

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. John Samia; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson, and Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources, did not attend the meeting.

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Fryc at 7:00 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

None.

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

Ms. Fryc noted that the Committee recently taped an episode of their *School Talk* program, which focused on school budget and finance issues, would be broadcast by the Shrewsbury Media Connection.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the Shrewsbury High School Speech and Debate Team on finishing in 4th place overall at the recent State Tournament; noted that the rollout of MCAS 2.0 testing in the District had gone smoothly, including the first time use of iPads by Grade 4 students for the online exam; and provided an update on the search process for the district's next Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. He advised that finalists for the Assistant Superintendent position are: Amy Clouter, Principal, Coolidge School; Carol Costello, Director of Curriculum & Grants for the Berlin-Boylston Public Schools; and Jane Lizotte, Principal, Sherwood Middle School.

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

##### **A. Student Recognition & Vote for Student Travel: Destination Imagination Global Competition**

The presentation was given by Vidya Sambasivan, Destination Imagination (DI) Manager, Laura Astorino, DI Manager, and the DI 7 Fireball Winners Student Team:

Anika Karre - 4th grade (Floral)  
Aashi Gupta - 4th grade (Floral)  
Cassidy Astorino - 4th grade (Paton)  
Katie Phipps - 4th grade (Floral)  
Nidhi Vidyaprakash - 5th grade (Sherwood)  
Varsha Swaminathan - 4th grade (Floral)  
Yerin Kim - 4th grade (Floral)

The students gave an introductory performance, and the managers provided a report that included a description of the DI Program, the Scientific Challenge they chose, and the Challenge Solutions they employed. They noted that having placed 2nd in the State Tournament, their team would advance to the Global Finals in Knoxville, TN, in May 2017, and described how they would fundraise to cover the costs associated with the trip. Dr. Sawyer and the Committee congratulated the team, asked questions, and noted how the DI program demonstrates students taking ownership of their learning.

School Committee Policy #537 requires School Committee approval for school sponsored trips in excess of two nights for the first or second time. On a motion by Mr. Samia, moved by Mr. Wensky, the School Committee vote unanimously to approve overnight travel for a Destination Imagination team to participate in the Global Finals in Tennessee in May, 2017.

After the vote, the team was invited up to be recognized by the Committee.

##### **B. Student Health & Wellbeing Strategic Priority: Report**

Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing; Debra Garcia, Director of Health, Physical Education and Family Consumer Science; Nicole Polito, Grade 12 Student SHS, Shrewsbury Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC) Student Representative; and Michael O'Connell, Grade 12 Student SHS, SWAC Student Representative, were on hand to give the report. The staff and students listed the District Priorities to Support Student Health and Wellbeing, and provided data on achieving the District and SWAC goals associated with the Priorities. Accelerometer and Pedometer Physical Activity Data was provided, as was self-reported data from students, and it was noted that both data sets correlated well with each other. Students reported reasons for not reaching desired levels of physical activity (61% advised they did not have enough time), and 92% noted they can recall the 5-2-1-0 concept of Healthy Habits. Additional topics included support available in the District for students around social, emotional, and/or mental health issues; results from the Regional Youth Health Survey; results of the April 2017 Student Social

and Emotional Cultural Survey; a description of the Mental Health First Aid program; a discussion of Health Education in the District; and a discussion of how various media are utilized to communicate information on health and wellness.

The Committee acknowledged how dramatically the landscape around health and wellness had evolved in the past thirty years, and noted the importance of support for students' physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Mr. Samia suggested digging deeper into the data reported by students on the goal related to perceptions as to whether their schools' social and emotional cultures were healthy (the student data indicated 73% agreed that the social culture was healthy and 66% that emotional culture was healthy, well below the 90% goal, while parents and staff levels ranged from 80% to 88% agreement on these indicators). Dr. Sawyer also suggested investigating the "why" behind the percentages since student data was not as strong as that reported by parents and staff, and noted that the District planned to add an additional Assistant Principal and also hoped to have sufficient budgetary resources to add an Adjustment Counselor at SHS to enhance student support at the high school level.

