

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 10, 2018**

Present: Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Mr. Jon Wensky; 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.  
Not present: Dr. B. Dale Magee, School Committee Member.

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**

None.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer noted that on October 12th there would be an opportunity for community members to attend sporting events at the grand opening of the new turf field - the David J. Adams Memorial Field at Central One Federal Credit Union Stadium - and visit the second annual Colonial Way Experience at Shrewsbury High School (SHS). Dr. Sawyer advised that at the Professional Development day on October 5, teaching staff focused on departmental work in the morning and individualized education "Pathways" in the afternoon; paraprofessional staff attended a presentation on positive culture by speaker Carrie Stack in the morning and worked on compliance training in the afternoon.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report**

Prisha Singh, Student, Chairperson; Erica Hanlon, Student; Paulina Hruskoci, Student; Sophia Peng, Student; and Max Evers, Student, (Mr. Andrew Smith, SHS Teacher and Faculty Advisor to the Student Advisory Committee was in attendance; Mr. Wensky is the School Committee

liaison) gave the presentation. They discussed issues relevant to the start of the school year, noted opportunities for leadership and school involvement at SHS, and described events at SHS that showcase school spirit. In response to clarifying questions from Dr. Sawyer and the Committee, the students provided additional information about the impact of increasing enrollment on physical space at the high school, lunch periods, and participation in extracurricular events. They also noted that a video is in production by the Student Wellness Advisory Team (SWAT) which features students sharing their perspectives on how they feel students, parents, and teachers define “success”.

## **B. SHS Class of 2018 Future Plans: Report**

Mr. Bazydlo, Principal, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling, Shrewsbury High School, provided data for the SHS Class of 2018’s future plans by: public and private 2- and 4-year matriculations; gender; geographic location of schools chosen; selectivity; future plans for students receiving special education services including information on public and private 2- and 4-year matriculations; and highlights from the exit survey taken by graduating students noting the top three reasons for college selection (location ranked #1) and top three sources of information (individual meetings with school counselors ranked #1).

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh provided additional information relative to the slight increase in students not attending college (taking a gap year, needing more time to make a decision, health issues); noted resources available for students not planning to attend college (gap year programs, internship and work-study programs, and guest speakers); and advised that Mr. Bazydlo and the assistant principals were assisting the School Counseling department by overseeing students in the new work study program, given the high demand on the school counselors for the other elements of their roles.

## **V. Curriculum**

None.

## **VI. Policy**

None.

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Update, Public Hearing & Vote**

Noting the long gestation period of a project of this magnitude, Mr. Collins began by highlighting important upcoming dates relevant to the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project. In their report, he and Dr. Sawyer also provided updates on the project (noting an increase in MSBA grant funding and a slight reduction in the overall project budget), detailed the rationale for the project, and gave information on the November 6th ballot question to authorize

a debt exclusion that would provide the town's share of funding to build a new Beal School. Dr. Sawyer recommended that community members vote "Yes" to approve the November 6th ballot question. He also discussed the *Resolution by the Shrewsbury School Committee in Support of the Beal School Building Project* draft presented to the Committee - which provides five major reasons for supporting the project - and recommended that the Committee vote to adopt the resolution in support of the Beal building project in advance of votes at the Special Town Meeting on October 22, and at the townwide debt exclusion election on November 6.

Mr. Palitsch opened the Public Hearing on the Beal Early Childhood Building Project at 7:54 pm. Shrewsbury resident Paul Schwab spoke in support of the project. Mr. Palitsch closed the Public Hearing on the Beal Early Childhood Building Project at 7:57 pm.

Mr. Palitsch read the draft *Resolution by the Shrewsbury School Committee in Support of the Beal School Building Project* in its entirety. Committee members all gave remarks in support of the project, noting it was a cost-effective solution (with MSBA providing a share of the funding) that would benefit all elementary students in the district. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the enclosed resolution in support of the Beal building project.

#### **B. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar: Review**

Mr. Collins provided an initial FY20 Budget Calendar. He highlighted important dates, and noted that he would be working with the Town Manager's office to finalize dates and refine the calendar.

#### **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 September 26, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

#### **XI. Executive Session**

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: Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:13 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SHS Student Advisory Committee Report
2. SHS Class of 2018 Future Plans Report
3. SHS Class of 2018 Future Plans Slide Presentation
4. Beal Project Resolution
5. Beal Building Project Committee Report
6. Beal Project Update Slide Presentation
7. FY20 Initial Budget Calendar
8. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above