

**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**March 15, 2017
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall -100 Maple Avenue
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

**March 15, 2017 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue**

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------|
| I. | Public Participation | 7:00-7:10 |
| II. | Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports | |
| III. | Superintendent's Report | |
| IV. | Time Scheduled Appointments: | |
| A. | Student Recognition: State Gymnastics Champion | 7:10 – 7:20 |
| V. | Curriculum | |
| VI. | Policy | |
| A. | Charter & School Choice Attendance: Report | 7:20 – 7:30 |
| B. | School Choice: Public Hearing | 7:30 – 7:40 |
| VII. | Finance & Operations | |
| A. | Financial Projections Subcommittee: Report | 7:40 – 8:05 |
| B. | Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Recommended Reductions | 8:05 – 8:40 |
| VIII. | Old Business | |
| IX. | New Business | |
| A. | Superintendent's Goals: Discussion | 8:40 – 8:55 |
| X. | Approval of Minutes | 8:55 – 9:00 |
| XI. | Executive Session | |
| XII. | Adjournment | 9:00 |

Next regular meeting: March 29, 2017



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

ITEM NO: II. Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson of the School Committee and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

School Committee Members
Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary
Ms. Erin Canzano, Committee Member
Mr. John Samia, Committee Member

ITEM NO: III. Superintendent's Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**
A. Student Recognition: State Gymnastics Champion

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the committee recognize the outstanding achievements in gymnastics of Shrewsbury High School senior Julia Schaefer?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Ms. Schaefer won the MIAA gymnastics state individual all-around title, as well as the state individual event titles in both floor exercise and uneven bars, on February 20, 2017.
2. Ms. Schaefer finished first in the South sectionals on February 25, 2017, to lead the Colonials in her final team meet. Ms. Schaefer was a top-12 finisher in all four events, with an outright win in the bars, and tying for third place in the floor routine to help her to the best all-around score.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the committee recognize the outstanding achievements in gymnastics of Shrewsbury High School senior Julia Schaefer.

STUDENTS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Julia Schaefer, Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Student
Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal
Mr. Jason Costa, SHS Athletic Director



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

A. Charter & School Choice Attendance: Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the Committee hear a report on Charter & School Choice Attendance?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Mr. Collins' report includes information on enrollment and finances related to Charter Schools, School Choice, and Virtual Schools.
2. The enclosed report also provides a Tuition, Aid, & Net Cost History.
3. The recommendation for 2017-2018 is to refrain from opening any new seats for School Choice students due to space limitations.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

