



## Superintendent's Update

November 2, 2016

Dear Shrewsbury Families & Community Members,

The latest edition of my television show, *Superintendent's Update*, can now be seen on SELCO Channels 29/329 at various times, or viewed online by clicking [here](#). The topic is the state ballot questions #2 and #4, and my guests are School Committee Chair, Sandy Fryc; School Committee Vice Chair, Dr. Dale Magee; and Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Patrick Collins.

Please remember to check [our website](#) for the latest news and information regarding our school district.

This update also contains information on the following:

- Educators honored for achieving professional status
- Innovation in Learning Study Group report
- SHS athletic facilities – proposed upgrade
- Beal building project

### **Educators honored for achieving professional status:**

Last week we held one of my favorite events of the year, which is the reception to honor educators who have achieved professional status (i.e., tenure) in our school district. In Shrewsbury this designation is truly earned, as it requires three successful years of teaching with a high level of scrutiny of one's practice, and the reality is that some candidates do not meet the high standards we hold in our district and do not continue beyond this initial period. To see who was honored and to read short bios for each honoree, [click here to see the official event program](#) – you will see that these educators have accomplished a lot in three years!

### **Innovation in Learning Study Group report:**

At the last School Committee meeting, the Innovation in Learning Study Group presented their findings from their grant-funded visits to various schools last year. I want to thank the members of the study group for their outstanding work, which will help inform our current practice and our next strategic plan. I encourage you to view their [slide presentation](#) and to read their [report](#). I appreciate their efforts to help us determine what kinds of innovative practices are happening in

successful schools, and how these might help us ensure that we are best preparing our students for success in a rapidly changing world.

**SHS athletic facilities – proposed upgrade:**

A plan to upgrade the athletics facilities at SHS was presented to the School Committee at its last meeting as well. This project, which will only go forward if the funds are raised outside of the budget, would provide a synthetic turf field for the stadium to allow for significantly increased use by SHS athletic teams, physical education classes, and local youth sports, which is not possible with a natural turf field. To see the presentation slides, click [here](#), and for more information go to the School Committee reports page [here](#). The School Committee and I welcome public comment on this plan; the Committee is scheduled to vote on the project at its upcoming meeting on Wednesday, November 9 at 7pm at Town Hall. The School Committee's email address is [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

**Beal building project:**

The Beal Building Committee will make a presentation of the latest information on this process to the School Committee at their meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, November 9 at Town Hall (broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29/329 and streamed live by the Shrewsbury Media Connection). For information on the project, you may be interested in watching the recent television shows with members of the building committee, the first of which can be viewed [here](#).

Thanks for all you do to support our schools! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance: [jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:jsawyer@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) or 508-841-8400.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer  
Superintendent of Schools