



## Superintendent's Update

February 10, 2017

Dear Shrewsbury Families & Community Members,

It has been quite a week of winter weather, and more to come this weekend and into the first part of next week (Punxsutawney Phil had it in for us this year, it seems...). We'll have to wait and see whether this impacts school on Monday, but the forecast is not looking so great at this point. If your student has activities scheduled at any of our schools over the weekend, you can look to the homepage on our website to see if there is a banner at the top that will indicate whether we have closed campuses due to weather. Right now, Saturday looks snowy but okay for campus access, and we'll see about Sunday.

Please note the following informational items:

- Young Hero Award for a Little Colonial
- SHS Music success
- Speech & Debate Team success
- Financial Projections Subcommittee report - Part 2
- Beal Building Committee public hearing on February 14 at 6:00pm
- School Committee feedback opportunities (calendar, tuitions/fees, and budget)

### **Young Hero Award for a Little Colonial**

We're all very proud of Little Colonials preschool student Bryce Babigian, who yesterday was presented with a Young Hero Award from the Massachusetts Fire Service. Bryce smelled smoke in his home, and, following what he learned during fire safety lessons from Shrewsbury Firefighter Michael Guarino, he alerted his mom, told her to call 911, and assisted her and his younger sister to evacuate to their safe meeting place. We appreciate our fire prevention education partnership with the Shrewsbury Fire Department and thank Firefighter Guarino for doing such an effective job teaching our preschoolers fire safety! For a photo, please see [this post on my official Facebook page](#).

### **SHS Music success**

Recently, SHS hosted the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's auditions for its All-State Conference, and I'm pleased that six SHS music students earned the honor to perform

in the All-State concert at Symphony Hall in chorus or orchestra (they are listed at the bottom of this message). Congratulations to these talented and hard-working vocalists and musicians!

### **Speech & Debate Team success**

This past weekend, Shrewsbury High School Speech & Debate team hosted the New England Regional competition of the National Speech and Debate Association tournament our own Sherwood Middle School. SHS earned the school Speech Sweepstakes for the top results in this year's tournament and the coveted District Trophy which represents cumulative competition at the district tournament over several years. Finally, our team was also presented with the Leading Chapter Award signifying the strength of student participation in our program. It is considered by the NSDA as the highest recognition it can bestow upon a Chapter. Congratulations to the team, and also to the twelve team members who performed well enough to earn bids to nationals (they are listed at the bottom of this message). Bravo!

### **Financial Projections Subcommittee report - Part 2**

School Committee members Dale Magee and John Samia are serving on the Financial Projections Subcommittee. This past Wednesday evening, Mr. Samia presented the subcommittee's second report, outlining financial projections over the next five years, which show a challenging structural gap between potential revenue and costs. To view the slides, which contain a variety of very helpful graphics, click [here](#). The Subcommittee will be making another report next month.

### **Public Hearing on Beal Building Project: February 14 at 6:00pm**

The Beal Early Childhood Center Building Committee is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, February 14 at 6:00pm in the Old Selectmen's Room (Conference Room B) of the Municipal Office Building at 100 Maple Ave to gather written and oral comments from interested citizens on the work of the Committee as it prepares to begin the feasibility study phase of the Mass. School Building Authority process. Please attend if you wish to provide any feedback to the Building Committee as it moves through the early phases of this important project. For information on the project thus far, go to the Committee's web page [here](#).

### **School Committee feedback opportunities**

The School Committee welcomes feedback from the public on the following topics:

- **School Calendar for 2017-2018:** A draft of next year's school calendar was presented to the School Committee at its meeting this past Wednesday. It follows a similar format to recent years, reflecting the work of last year's Calendar Committee made up of parents and staff. Please note that, as there is no election day this coming November, the parent conference day for Preschool - Grade 8 that is also a professional development day for SHS staff is proposed for Thursday, November 9, which would abut Friday, November 10 when Veterans Day would be observed. You can see the draft calendar [here](#). The School Committee will vote on the calendar at their next regular meeting on March 1.

- **Tuitions & Fees for 2017-2018:** [A memo on tuitions and fees](#) and a [projection of potential fees for next year](#) were presented to the School Committee at its last meeting, illustrating what some level of increase could entail. No recommendation has been made at this time, and the School Committee will further consider whether to make any adjustments to tuitions and fees at their next regular meeting on March 1.
- **Public Hearing on FY 2018 School Department Budget:** A public hearing on the [Superintendent's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2018](#) will be held at the School Committee meeting on March 1, which begins at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall (100 Maple Ave.). The School Committee welcomes feedback on the budget recommendation as the district administration works through the process of creating a reduction plan that will be presented on March 15 that recognized [the existing funding gap](#).

Feedback for the Committee on any of these topics may be sent to [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

Thanks for taking the time to read this information, and thank you for your continued support of our community's public schools.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer  
Superintendent of Schools

**SHS Music Students Qualifying for All-State**

Akshay Alamuri, grade 12 - Chorus, Bass  
Johanna Geremia, grade 12 - Chorus, Soprano  
Matthew Slaughter, grade 11 - Chorus, Tenor  
Angela Rezuze, grade 10 - Chorus, Alto  
Matthew Huang, grade 12 - Orchestra, Violin  
Felice Xie, grade 10 - Orchestra, Violin

**SHS Speech & Debate Students Qualifying for the National Tournament**

Congressional

Seth Mahowald

Humorous Interpretation

Shazeb Meraj

Will Stewich

Jared Sarnie

Informative Speaking

Paulina Hruskoci

Sophia Peng

Emily Radkowski

Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking

Maya McCollum

Suchir Ural

Dramatic Interpretation

Ben Harris

Duo Interpretation

Prisha Singh & Harini Shanmugan