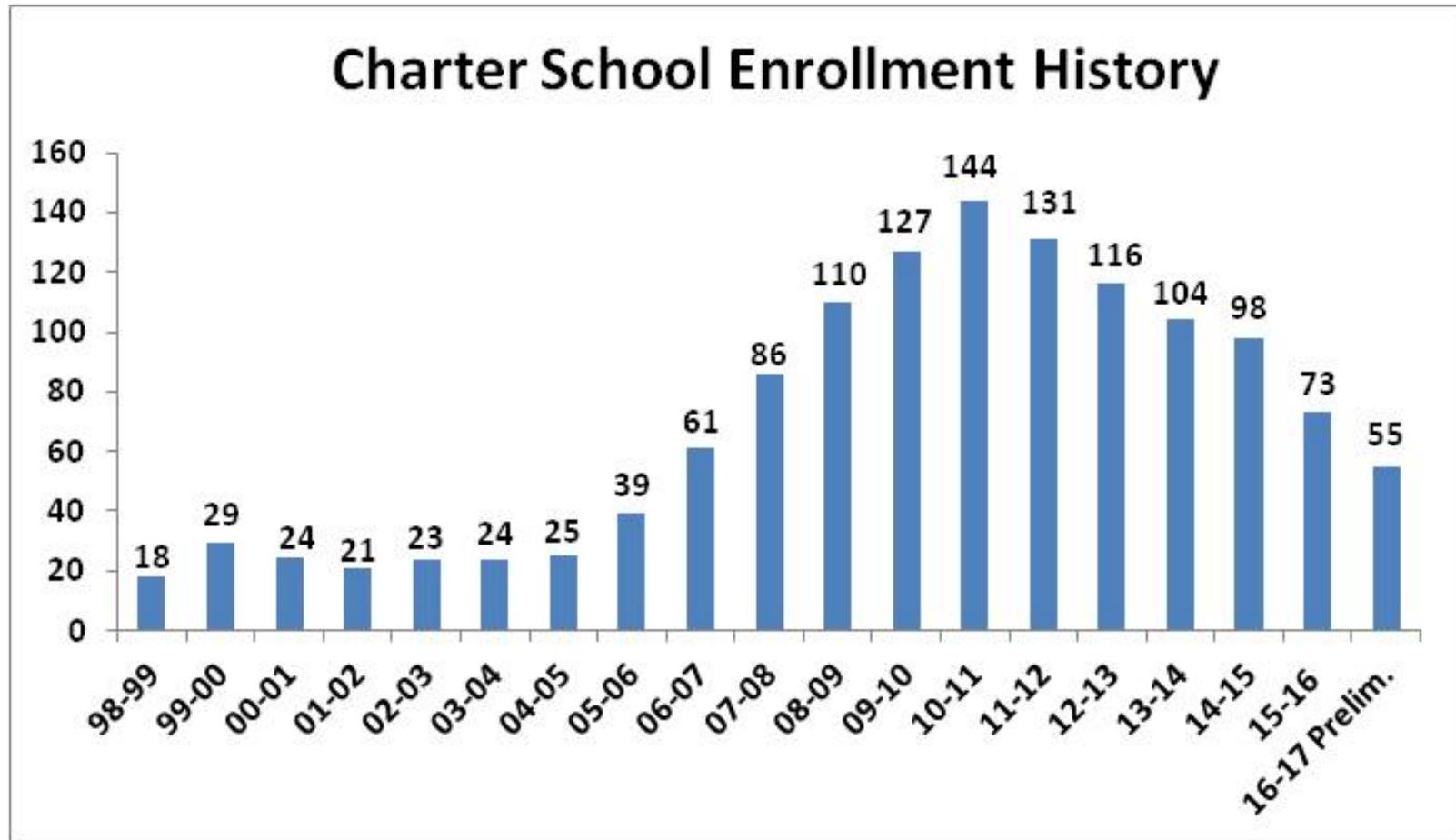
Charter Schools and School Choice: Annual Report

Patrick C. Collins
March 15, 2017

Topics

- Enrollment and finances related to:
 - Charter Schools
 - School Choice
 - Virtual Schools
- Summary Notes and Considerations

Charter School Enrollment History: Shrewsbury Resident School-Age Children



Charter School Enrollment by Grade 2016-2017 [as of Dec. 2016]

K-4 = 3 students

5-8= 11 students

9-12= 41 students

We can project a continued decline in FY18 and beyond under current conditions. Continuing our investment in S.P.S. is required to maintain competitive & comparative advantage.

FDK	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
0	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	5	6	8	7	20	55
FDK	Grades 1-4				Grades 5-8				Grades 9-12				Total
0	3				11				41				55

Charter School Enrollment by Grade 2016-2017 [as of Dec. 2016]

- Enrollment of the 55 students by school:
 - Advanced Math & Science Academy [Marlboro]
 - 46 students
 - Abby Kelley Foster Charter School [Worcester]
 - 8 students
 - Francis W. Parker Charter School [Devens]
 - 1 student

Tuition, Aid, & Net Cost History

- ▶ Annual average tuition rate was \$12,618 per student for FY16.
- ▶ The fundamental objection to the funding scheme is that when a student attends a charter school, the average cost in dollars is diverted to that school. Yet the marginal cost for us to educate is close to \$0 because most of the costs to educate are fixed costs.
- ▶ Returning all the charter students would gain the town over \$860K in revenue with \$0 additional costs, as students would be “absorbed” into the district across all grade levels.
- ▶ State reimbursement [Chapter 46 Aid] has declined significantly.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

SCHOOL FINANCE

Summary of Historical Sending District Charter School FTE, Tuition, and Reimbursements , FY96 to present*

Select your district using the drop down menu:

