

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

Present: Dr. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. Jason Palitsch; 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 Dr. Magee at 7:00 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

Shrewsbury resident Benjamin Tartaglia addressed the Committee and advised that in regards to the Beal Building Project, he hoped that if a new school were placed at a different location, that the existing site would be utilized for senior citizen housing.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated everyone involved with the recent Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival. He noted Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) participated in many ways, with the Speech & Debate and Robotics teams hosting bingo and a family carnival during the Oak Expo, along with fall athletics teams and the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Marching Band participating in the parade on Sunday.

Dr. Sawyer noted Shrewsbury High School was recognized as a Unified Sports Champion School by Special Olympics Massachusetts, adding that we are very proud to have a variety of unified sports offerings at SHS, where students of all abilities play alongside one another and reap the benefits of being part of an athletic team. The recognition stated "Thank you for your school's commitment to fostering a socially inclusive school climate that emphasizes acceptance, respect, and human dignity for all students."

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

##### **A. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Presentation by Architect & Project Manager**

Katie Crockett and Sean Brennan, representatives of the Architect (Lamoureux Pagano Associates) and Paul Queeney, representative of the Owner's Project Manager (PMA Consultants) provided an update on the Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project. Mr. Queeney described the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) Program Process and Feasibility Study process, which he noted is in Module 3 for the Beal Project. Noting MSBA requires regular reports, he also provided detailed MSBA checklists for Modules 3 and 4.

Ms. Crockett provided a copy of an MSBA Space Summary Template, which is used to derive guidelines for space based on enrollment projections and grade level, and noted that both options under consideration (K-1, K-4) suggest a need for a 115,000 sq. ft. space. The Current Beal Early Childhood Center is approximately 30,000 sq.ft. Regarding sites, Mr. Brennan noted that they currently estimate a need for a site with 10-12 buildable acres, and that 31 locations are presently being reviewed for viability. They added that a number of factors, including site access and before/after school programs, must also be taken into consideration when deriving building placement.

In response to questions from the Committee, the group provided information on choosing sites, siting a new building relative to existing structures, deriving costs, and design methodologies.

##### **B. Beal Early Childhood Center Building Project: Public Hearing & Discussion on Future Grade Configuration**

This public hearing was one of two that give community members an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback in advance of the School Committee vote on October 25, 2017, to decide which of two grade configuration (K-1, K-4) to adopt.

One community member asked about the relationship between the Beal Building Committee and the municipal Zoning Board, and about redistricting, and noted her preference for the K-4 configuration option.

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins provided information on enrollment growth in the district in the past two decades, advised that growth in town is not the purview of the Beal Building or School Committees, and noted that redistricting was a complex process that would be studied and implemented through a thoughtful, multi-year process.

##### **C. Special Education Summer Programs: Report**

Ms. Meg Belsito, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, gave a report on 2017 Extended School Year (ESY) services for special education students. Ms. Belsito provided criteria for eligibility; described process, procedures, and program organization; noted that by centralizing the process for eligibility there was an overall budget reduction of \$67,002 from FY17 to FY18; provided a breakdown of students attending by school level; noted 29% of special education students receive ESY services; and provided a summary of services. Ms. Belsito went on to note changes to the program that included thoughtful reallocation of staff, and

for future, recommended a review of transportation services and communication with parents regarding the importance of student attendance.

In response to clarifying questions from the Committee, Ms. Belsito discussed how building transitions are addressed; communication with parents; potential barriers to attendance; the use of grant money; and assessing regression in students to determine eligibility for the program.

## **V. Curriculum**

None.

## **VI. Policy**

None.

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Calendar: Review**

Mr. Collins provided an overview of the FY19 Initial Budget Calendar. He highlighted important dates, noted that some dates might be adjusted when the Town Manager publishes his FY19 Budget Calendar, and advised that a vote on the FY19 Budget Calendar was scheduled for the October 11, 2017 School Committee meeting.

### **B. Fiscal Year 2018 Grants: Report & Vote**

Mr. Collins advised that most FY18 grants were in place, that SPS now receives only federal education grant funding, and that presently the district is poised to receive \$201,206 more than FY17. He noted that an increase in Title I funding resulted from the district surpassing the 5% Poverty Percent threshold, which was not the case in FY17, and advised in response to questioning that state level data is used to determine Title I funding,

Dr. Magee noted that the amount of grant monies allocated to Shrewsbury is small relative to the overall budget, and that the correspondent rate of growth to grants is smaller than the rate of growth to the budget. Dr. Sawyer added that while we continue to apply for grants, our eligibility is declining because of the relative socioeconomic affluence of the student population.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to accept all FY18 grant funds noted in the enclosed chart and use such funds for their intended purpose.

## **VIII. Old Business**

None.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Donations for Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Activities: Vote**

Dr. Sawyer noted that for several years, Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union and Audubon Shrewsbury have generously provided funding for the Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Activities positions. He added that the current Coordinators - Ms. Michelle Biscotti and Ms. Kathleen Keohane - work on development and sponsorship efforts and coordinate volunteer efforts across the district.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a donation of \$7,500 from Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union to be used as funding for the Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Activities.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a donation of \$7,500 from Audubon Shrewsbury to be used as funding for the Coordinators of Development & Volunteer Activities.

### **X. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on September 13, 2017 were accepted as distributed.

### **XI. Executive Session**

#### **A. Review and act on student residency request**

#### **B. Review and act on executive session minutes**

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to enter into executive session in order to discuss approval and release of Executive Session Minutes and for a discussion and vote on a student residency request, adding that the Committee would reconvene to open session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes, the Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

### **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Dr. Magee, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Beal Slide Presentation
2. FY19 Budget Calendar
3. Special Education Summer 2017 Report
4. Special Education Summer 2017 Slide Presentation
5. FY18 Grants Report
6. Title I Fund Allocation Document
7. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above