### **C. Special Education Parent Advisory Council: Report**

Meg Belsito, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services; Blake Poggi, Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) Board Member; Colleen Corbett, SEPAC Board Member; and Jill DeBender, SEPAC Board Member, presented the report. Discussion began with SEPAC's Mission Statement, and went on to include: information on means of outreach and communication; statistics on parent participation (current family participation is 7%); a summary of education and training opportunities for 2016-2017; a list of upcoming events; and areas of concern, especially as they relate to the Fiscal Year 2018 potential budget cuts. Preliminary results were presented on the 2016-17 Survey for parents and caregivers of students on Individual Education Plans (IEP) and 504 Education Plans. The survey addressed the Family-School Partnership and Service Delivery and examined the link between both, and a sampling of comments from participants was provided.

In a discussion of future goals and opportunities, parent board members noted they looked forward to continued collaboration with Ms. Belsito, expressed their appreciation for her work on behalf of students, and described her as "gracious," "kind," "compassionate," and "accessible." They outlined a number of goals and provided the modes of communication being utilized. Comments from Dr. Sawyer and Committee members included a suggestion from Ms. Canzano that former students on IEPs be recruited to come back by SEPAC to provide inspiration and hope to students currently on education plans and their families. She also noted that historically a member(s) of the School Committee had acted as a liaison to SEPAC and suggested that this be reinstated going forward with regular meetings including Dr. Sawyer, SEPAC, and a Committee liaison(s).

### **V. Curriculum**

None.

## **VI. Policy**

None.

## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Updated Information & Discussion**

Mr. Collins began by noting that Bus Registration for 2017-2018 had opened recently, and he encouraged families to register as soon as possible.

He opened his Fiscal Year 2018 Budget report with a recap of the timeline, noting the District is in an interim period of the process, and that Dr. Sawyer would provide his final FY 18 Budget Recommendation to the Committee on April 26, 2017. Mr. Collins noted that the House Ways and Means recently released state budget recommendation calls for an increase in per pupil spending over Governor Baker's plan; indicates decreased tuition charges for charter schools based on pre-enrollment data; and reduces charter school reimbursement revenue, with a bottom line positive change for the district of \$274,373. He went on to note that locally, changes in out of district special education and vocational school enrollments would reduce the budget by \$300,000, which would allow for revisions to the proposed Five Tier Reduction plan that included eliminating Tier Five and reducing the negative impact of Tier Four.

Committee members welcomed the positive impact the new figures had on the budget, and Dr. Sawyer noted that innovative programs at SPS helped to reduce the number of students attending charter schools, which keeps more money in the District.

### **B. Beal Building Project: Update and Vote on School Committee Designee for Designer Selection Process**

Mr. Collins advised The Beal Early Childhood Center Project had successfully advanced from Phase 1 into Phase 2 and was now in the process of hiring an Owner's Project Management (OPM) firm. He noted that the MSBA Designer Selection Panel consists of thirteen members, and that the MSBA requires that the three community members specifically be: the Town Manager or his/her designee; the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee; and a School Committee designee. Ms. Canzano noted that Ms. Fryc is on the Beal Early Childhood Center Committee, and Ms. Fryc advised that she would be available on the targeted future meeting dates.

On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to to appoint Sandra Fryc as the School Committee Designee for the Designer Selection Process of the Beal Building Project.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None.

### **IX. New Business**

None.

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

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on March 29, 2017.

### **XI. Executive Session**

None.

### **XII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Destination Imagination Travel Document
2. Destination Imagination Slide Presentation
3. Student Health/Wellbeing Report
4. Student Health/Wellbeing Slide Presentation
5. Special Education Parent Advisory Council Report
6. Special Education Parent Advisory Council Slide Presentation
7. FY 2018 Budget Report
8. School Committee Designee to Beal Project Designer Selection Panel Memo
9. MSBA Designer Selection Process Document