271 SHREWSBURY ▼	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
FTE	110.15	127.16	144.14	130.79	116.28	104.36	98.19	73.17
Tuition	1,025,068	1,151,129	1,321,539	1,279,450	1,226,276	1,142,099	1,221,904	923,221
Facilities Aid	95,665	106,489	118,052	113,196	100,058	90,037	85,270	63,281
Chapter 46 Aid	446,696	351,695	330,718	85,807	38,006	38,663	81,365	-71
Total Aid	542,361	458,184	448,770	199,003	138,064	128,700	166,635	63,210
Net Cost to District	482,707	692,945	872,769	1,080,447	1,088,212	1,013,399	1,055,269	860,011

Preliminary FY17 Charter School Tuition & Reimbursements

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Office of School Finance

Preliminary FY17 Charter School Tuition Payments and Reimbursements for Sending Districts (Q2)

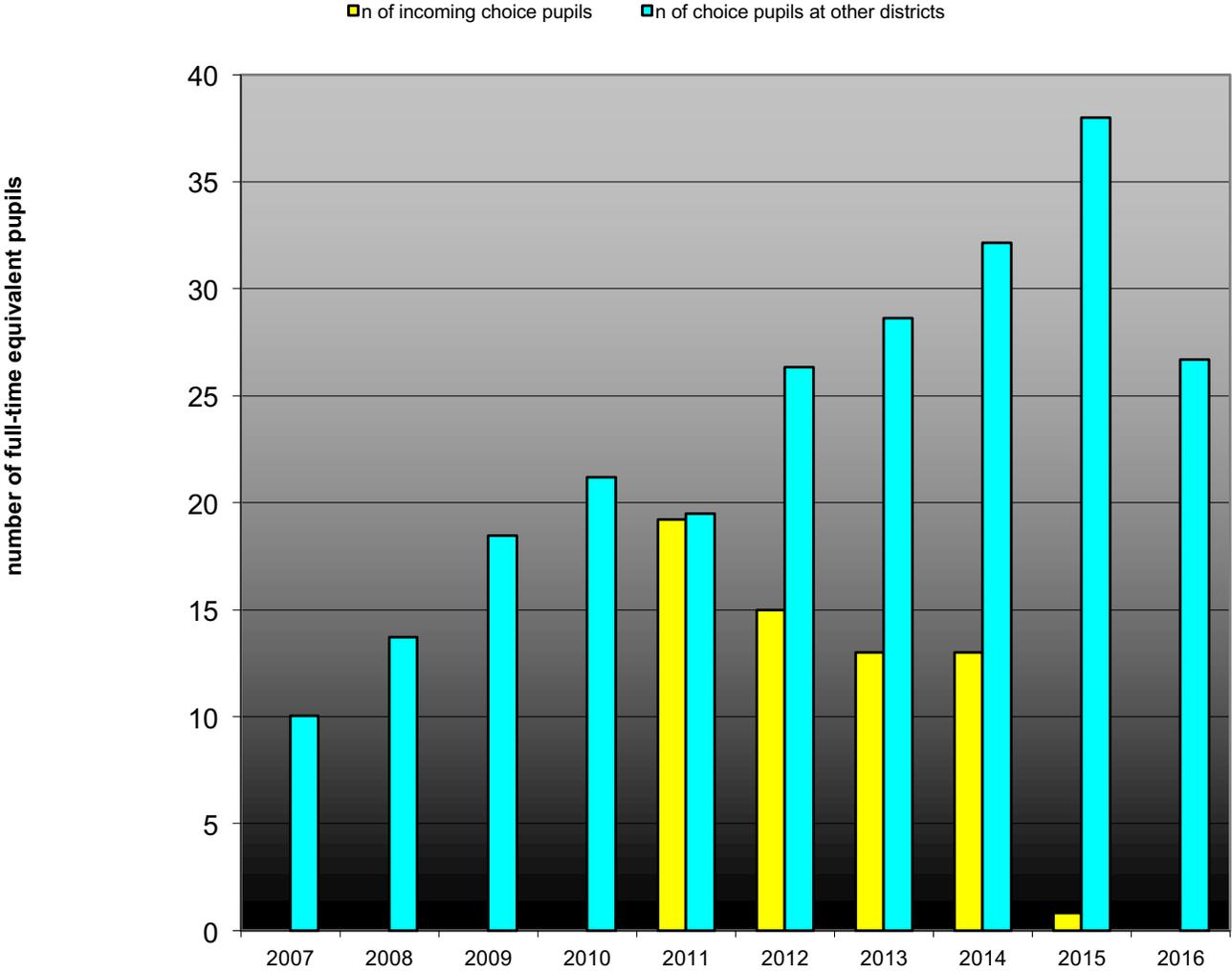
LEA	DISTRICT	FTE	DISTRICT PAYMENT			STATE AID TO DISTRICT			NET DISTRICT COST
			LOCAL FOUNDATION TUITION	LOCAL FACILITIES TUITION	LOCAL PAYMENT	100/25/25/25/25/25 INCREASED TUITION AID	FACILITIES AID	TOTAL CHARTER AID	
271	SHREWSBURY	55.0	687,940	49,115	737,055	0	49,115	49,115	687,940



