

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 19, 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 7:01pm, who requested a moment of silence in remembrance of fallen Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, Shrewsbury resident and father, whose daughter, Ava, is a fourth grade student at Coolidge School.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Ms. Canzano advised that she would not seek re-election to the School Committee when her (fourth) term ends in May.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer advised he was proud of the response to the recent tragedy of the death of Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, noting Coolidge staff were skillful and sensitive in how they reached out to daughter Ava (who is a student at Calvin Coolidge School) and her family and how they helped students there cope with their classmate's loss. He added that all schools responded to the tribute and fundraiser that Coolidge created to assist the Roy Family, noting the grand total raised by students, parents, and staff across nine schools, along with Town of Shrewsbury and SELCO staff, as part of the #Red4Roys effort was over \$50,000.

Dr. Sawyer attended, and congratulated participants in, recent seasonal concerts and the Sherwood Middle School musical.

Dr. Sawyer accompanied Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) co-President Chris Juetten and Treasurer Mark Adler to present a number of awards. The Impact Award for contributions that will have a lasting impact on students for many years to come was given to the following

leaders for their superb work in creating the educational plan for the new Beal Elementary School, which board members of the Massachusetts School Building Authority called one of the best they had ever received for a new building project: Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Meg Belsito; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, Amy Clouter; and Beal Early Childhood Center Principal, Chris Girardi.

John P. Collins Awards for Excellence were presented to the following individuals whose efforts routinely go above and beyond and exemplify the core values of the Shrewsbury Public Schools:

Professional Educators

Meghan de Leon, Special Education Team Chair/Teacher, Sherwood Middle School

Kathy Floyd, School Counselor, Shrewsbury High School (SHS)

Mario Gonzales, Special Education Teacher, SHS

Maggie Korab, Television Production Teacher, SHS

Paraprofessionals

Lisa Easson, Sherwood Middle School

Jodi Couture, Sherwood Middle School

Support Staff

Tracey Snow & Brianna Snow, Bus Driver & Bus Monitor - AA Transportation

Unsung Hero

Wolf Goethert, Volunteer, Spring Street School

Leadership

Shelley Hoey, Instructional Coach/Curriculum Coordinator, Floral Street School

Dr. Sawyer thanked and congratulated Assistant Superintendent Amy Clouter and her team for applying for and receiving the state level Systemic Student Support Grant.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Prisha Singh, Student, Chairperson; Erica Hanlon, Student; Paulina Hruskoci, Student; and Sophia Peng, 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. Max Evers, Student, was not in attendance as he was participating in a Shrewsbury High School (SHS) track meet. The students presented information on a variety of extracurricular opportunities, school service activities, and events that contribute to improving student life. The Committee asked clarifying questions about fundraising, the structure of Town Meeting at SHS, managing stress, and school start times. Dr. Sawyer added that a group of students who have studied the issue of school start times had been in touch with him as well.

V. Curriculum

A. Oak Middle School Design Lab: Student Presentation & Report

Ms. Clouter introduced Mr. Jeremy Mularella, Design Lab Teacher; Science and Technology Curriculum Coordinator Pam Poitras; and Oak Middle School (OMS) students Sidney Adams, Jordan Arria, and Nicole Iparraguirre-Bringas (OMS Principal Ann Jones was in attendance at the meeting) who gave the report. Ms. Poitras gave a history of Oak Middle School educator Allen Beer's pre-engineering curriculum at the Middle level, and Mr. Mularella described his vision going forward for the Design Lab in terms of desirability, feasibility, and viability. The students discussed a variety of projects that had been completed, and provided samples of their finished work that included models created on 3D printers. Mr. Mularella provided a "wish list" of tools for the lab, noted concerns around funding and sustaining the program, and expressed appreciation for past funding from the Colonial Fund for the Design Lab.

The Committee asked questions about evaluation and assessment, funding, and garnering feedback from students, and commented on the spirit of communication and collaboration inherent in the structure of the Design Lab. Dr. Sawyer acknowledged Ms. Poitras' and Dr. Jones' contributions to the design of the new program, and expressed appreciation to Co-Coordination of Development & Volunteer Activities Michelle Biscotti and Kathleen Keohane who fundraise for the Colonial Fund, which provides seed money for innovative practices like the Design Lab. He then invited students to receive a certificate and be recognized by the Committee.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. ClearGov Budget Communication Tool: Report

Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Bryan Burdick, President and CoFounder of ClearGov, and provided background information on Shrewsbury Public Schools joint project with the Town of Shrewsbury to secure the ClearGov product and platform. Mr. Burdick provided a history of the company and described how they take publicly available state data and organize it to be more transparent and understandable. He gave a live demonstration of their website and highlighted the *Benchmarking* and new *Projects* features. Mr. Burdick also provided an overview of some of the administrative and budgeting features that would be available to SPS as part of their subscription.

The Committee asked clarifying questions on subscription benefits, transmission of data to ClearGov, data integration with the SPS website, cost, control of information released, tech support, similarities to the Town's product use, and budgeting capabilities of the platform. Mr. Collins noted the product would provide value around communicating simplified historical data to the community, but added that there would be limits to using the budgeting tools given the multiple complex factors that are utilized in addition to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)

when forecasting. Dr. Sawyer noted opportunities for communicating information to the public going forward with the product and asked clarifying questions about benchmarking relative to traditional and charter schools.

B. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Update: Report

Mr. Collins gave an update on the FY19 budget by category, noting those that were over, under, or tracking as expected; described the overall budget as stable; and predicted an estimated year-end surplus (1.5 to 2%) based on current and projected spending trends. Mr. Palitsch noted that while there is the potential for volatility, the report represented a good news story, and Dr. Sawyer concurred.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Educator Evaluation Agreement with Shrewsbury Education Association: Vote to Ratify Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Palitsch provided historical background for the proposed language changes to the educator evaluation process outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement being presented. Ms. Malone noted there would be no direct impact to the budget, described key language changes, and thanked Dr. Sawyer, Ms. Clouter, and SHS Principal Todd Bazydlo for their participation in the process. Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote to ratify the language changes and expressed his appreciation to the Shrewsbury Education Association for their work on the changes.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to ratify the agreed upon language changes to the educator evaluation process outlined in the enclosed Memorandum of Agreement.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on November 28, 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, and to return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Dr. Magee, 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 8:49 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Student Advisory Committee Agenda
2. Design Lab Report
3. Design Lab Slide Presentation
4. ClearGov Report
5. ClearGov Product Flyer
6. ClearGov Case Study
7. FY19 Budget Update Report
8. Educator Evaluation Memo
9. Memorandum of Agreement: Educator Evaluation
10. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above