

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 28, 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; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources.

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 the recent release of the Fall 2018 Shrewsbury School Journal which featured tweets from Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) staff bearing the #ShrewsburyLearns hashtag, and noted that Brian L'Heureux, Director of Information Technology recently made the SPS twitter feed viewable on the home page of the district's website. Dr. Sawyer also noted the release of the SPS 2017 Annual Report, which highlights successful SPS alumni, students, and staff, in concert with providing a statistical overview of the district. He thanked Karen Isaacson, Director of Extended Learning, and Beth McCollum, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, for managing the project.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Science Curriculum Update: Student Presentation & Report

Ms. Clouter and the following staff and students were presenters or in attendance at the meeting:

Elementary Instructional Coach / Curriculum Coordinators-

Mrs. Rebecca Dumphy, Parker Road Preschool and Beal Early Childhood Center

Ms. Erin Kendrick, Calvin Coolidge School
Mrs. Kathleen Camerato Barnes, Floral Street School
Mrs. Shelley Hoey, Floral Street School
Mrs. Lisa Papazian, Walter J. Paton School
Mrs. Donna Rice, Spring Street School

Students-

Grade 2 students from Kara Frankian's class at Floral Street School:

Shraddha Gujjari

Johnny Poppalardo

Grade 1 students from Camille Viscomi's class at Walter J Paton School:

Bryce Babigian

Colin Avis

Grade 4 students from Laura Spangenberg's class at Floral Street School:

Sidharth Sivaramakrishnan

Blake Rice

Ms. Clouter introduced the group. Ms. Kendrick provided an overview of new science practices and invited the Committee to participate in an exercise that illustrated using these practices to refine models, construct explanations, and and communicate information. The students presented information on how modeling was used in their classrooms to illustrate the relationships between the sun and earth/day and night, landslide prevention, and erosion/deposition. Ms. Clouter discussed next steps, and the student presenters were invited up to receive certificates and be recognized by the Committee.

The Committee commented on the use of scientific language, interactive learning, and problem solving by students, and asked clarifying questions about what was learned during the process by pilot teachers.

B. Portrait of a Shrewsbury Graduate: Advancing Our Vision

The report was given by Ms. Clouter; Mrs. Lisa Daly, Curriculum Coordinator, English Language Arts Grades 5-8; Mr. Rob Dunn, Curriculum Coordinator, Social Sciences, Grades 5-8; Mrs. Heather Gablaski, Assistant Principal, Sherwood Middle School; Mrs. Melissa McCann, Curriculum Coordinator, Mathematics, Grades 5-8; and Mrs. Shawna Powers, Director of Instructional Technology and Media Services. Ms. Pamela Poitras, Curriculum Specialist, was acknowledged but not in attendance.

Dr. Sawyer described EdLeader21 as the originator of the portrait of a graduate approach that many districts, including SPS, have adopted nationwide. He added that several instructional leaders from SPS attended the recent annual EdLeader21 conference to both present a workshop and learn from other innovative districts around the country. In their report, the presenters described shifts in educational practice, defined the "Tuning Protocol" tool, gave a project

example, shared information from the conference (noting the “4 C’s” of critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration and authentic learning experiences), and discussed using learning networks to grow.

Committee members noted the creativeness of this approach to learning, and asked clarifying questions about how the “Tuning Protocol” fits into the structure of the workday, and about student retention as compared to when a “learning facts” approach is utilized.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. Comprehensive School Health Grant Assurances: Vote

Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Ms. Noelle Freeman, Director of School Nursing, provided information on an opportunity to apply for a Comprehensive School Health Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health which could provide up to \$100,000 per year for a ten year period. Ms. Freeman noted that the priority population identified would be comprised of students experiencing mental and behavioral health concerns, and Ms. Belsito advised that the focus of the grant proposal would be to create a Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) program for middle school students, similar to the Transitions program currently at Shrewsbury High School (SHS). They went on to provide detailed information on how they envisioned the program might look, and noted requirements of the grant as they related to the job description of the Director of Student Nursing and any potential impacts on staffing. The Committee asked clarifying questions about reporting, staffing, and program structure and time limits, and Dr. Magee and Dr. Sawyer both expressed support around agreeing to the assurances needed and applying for the grant.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the current and future School Committee Chairs to sign off on the required assurances for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Comprehensive School Health Grant.

B. School Choice: Update, Public Hearing, & Vote

Dr. Sawyer noted that utilization of the School Choice program was sensitive to space. Mr. Collins provided background information, a current status of School Choice students, and revenue information, and made a recommendation that no new School Choice students be enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. The School Committee is required to hold an annual School Choice Hearing and vote on whether or not they wish to accept any School Choice students from other communities for the upcoming school year, and Mr. Palitsch opened the hearing at 8:20 pm. There were no comments from the Committee and Mr. Palitsch noted that there was no one in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Palitsch closed the hearing at 8:20 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to not participate in interdistrict school choice for the 20192020 school year.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Enrollment Projections: Report

In his annual report, Mr. Collins described the two methodologies utilized in the projections (one from the New England School Development Council and one from the Shrewsbury Town Manager's Office), provided historical information and detailed short- and long-term projections utilizing both methods, and provided summary highlights based on the projection data for 2019-2020 (SHS will likely have all-time high enrollment; there will not likely be a need for additional K- Grade 8 classroom teaching staff). In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Collins provided additional information on the rationale around using two projection methodologies, and noted how the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) projection model (used for the Beal Building Project) differs from both in that it emphasizes building projects in the pipeline and student migration factors when communities build a new school, resulting in a projection for more K-4 students in future years than the other two methodologies.

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 November 14, 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, and return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, 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 8:44 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 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. Science Curriculum Update Report
2. Science Curriculum Update Slide Presentation
3. Portrait of a Graduate Report
4. Portrait of a Graduate Slide Presentation
5. School Health Grant Memo
6. School Health Grant Assurances
7. School Choice Update Memo
8. Enrollment Projections Report
9. Enrollment Projections Slide Presentation
10. Town Manager's Enrollment Projection
11. NESDEC Enrollment Projection
12. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above