Note \$0 tuition aid in FY17. By formula it should be \$21,143 yet the state did not fully fund this account this year.

The actual state reimbursement will only meet 59% of the calculated amount per their formula.

School Choice History: Enrollment



School Choice History: FTE & Tuition [Sending & Receiving]

271 SHREWSBURY

FY	---Receiving---		---Sending---	
	FTE		FTE	
	Pupils	Tuition	Pupils	Tuition
2007	0.00	0	10.04	61,861
2008	0.00	0	13.72	78,480
2009	0.00	0	18.48	106,835
2010	0.00	0	21.20	113,286
2011	19.21	96,050	19.48	107,984
2012	15.00	79,568	26.32	149,193
2013	13.00	69,167	28.61	144,191
2014	13.00	68,725	32.14	185,881
2015	0.81	4,989	38.01	220,220
2016	0.00	0	26.69	162,855

- Tuition is \$5,000 per student per year and pro-rated by month if not enrolled for full-year.
- A cost “increment” is applied for special education students depending upon services provided.

2015-2016 School Choice: Sending Students by Grade Level

This is a headcount of all the different students who attended in a School Choice placement for all or part of the year. This is more than the full-time equivalency or FTE count. For example, a student attending half the year would be equal to one headcount but .5 FTE.

The decision to attend another School Choice receiving district is sometimes related to parental employment situations, size of school, access to full-day kindergarten, or other issues not related to comparative quality of S.P.S. versus other school districts.

FDK	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
3	2	2	1	3	0	4	1	2	1	8	7	5	39
FDK	Grades 1-4			Grades 5-8			Grades 9-12			Total			
3	8			7			21			39			

FY17 School Choice Sending Students: Destination Districts & Grade Level

Receiving District	Grade
AUBURN	10
BERLIN BOYLSTON	09
BERLIN BOYLSTON	11
HUDSON	05
HUDSON	07
MILFORD	02
NORTHBRIDGE	KF
TECCA	07
TECCA	08
TECCA	08
TECCA	12
TECCA	12
UXBRIDGE	12
WEST BOYLSTON	11
WORCESTER	01
WORCESTER	01
WORCESTER	03
WORCESTER	03
WORCESTER	04
WORCESTER	04
WORCESTER	05
WORCESTER	05
WORCESTER	KF

- Note two students in full-day kindergarten possibly due to inability to access in S.P.S.
- Note five students enrolled in Virtual Schools

FDK	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
2	2	1	2	2	3	0	2	2	1	1	2	3	23

Expected tuition cost of \$131,975

Virtual School Enrollment

- A subset of School Choice Program
 - Currently have 5 students enrolled at the The Education Cooperative Connections Academy [TECCA]
- Tuition for Virtual School is \$6,700 per student.

Summary Notes

- Charter School enrollment is **declining**
 - Significant net benefit to Town of Shrewsbury/School Dept. finances.
 - State is currently not fulfilling its reimbursement commitment. In FY17 Shrewsbury should be receiving \$21,194 but instead receiving \$0 aid.
- School Choice enrollment is **declining**
 - Virtual School enrollment seems to be volatile with many students not persisting.

