

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION
Conference Room A
Shrewsbury Town Hall**

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Dr. Dale Magee; Mr. Jon Wensky; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finances and Operations.

Executive session was opened by John Samia at 8:47 pm.

Potential Litigation in regards to a School Trip

John Samia and Dr. Sawyer met with parents whose children had signed up for a trip to France that would be occurring during school vacation week. Due to heightened security concerns in France, Dr. Sawyer made the decision to pull the school's sponsorship for the trip which removed the French teacher and another High School teacher from attending. When the parents were informed of this decision, they were deeply upset, and felt that they didn't have all the information to make an informed decision about whether to send their children on the trip or not, and were concerned about the money that would be lost if they chose not to send their children. One parent contacted Mr. Samia and threatened legal action due to the decision Dr. Sawyer made.

The issue at hand was whether the parents had enough information regarding the possible removal of the school's support from trip and the availability of travel insurance. Central office provided the committee with the documents that the parents received, and two tiers of travel insurance had been offered to parents, if the parents chose to pay for it. No family chose to pay for the most comprehensive travel insurance, while two families chose the less expensive option. All the rest of the families opted not to pay for travel insurance. After a very lengthy and vigorous discussion, the committee tried to determine what financial reimbursement, if any, would be fair. On a motion made by Sandy Fryc, seconded by Jon Wensky, the committee voted 3-2 to approve the memo from Dr. Sawyer that would authorize him to transfer available appropriated funds in order to provide reimbursement up to 50% of the maximum amount paid by families once the document had been reviewed by counsel. Roll call votes are as follows: Erin Canzano, yes; Jon Wensky, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; Dale Magee, no; and John Samia, no. Dr. Magee was opposed to any reimbursement, while Mr. Samia favored a higher percentage.

Jon Wensky then departed from executive session.

Negotiations with Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A

Barb Malone updated the committee about the most recent negotiation session. The SEA had been given the responses to its proposals in writing, and the School Committee negotiating team requested a written response to its proposals from the SEA for the next meeting. There is growing concern that progress is not being made, and discussion occurred about strategy to help move the process forward. The next meeting with the SEA is April 11th.

Adjournment

On a motion from Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, executive session was adjourned into open session at 9:46 pm. Roll call votes are as follows: Erin Canzano, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; Dale Magee, yes; and John Samia, yes.

On a motion from Dale Magee, seconded by Sandy Fryc, open session was adjourned at 9:47 pm. Roll call votes are as follows: Erin Canzano, yes; Sandy Fryc, yes; Dale Magee, yes; and John Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin H. Canzano, Secretary

Documents referenced:

1. Memo from Dr. Sawyer dated April 6, 2016 re: School Committee - Executive Session