teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators; and noted how data informs PD and drives the approach. Committee members commented on the importance of collaboration, assessment, choice, and communication in providing quality PD. In response to clarifying questions, Ms. Clouter provided additional information on how other districts approach PD, and how SPS utilizes external and internal resources and allows for autonomy while working within the PD framework. Dr. Sawyer added that time invested in PD must be well spent as the learning curve of educators parallels the learning curve of students.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Food Services: Annual Report

Mr. Collins advised that per a suggestion from Ms. Nichols, Director of Food Services, the timing of the annual report was changed so that complete information could be provided after the close of the prior year. In her report Ms. Nichols provided an overview of program offerings; described staffing levels (noting challenges filling and maintaining positions); summarized legislative updates; described the Meal Magic Point of Sale (POS) system used (noting that desired parental controls for a-la-carte items are not functional with the online vendor currently used with this POS system); noted actions taken around sustainability (elimination of straws, and plastic utensils and “to go” containers which contain Expanded Polystyrene; assessing the feasibility of installing dishwashers in schools; and planning site visits to districts that compost); discussed meal reimbursement; provided data on free/reduced meal participation; summarized 2018 financial information; and noted goals for 2018-19. Ms. Nichols finished her report by inviting the Committee to have lunch at a school site to observe the program firsthand.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the focus on sustainability, and asked clarifying questions about student participation, staffing challenges, the cost/benefits of potentially adding a District Chef, and parent concerns around control relative to student a-la-carte purchases. Mr. Collins noted the District is exploring different ways for parents to communicate controls they want put on their students’ accounts, and advised that adding another online vendor to provide this is not advisable as it would require an additional account and login for parents. Dr. Sawyer added that the food service program is highly regulated, and noted the challenges associated with providing detailed purchase information to parents while moving students through checkout lines in cafeterias in a timely manner.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Bullying Statistics: Annual Report

In his annual report, Dr. Sawyer provided statistics for 2017-18, noting low overall rates of bullying and little change from previous years. Noting the strict definition of “bullying” utilized for the report, Dr. Sawyer added that there are additional incidents of students engaging in behaviors that don’t meet the expectations of the District, and that SPS continuously focuses on promoting positive school cultures and appropriate behaviors. He added that SPS is also working to address student perceptions around social and emotional environments in the district.

Committee members commented on the importance of looking at situations that don’t meet the technical definition of bullying, noted it was difficult ascertain trends because bullying incidents are so low, and added that positive district culture plays a role in the low numbers reported.

B. Appointment of Superintendent as Representative to Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors: Vote

Mr. Palitsch reported that the School Committee must vote to appoint the Superintendent as Representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) Board of Directors each year. Dr. Sawyer noted he would provide four reports over the course of the year, felt membership in the AVC was beneficial to SPS, and recommended that the Committee vote to approve him as Representative to the AVC. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools, as its representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 school year.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on September 12, 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 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 8:20 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to

adjourn the meeting at 8:47 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. Food Services Report
2. Food Services Slide Presentation
3. Professional Development Report
4. Professional Development Pathways Document
5. SPS Summer Institute Catalog
6. Professional Development Slide Presentation
7. 2018 Bullying Memo
8. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above