Summary Notes

- Estimated FY17 Net Cost to Town/District
 - \$687,940 for Charter Schools
 - \$131,975 for School Choice including Virtual Schools**\$ 819,915**
- School committee, by law, must vote each year to accept or not accept School Choice students into S.P.S.
 - The recommendation for 2017-2018 is to NOT open any new seats for School Choice students due to space limitations.

Final Note

- The general public policy of creating student choices in public education is one that has *“creating a competitive environment”* at its core.
- To this end, the community’s continued investment in our district is necessary to maintain the high-quality educational and co-curricular programs at all levels.
- This will lead to student retention and forestall the outflow of tuition dollars to other districts.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**
B. School Choice: Public Hearing

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the Committee hold a public hearing in order to listen to feedback on the topic of the potential for participation in interdistrict School Choice in the 2017-2018 school year?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The public and members of the School Department are invited to provide input to the Committee and the administration regarding the School Choice program option.
2. This public hearing will satisfy the requirements of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 12B which requires a public hearing prior to a potential School Committee vote to not participate in or to otherwise restrict the provisions of the interdistrict School Choice program.
3. It is anticipated that the Committee will vote on whether or not to participate in School Choice at its meeting on March 29, 2017.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee hold a public hearing in order to listen to feedback on the topic of the potential for participation in interdistrict School Choice in the 2017-2018 school year.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

A. Financial Projections Subcommittee: Report

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the Committee hear a report from the Financial Projections Subcommittee?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Financial Projections Subcommittee has met regularly to discuss methodology and content for a five-year fiscal projection for the School Department budget.
2. School Committee members Dr. B. Dale Magee and Mr. John Samia are members of the Financial Projections Subcommittee.
3. Dr. Magee will give the report on costs, which will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee hear the report and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. B. Dale Magee, School Committee Vice Chairperson
Mr. John Samia, School Committee Member
Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

B. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Recommended Reductions

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the Committee hear a report on recommended reductions to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Dr. Sawyer presented his recommendation for the FY18 School Department budget on January 25.
2. When presenting his initial recommendation, Dr. Sawyer indicated that, given that sufficient revenue will not be available to the town to support his recommendation, he would present a set of recommendations for potential budget reductions at the March 15 meeting.
3. The School Department administration has worked to identify reductions that would be necessary to close the budget gap, while minimizing negative impacts for students and staff.
4. The recommended reductions are presented in prioritized tiers to illustrate what is recommended to be cut from the budget plan, depending on the level of funding available.
5. Budget materials will be provided under separate cover in advance of the meeting.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

A. Superintendent's Goals: Discussion

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the Committee engage in a discussion of the Superintendent's goals for the 2017 Calendar Year?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. In 2016, Committee members and Dr. Sawyer changed the timetable so that the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation could be done at the end of the calendar year going forward.
2. The proposed Superintendent's Goals are to be completed by the close of the 2017 calendar year.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee engage in a discussion of the Superintendent's goals for the 2017 calendar year and take whatever steps it deems necessary in the interests of the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 10, 2017

To: School Committee
From: Joe Sawyer
Re: Goals for 2017

As my evaluation cycle has shifted to be based on the calendar year, I am cognizant that I need to establish goals to be completed by the end of 2017 and seek your endorsement of them.

Prior to drafting specific student learning and professional practice goals for your approval, I am asking for the Committee's guidance regarding areas of focus that you feel will be most beneficial for the district.

Topics that I am considering are as follows:

Potential student learning goal topics

- Building understanding among SHS students regarding the skills and knowledge expected of SHS graduates, as will soon be articulated through the *Portrait of an SHS Graduate* project
- Increasing student understanding of what it means to have a "growth mindset"

As with my most recent student learning goal, I could utilize opportunities to interact with students through school visits and social media channels to accomplish these goals.

