

**School Committee Workshop  
Shrewsbury High School  
64 Holden Street  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Mr. Jon Wensky; Dr. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Business Services, Ms. Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Brian L'Heureux, Director of Information Technology; and Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

The meeting was convened at 6:01 pm by Sandy Fryc in the Principal's Conference room in Shrewsbury High School. John Samia arrived at 6:05 pm.

**FY 2017 Budget Planning**

Patrick Collins discussed the budget recommendation document with the committee. He explained the line items and the reasons for the increase and/or decrease in each line item. The major factors impacting the budget are: salaries, which represent 80% of the budget, out of district tuitions, transportation, Circuit Breaker reimbursement, and technology.

Melissa Maguire discussed at length the analysis of out-of-district tuitions. All tuitions for out-of-district schools would be rising by 1.83%, and seven schools would be applying for restructuring. Since the school district has multiple students in these seven schools, the increase will be significant. It is anticipated to be around \$125,000. Other challenges facing special education are the increase in the students attending the recovery high school in Worcester, the increase of complexity of students' issues and finding the proper placement for them, the availability of that placement, and preparing for students who will stay in the district until the age of 22.

Brian L'Heureux then spoke about the technology program, and explained the increase in the technology budget. The lease payment for FY17 is anticipated to be more than the lease payment in FY16 due to the low rate that was contracted for the first year, and also the incoming freshmen class is larger than any current high school class. The technology budget continues to be about 1% of the operating budget, and brings tremendous value to the district in the way it enhances learning and provides innovative ways to access learning.

**Messaging of FY17 Budget**

A discussion then ensued about messaging to the community. The budget recommendation is the carry forward/level service budget for which the school committee asked, and it meets the committee's fiscal guidelines and strategic priorities. Due to the size of the increase, the concern is that the town will not have the funds to support it, so that there will remain a gap between the Town Manager's appropriations and the budget recommendation. Numerous avenues will be pursued to close the gap, such as increasing fees, looking at school choice, and finding reductions, and will necessitate public feedback. The override provided the town with much needed funds to address the class size crisis but it did not fix the structural deficit. The committee discussed ways in which to prepare the community for a

challenging budget season which may impact the program in a negative way. The discussion ended with the upcoming timeline of events.

At this point, Brian L'Heureux, Melissa Maguire and Jon Wensky departed from the meeting as the next item on the agenda was Executive Session.

### **Executive Session**

At 7:24 pm, on a motion made by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A. Roll call votes are as follows: Erin Canzano, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; Dr. Dale Magee, yes; and John Samia, yes.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Dr. Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Roll call votes are as follows: Erin Canzano, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; Dr. Dale Magee, yes; and John Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin H. Canzano  
Secretary

Documents referenced:

- 1) From Patrick Collins: School Committee Workshop: FY17 Budget (13 January 2016)
- 2) From Melissa Maguire: Out of District Analysis, January 2016
- 3) From Brian L'Heureux: Digital Conversion, FY2017 Expected Income and Expenses