

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 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

Mr. Palitsch, speaking on behalf of the Committee, thanked the community for voting in support of the recent Ballot Question to approve the proposed new Beal school and exempt the debt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2. He thanked the Community Supporters for Beal ballot committee: co-chair Beth Casavant (Selectman), Jason Molina, Erin Ryan, Suzanne Remington, and Kelly Barner; Ms. Fryc (Beal Building Committee); State Representative Hannah Kane; Selectman Jim Kane (Beal Building Committee); SPS staff including Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins; the Beal Building Committee; and all of the volunteers and supporters who contributed to the campaign's success. Ms. Fryc thanked Mr. Palitsch for his work as a co-chair on the Community Supporters for Beal ballot committee.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked the community for voting in support of the recent Ballot Question to approve the proposed new Beal school and exempt the debt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2. He acknowledged the work and support of the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Community Supporters for Beal ballot committee, architects Lamoureux Pagano Associates, owner's project manager PMA Consultants, and SPS staff.

Dr. Sawyer thanked community members for attending the recent Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention & Education (SCAPE) and Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. (SYFS) event, *Middle Schoolers at Risk: What Every Family Needs to Know Now*; Director of Nursing Noelle Freeman for her work on the presentation; and State Representative Hannah Kane for emceeding the event.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Beal Building Project: Update

In the report, Mr. Collins noted critical milestones that reflected strong community and MSBA support, including the recent vote in support of the recent Ballot Question to approve the proposed new Beal school and exempt the debt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½. He also provided an update on the MSBA process, Module 6 tasks around planning and preparation for bidding/procurement, the selection of a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) firm, and future plans for the existing school, including its name. Dr. Sawyer added that re-use of the existing building and land is being studied by the Beal Re-Use committee and does not fall under the purview of SPS or the School Committee, and recommended that the new school retain the name of Major Howard W. Beal.

B. Accept Gifts for SHS Athletic Fields Project: Votes

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins advised that the Galli family would make a gift of \$10,000 in honor of Hugo J. Galli to support the Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields and the gift would be memorialized with a plaque. Mr. Collins noted that a \$35,000 sponsorship agreement had been reached with UniBank for naming rights and signage on the ticket booth for ten years. Kathleen DeVito, Vice President, Director of Marketing, and Matthew J. Armenti, Relationship Branch Manager, Shrewsbury, Unibank, were invited to address the Committee. They noted the donation illustrates Unibank's commitment to the communities it serves, expressed excitement regarding the partnership, and took a photo with the Committee after the vote regarding the proposed Memorandum of Agreement was approved.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a gift of \$10,000 from the Galli Family in honor of Hugo J. Galli for the athletic field project at Shrewsbury High School.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the memorandum of understanding regarding the proposed sponsorship for the athletic field project at Shrewsbury High School by UniBank, including the acceptance of the funds for this sponsorship.

C. Athletics: Annual Report

Mr. Jason Costa, Director of Athletics; Delaney Couture, Grade 12 Student-Athlete (Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse); and Nate Hautala, Grade 12 Student-Athlete (Football, Basketball, Baseball), gave a report on 2017-2018 athletics to the Committee that included information on: program highlights; participation (by grade, season, number of sports); student leadership and perspectives; student-athlete successes; championship teams; support groups; and use of the new turf field. In response to clarifying questions from the Committee, the students provided additional information on participation in sports relative to leadership and meeting new people, use of the new turf field, and future plans. Mr. Costa

described recent changes to the SHS Captains summit, noted athletic opportunities for middle school students added in the current year (to be reported on next year), and addressed costs for off-site sports. Dr. Sawyer thanked the presenters and expressed appreciation for Mr. Costa's management skills during the transition to the turf field which coincided with inclement weather during the fall athletic season.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Testing Results: Annual Report