Potential professional practice goal topics

- Enhancing ongoing communication regarding district issues with targeted groups, including the School Committee
- Providing leadership and guidance regarding the next five-year strategic priorities plan (which is to be completed by the end of 2017)
- Enhancing opportunities to develop additional leadership capacity among district staff (for those considering future administration roles and/or for those seeking more informal peer leadership opportunities)

I welcome the Committee's feedback on these topics and suggestions for others, and I look forward to our conversation on March 15.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

Will the School Committee approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on March 1, 2017?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The minutes are enclosed.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on March 1, 2017.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools. Mr. John Samia was not present for 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 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer advised he attended and enjoyed the Black History Month Presentation at Shrewsbury High School; provided the following information in response to outreach from the press regarding support for transgender students at Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS): *Our school district is committed to the education and wellbeing of each and every one of our students, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or any other defining characteristic. We work to ensure that all students are treated with respect and fairness, and that everyone's rights are protected under the law. We have supported and will continue to support transgender students by working with them and their families with sensitivity. I am proud that our school communities aspire to our district's stated core values of "honoring each person's individuality, celebrating our community's diversity, and supporting school cultures of mutual acceptance and respect."* Dr. Sawyer added that SPS respects all opinions, and referenced School Committee Policy 551: The Right to Study Controversial Issues; and - after hearing the Student Advisory Council presentation - noted that Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, would be leaving SPS on July 1, 2017, after

accepting the position of Superintendent for the Windsor Central Supervisory Union in the Woodstock/Killington area of Vermont.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Community Partnership Grant: Vote to Accept

Ms. Kara Frankian, Teacher, Floral Street School, gave a brief history of the the collaboration between preK-grade 8 schools SPS and The Home Depot regarding on-site gardening structures, and discussed how the project related to Pathway work on Professional Development at SPS. She advised that the work will vary depending on the school – as some will be upgrading existing gardens and some will putting in new gardens – and that a staff member has been appointed as a “team manager” at each school. Ms. Frankian noted that a site plan has been developed, pending the School Committee voting to approve the project and accept the community partnership grant.

Committee members noted the project exemplified project-based learning. Dr. Sawyer thanked the Home Depot and Ms. Frankian, noted that Ms. Frankian has been a recipient of numerous education awards, and recommended that the Committee vote to accept the Community Partnership Grant.

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept a community partnership grant of \$30,000 from The Home Depot to fund on-site gardening structures and related programming.

B. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

Benjamin George, Student, Class of 2018, SAC Chair; Vikram Pathalam, Student, Class of 2017; Mark Bray, Student, Class of 2017; Maya McCollum, Student, Class of 2018; and Prisha Singh, Student, Class of 2019, provided an update to the Committee on extracurricular activities including winter sports, Robotics, Speech and Debate Tournaments, and the Black History Month Assembly. They discussed school operations and advised that course selection is happening now for next year; noted that two new courses would be offered, and advised that discussion has begun regarding the budget and its potential implications for course signups and selection. In a discussion of technology, they noted that a number of surveys had been conducted which generated a great detail of information, including that 94% of students expressed a desire for iMessage to be reinstated, and that 86% of students felt that iPads had enhanced their overall educational experience.

The Committee asked clarifying questions and discussed the issue of distractibility due to technology. Dr. Sawyer thanked the students for their report, and noted the importance of students having a voice in conversations at Shrewsbury High School.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

A. School Year Calendar for 2017-2018: Vote

A draft school calendar was presented to the Committee at the meeting on February 8, 2017, and posted online afterwards, and Ms. Fryc advised that there had been no public comment or feedback. Dr. Sawyer noted that the draft calendar had been updated to include the start date for Kindergarten and preschool students, and reiterated that one significant change was the shift of the traditional parent conference day, typically held on the Tuesday election day in November, to the Thursday prior to observing Veterans Day on Friday, November 10, which would result in a four day break for families who do not have a parent conference. Dr. Sawyer advised the calendar had the support of the various groups consulted and recommend approval of the proposed calendar.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2017-2018 School Year Calendar.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. FY18 Curriculum & Technology Budget Recommendations: Report

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Brian L'Heureux, Director of Information Technology; and Ms. Shawna Powers, Director of Instructional Technology & Media Services, began the presentation by noting that investment in curriculum technology is important because the current work and learning environment is digital and connected; uses technology as a utility; involves self-directed learning; and is necessary to meet state testing protocol. Ms. Powers presented a video on technology integration at SHS that was compiled by students Allison Evans and Rachel Green, and an iBook created by student Lia Rabinovitch. Information was also presented on Apple Classroom, a free management tool that is utilized by teachers to monitor and control student iPads in the classroom.

