

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2016

Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary and Dr. B. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Absent: Mr. Jon Wensky and Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm by Mr. Samia.

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

Ms. Canzano announced that she had the opportunity to see members of the Student Innovation Team make Independent Learning Endeavors (ILE) presentations. She noted the incredibly creative ways the students addressed the challenge.

Mr. Samia announced that the School Committee taped an episode of School Talk. Their discussion included the report for the Calendar and Start Time Committee, the state of the district report and the Fiscal Year 2017 budget recommendation.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the following senior athletes who have signed letters of intent for the fall of 2017: Julia Ford, who will be playing golf at University of Virginia; Rachel St. Pierre, who will be playing Lacrosse at Wagner University; Stephanie Wilczynski, who will be playing soccer at Concordia College; Brianne Moss, who will be running track and cross country at the University of New Hampshire, and Jackson Southard and Olivia Murray, who will be running track and cross country at UMASS Amherst.

He also announced the the last payment for Floral Street School has been paid (64% of the cost of cash, principal, and interest costs was paid by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) and the building which was opened in 1997 is now owned fully by the town.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

None

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Program of Studies: Vote

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Ms. Maureen Monopoli, Assistant Principal and Ms. Liza Trombley, Director of English at Shrewsbury High School, presented their recommended changes to the 2016-2017

Program of Studies at the previous meeting. Dr. Sawyer said there was only one inquiry from the public regarding a change to a social sciences course which was addressed by Mr. Bazydlo directly. He briefly reviewed the recommended changes from the previous year which included: a more unified English courses for seniors; a math course where students could more easily earn college credit if they plan on pursuing a 2-year college degree; some minor language changes to course descriptions and some more clarity in descriptions for parents around the progression of the science courses.

Dr. Magee requested feedback regarding the number of students choosing to take the proposed math course and their academic outcomes. Dr. Sawyer explained that due to confidentiality issues, specific academic outcome information is not possible for a small group of students, but he would be able to provide a general update at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the Shrewsbury High School Program of Studies.

VI. Policy

None

VII. Finance and Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2017 Special Education Budget: Report

Ms. Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel presented the fiscal year 2017 special education budget report which included the following topics: enrollment, mitigating costs, cost analysis for in-district programs, out-of-district current and projected enrollment, operational costs, requests and future considerations. Ms. Maguire included examples of a parent letters offering student success stories and support of the special education program.

Ms. Maguire noted that in-district opportunities have increased, noting specifically a co-teaching program at the middle and high school levels and an intensive learning center at Sherwood. She also stated the projected change in net appropriations from FY16 to FY17 for out-of district costs are \$934,881. This included the difference in out-of-district tuitions and a smaller offset of circuit breaker reimbursement funds. Next, she provided a categorical breakout of special education tuition increases. She then provided examples of the categories of disabilities where students are placed out-of-district and noted a growing concern for the increasing number of mental health behavior issues. Ms. Maguire also outlined the operational costs including increases in transportation, extended year services, and contracted services. The 2017 requests include additional paraprofessional positions (4.0 FTE) and a speech pathologist (1.0 FTE). Future considerations included an assistant special education administrator, adjustment counselors at the middle level and a coordinator for the Education Learning Center (ELC) programs.

School Committee members asked some clarifying questions concerning the restructuring of out-of-district services and who handles the requests, if there is alternative for getting outside funds for students with medical needs, are the fees for students who age out of the program and attend other facilities paying the same as school districts, and, finally what steps the Committee can take to reach out to decision makers for changes. Finally, the Committee requested that the Special Education program provide a tour for some of the other town committees to see the changes that have occurred within the program in order to better understand the complexities.

The Committee thanked Ms. Maguire for her comprehensive report and requested updates in regards to the developing budget scenario.

B. Finance & Operations Updates: Report

Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and Dr. Sawyer presented an update on the FY2017 budget process. Mr. Collins explained that the Town Manager's budget of just over \$59.1 million for the school district was filed on January 29th. Therefore, the budget gap stands at \$3.3 million. He noted that we are at a mid-point in regards to determining our budget and the next few months will determine whether or not the town will have additional funds available.

Dr. Sawyer stated that work needs to be done to mitigate the shortfall. He noted the following possibilities, within the district's control, to close the gap such as the state providing more revenue by, increasing what the district charges for tuitions and fees, and the potential to offer the school choice option. He also noted the district would review their operational costs for additional ways to cut for efficiency such as redesigning or realigning the way things are done. He emphasized that taking a strategic approach is the goal while still being mindful of preserving the current internal capacity to provide education.

Next, Mr. Collins addressed state aid indicating the the governor's budget would provide \$22.4 million in state aid which is a net increase of \$385,000. He explained that Shrewsbury would get a total \$19.3 million in Chapter 70 education aid, which is an increase of 0.62% over FY2016, and is coming in the form of minimum aid or per student funding at \$20 multiplied by the foundation enrollment. He also explained the district would receive non-resident pupil transportation reimbursement which is the transportation of students to Assabet Valley Technical High School. He noted that Representative Hannah Kane was very helpful in making sure that this item was part of the Fiscal 2016 state budget. This number is level-funded and expected to be approximately \$105,000. He then discussed the Special Education Circuit Breaker fund, which is a reimbursement, and is level-funded. Next, he addressed the level-funded full-day kindergarten grant program, which he explained the district would not be eligible for due to the fact that we charge a fee and reminded the committee that the inclusion of funding similar to last year for FY17 was not included in the initial budget proposal. Finally, he explained that charter school reimbursement is still unknown due to a new proposal by Governor Baker but his feeling was that the district would not see any reimbursement.

Mr. Collins shared that on January 27, 2016, he attended a Board of Directors meeting for the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) where the board voted to invite the Beal School project into the eligibility phase. He also alerted the Committee to the possibility of needing a special town meeting in order to appropriate funding for a feasibility study and for a consideration on forming a building committee. Finally, he asked the Committee to sign a letter thanking chairperson Goldberg of the MSBA for voting to invite the Beal Project into the eligibility period.

The Committee asked some clarifying questions around the complexity of the process and timing for the approval and what other types of debt still remain regarding past buildings.

Mr. Collins then spoke about the Food Service Department's plans to continue implementing the point-of-sale system, Meal Magic, at the elementary level. They would be starting with Floral Street school. Dr. Sawyer added that the option to make online payments, a project the business office has been working on, was very close to the implementation phase.

Finally, Mr. Collins provided an update on transportation informing the Committee that the Business Office is conducting an audit of the families who claimed eligibility for a waived transportation fee due to eligibility for the free/reduced lunch program to ensure that those that applied are still eligible.

VIII. Old Business

A. Calendar for 2016-2017 School Year: Vote

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed calendar for 2016-2017 school year.

IX. New Business

A. Disclosure of Employee Financial Interest: Vote

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted that the School Committee determines that a financial interest disclosed by Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of his counsel.

X. Approval of Minutes: Vote

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting of January 6, 2016.

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Samia requested a motion to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 9:13PM.

XII. Information Enclosures

None

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted
Kimberlee Cantin, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SHS Program of Studies Report
2. 2016-2017 School Year Special Education Budget Report and Slide Presentation
3. Fiscal Year 2017 Finance & Operations Updates Report
4. Disclosure of Employee Financial Interest Memo and Form, and Conflict of Interest Form