

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Principal's Conference Room
Shrewsbury High School
64 Holden Street
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Present: Mr. Jason Palitsch, Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary; Dr. Dale Magee; Mr. Jon Wensky; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Workshop was opened by Mr. Palitsch at 6:03 PM.

Mr. Collins provided the group with information in regard to FY20 Budget Development Planning and Key Dates and Events. In previous years the School Department budget process was to develop an initial budget including maintaining existing programs plus new initiatives. The Town Manager's initial budget included a conservative approach to revenue projects that would typically be adjusted upward as more information was developed during the process. Combining the two methods resulted in a large gap at the outset of the budget process.

The group discussed using a new budget process for FY20 that will propose a "Status Quo" initial budget and present Strategic Investment Packages directly aligned with the district's Five-Year Plan and District Goals. It is believed that Town Manager, Kevin Mizikar's initial budget will include a less conservative revenue projection based on five-year trend data and it is thought that this will result in a more realistic budget number for the School Department at the end of the process.

The hope is the School Department budget messaging will be positive by discussing what Strategic Investments can be added to the budget as a result of hopefully higher revenue estimates as opposed to the usual talk of budget reductions.

Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer discussed the Key Dates and Events in the FY20 Budget Process calendar and asked the group to note that April 22, 2019 has been added as a tentative budget workshop to react to the House Budget numbers.

Mr. Collins provided a chart that summarizes the FY19-FY23 transportation contract with AA Transportation. The purpose in negotiating off the original bid was to lower the district's overall costs and decrease the burden of a significant increase in the FY19 Budget.

Mr. Collins, Dr. Sawyer, Ms. Clouter and Ms. Belsito provided the group with information in regard to FY20 Strategic Investment Proposals. The proposal was grouped in categories that match the district's two-year goals for FY18-FY20: Space and resources to support effective learning; Learning environment where everyone's success matters; Enhanced well-being of all; and Connected learning for a complex world. The final category in the proposal is "Other necessary Priorities or Mandated Services."

The group discussed various items listed in the investment proposals for each category.

The current estimated increase needed for the FY20 Strategic Investment Proposals is \$1,755,666.

The group agreed that new budget process approach ties directly to district goals and priorities. The increases are due to student needs, increased population and research/development to improve education practices in the district. It is a cohesive budget approach that goes beyond FY20.

Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer reminded the group that it is early in the budget process and more specificity will depend on available revenue. As the budget process evolves, decisions on how to rank or prioritize the proposed investment proposals may be required.

The group stated that community feedback will be important to the FY20 budget process.

Executive Session

Mr. Palitsch requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Shrewsbury Education Association and Cafeteria Workers Union SEIU Local 888, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 7:38 PM.

Adjournment

On a motion Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Secretary

Documents Referenced:

FY20 Budget Development Planning

Draft – FY20 Strategic Investment Proposals and Summary of Strategic Investment Proposals