In discussion around integration of curriculum and technology tools, Ms. Banios noted that Professional Development Pathways (which allow teachers to pursue self-directed areas of interest) are managed in the Schoology learning management system. The group provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2018 Curriculum and Instruction Budget, noting costs had gone down over time from FY15 through FY18; provided an overview of the IT Budget, noting expected costs for hardware and software replacements and upgrades; described maximizing resources; and expressed their appreciation to the Colonial Fund and Shrewsbury Media Connection for providing alternate funding for various projects.

Committee members offered commentary on the technology discussed, recommended continued emphasis on cost-benefit analysis and thoughtful utilization of stretching the life of resources such as iPads, and asked about the usage of hard copy books versus online resources. Ms. Banios

noted that while physical books were still purchased in some areas like language arts, online resources and teacher-formulated materials are being used more and more in the science, social sciences, and foreign language environments. In response to an inquiry regarding stretching technology use time-frames, Ms. Banios and Mr. L'Heureux noted that reliability issues need to be balanced with utilization time frames, and that they always look for ways to reuse or repurpose older equipment. Dr. Sawyer thanked the group for their presentation and all the work done to advance the district's strategic priority of enhancing learning through technology.

B.FY18 Budget: Public Hearing

The public was provided with the opportunity to provide feedback to the School Committee and administration regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. One community member noted that they felt the budget presented a revenue problem, that legislators in Boston needed to be pushed for additional funding, and that the issue had moved beyond property taxes. Another community member advised that she is a parent of three children who is very dismayed by the budget, thanked the district for their work, and wanted to know what the community should do.

C. FY18 Fees & Tuitions: Recommendation & Potential Vote

Mr. Collins discussed fee amounts for the 2017-2018 school year for busing, athletics, student activities, preschool and full-day kindergarten tuition, at the School Committee meeting on February 8, 2017. Dr. Sawyer advised that after reviewing that information, looking at fees in other districts, and having adjusted fees for the current school year, he recommended no fee or tuition changes for Fiscal Year 2018.

Dr. Magee advised that this was a "gray zone decision," noted that the fees are for non-essential services, and stated that as such he felt there might be a place for a vote to make an incremental increase for the coming year. Ensuing discussion among the Committee members emphasized the benefits of looking at fees each year to ensure fees are keeping general pace with costs, determining the "tipping point" where increasing fees leads to lowered participation, and recognizing the burden of fees to families. No other member wanted to adjust fees or tuitions, and there was no vote, with the understanding that fees and tuitions under discussion would not change in the 2017-2018 school year.

D. FY17 Budget: Update

Mr. Collins provided a mid-year report on the FY 2017 Budget, and noted that the report included a new payroll encumbrance feature that would allow for more and better forecasting. While noting that some categories, like Special Education tuition, were subject to high volatility, Mr. Collins described the budget as stable, and predicted a modest 0.82% surplus at the close of the fiscal year. Dr. Sawyer added that any resultant Circuit Breaker funding surplus could be applied to the following fiscal year.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B Contract: Vote to Ratify

Town Manager Daniel Morgado joined the meeting. Ms. Malone advised that the contract negotiation with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit B had been concluded and that Dr. Dale Magee and Ms. Erin Canzano were the School Committee representatives on the bargaining committee. She noted that the contract was for three years (including the current year), summarized changes from the previous contract which included a 2% cost of living adjustment in each year of the agreement, and added that negotiations had been very cordial. Dr. Sawyer advised that he supported the contract and recommended a vote to ratify it.

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee and Mr. Morgado voted unanimously to ratify the contract with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B per the terms outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Morgado left the meeting.

X. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on February 8, 2017.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. Curriculum and IT Budget Report
2. Curriculum and IT Budget Slide Presentation
3. Garden Donation from Home Depot Report
4. Student Advisory Council Agenda
5. SEA Unit B Contract Memo
6. SEA Unit B Salary Spreadsheet
7. SEA Unit B Memorandum of Agreement
8. 2017-2018 School Year Calendar
9. School Fee Survey Report
10. FY17 Budget Status Report
11. FY 18 Fee & Tuition Superintendent's Recommendation



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **03/15/17**

SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**