In their report, Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling, Shrewsbury High School (SHS), provided detailed student performance information on a number of standardized tests. They described College Board test administration and score reporting changes, redesigned SAT scales, gender trends relative to SAT scores, and SAT subject test information, and also provided information on PSAT awards, ACT participation and scores, and Advanced Placement (AP) participation and scores (showing SHS performance relative to national scores). Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh also described the school profile information for SHS provided to colleges for admissions and discussed plans for helping students maintain and improve scores on standardized tests.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh provided additional information on issues relevant to standardized tests being offered on weekdays during school instructional time, and on testing as a measure of student success. Dr. Sawyer acknowledged the complexities around testing during instructional time, and balancing academics with social/emotional health and well-being, and noted SHS's success in helping to prepare students for standardized tests while providing high-quality instruction and access to AP courses to a diverse group of students.

B. State Testing Results: Annual Report

Ms. Clouter described Next-Generation MCAS exam changes (Next-Generation exams have been administered for only two years, versus Legacy MCAS exams) and noted that MCAS performance results are provided in terms of achievement and growth. She presented Science & Technology MCAS (Legacy) results by grade level achievement; English Language Arts MCAS (Next-Generation) results by grade level achievement and growth (including Student Growth Percentiles - SGP - and High Needs subgroup data); and Math MCAS (Next-Generation) results by grade level achievement and growth (including SGPs and High Needs subgroup data). Ms. Clouter went on to describe how staff will use the MCAS results going forward to assess student needs, collaborate across levels, and work with administration on expectations for instruction.

Ms. Clouter provided additional information to the Committee on the format of Next-Generation exams, the performance of middle school students, addressing the needs of struggling students, exemptions and accommodations for English Language Learners, and level designations for districts (SPS' classification is "not requiring intervention or assistance"). Dr. Sawyer advised that if used correctly the MCAS data can be helpful, but added that it is important to remember that the data represents just one instance of testing.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar & Fiscal Year 2020 Fiscal Priorities & Guidelines: Votes

Mr. Palitsch advised that this was a second viewing of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar and Fiscal Year 2020 Fiscal Priorities & Guidelines and that no feedback had been received by the Committee. Mr. Collins noted no changes had been made since the first readings, and Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar and Fiscal Year 2020 Fiscal Priorities & Guidelines.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Priorities & Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Development.

B. Substitute Pay Rate Adjustment: Vote

Ms. Malone noted that the district has a pool of 110 day-to-day substitute teachers who may be used to fill in for absent teachers and paraprofessional staff. She advised that while absenteeism is low in the district, there are challenges around filling slots due to substitute teachers being signed up with other districts that offer more competitive rates than Shrewsbury, and proposed an increase in day-to-day substitute teacher rates from \$75/day to \$85/day for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year, and again from \$85/day to \$90/day for the 2019-2020 school year to compete with other districts. Mr. Collins added that the changes were needed and that the estimated cost was affordable, and also recommended approval of the new rates.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve an increase in the day-to-day substitute teacher rate from \$75/day to \$85/day for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year, and again from \$85/day to \$90/day for the 2019-2020 school year.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative Update: Report

State law regarding educational collaboratives requires four updates per year to member school Districts. Dr. Sawyer advised that this first report contained a wealth of information. He described Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) as financially healthy, noted they provide quality services to their member districts, and added that new districts want to join the collaborative (Auburn Public Schools recently joined), which is a positive sign that AVC is held in high regard and is seen as providing value to school districts.

X. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Palitsch noted that a minor correction was made to the Workshop minutes from October 18, 2018, and submitted by Ms. Fryc. The amended minutes were emailed to the Committee for review.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the School Committee Meeting on October 24, 2018 and the Workshop on October 17, 2018, and the amended minutes from the Workshop on October 18, 2018.

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 Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, 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 9:14 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Beal Building Project Update Slide Presentation

2. Memorandum of Understanding - UniBank
3. Athletics Annual Report
4. Athletics Slide Presentation
5. SHS Testing Report
6. SHS Testing Slides
7. State Testing Report
8. State Testing Slides
9. FY20 Budget Calendar
10. FY 20 Budget Priorities & Guidelines
11. Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher Rate Memo
12. Assabet Valley Collaborative Report
13. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above