

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Present: Dr. B. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Mr. John Samia, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Stephen Rocco, Coordinator of Transportation, Safety and Security.

The meeting was convened at 7:02 PM by Dr. B. Dale Magee

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

School Committee members wished fellow School Committee Member, Mr. Jason Palitsch, well and thanked him for his service on the School Committee. Mr. Palitsch discussed his positive experiences as a School Committee member. He said he has been proud to serve on the School Committee and feels that the Committee has accomplished a lot during the last three years. He shared his positive thoughts about the school district, members of the administration, teachers and staff members.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer thanked Mr. Palitsch for his service and hard work for the Shrewsbury Public School district.

Dr. Sawyer shared that on the morning of April 29, the Paton School received an anonymous phone call that made a non-specific threat. Per district protocol, Shrewsbury police were called, the school went into lockdown and after the police assessed the situation students rapidly returned to their class activities within 30 minutes. Dr. Sawyer stated that out of an abundance of caution the Shrewsbury Police maintained a presence for the remainder for the day and would continue to have a presence throughout the week. Dr. Sawyer communicated about the situation to the Paton School parents, by automated phone call and email, and to all district parents by email. He said he was very grateful for the excellent response to the situation by the Paton School staff members and the Shrewsbury Police officers.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Student Presentation: SHS Robotics Team

The student presenters shared the information about *FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)* Robotics team which included describing the activities of High School-FRC Team 467. This year the team went to both the New England district championships as well as the world championships. Students said their team was awarded the prestigious Chairman's Award twice this year. The presenters shared information about the team working with younger children, their involvement with all Shrewsbury schools and within the community, including participating in the Spirit of Shrewsbury Festival, teaming up with a local Girl Scout Troops for community service projects and participating in the Relay for Life event. Students said the benefits of the FIRST Program include raising awareness and increasing participation for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Members asked various questions about working with mentors in the field and how their experiences with the FIRST Program are preparing them for their college and future careers. Dr. Sawyer commented that he and Mr. Bazydlo are very proud of the Robotics team's accomplishments and their positive team and community spirit. School Committee members thanked the students for a great presentation and congratulated them for their accomplishments.

B. School Safety and Security: Report

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Stephen Rocco presented an update on School Safety and Security. Dr. Sawyer discussed the importance of Mr. Rocco's position and about the importance for personnel in the district to work collaboratively to plan for safety and security needs. Dr. Sawyer said that Mr. Rocco's work assessing the safety and security needs of schools in the district and working with community partners has been extremely valuable this year. Mr. Rocco shared updates on his experiences working in his professional role this year including looking at best practices for safety and security. Mr. Rocco shared details about the process for the school bus registration for the 2015-2016 school year. He said there is a strategic and deliberate plan and he feels very confident moving forward regarding plans for the Shrewsbury district's transportation, safety and security. Dr. Magee thanked Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Rocco for the presentation and said this is a nice complement to the Superintendent's evaluation. Committee members stated they think the process for assessing and reviewing the district's safety, security and transportation systems has been and continues to be thoughtful.

V. Curriculum

None

VI. Policy

None

VII. Budget

A. Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: Discussion and Vote

This agenda item was not addressed as the budget was discussed and noted on at the April 27 meeting.

B. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Update

This agenda item was postponed until the next School Committee Meeting.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

A. Superintendent's Performance Evaluation: Vote

Dr. Magee shared that the evaluation of the Superintendent is one of the School Committee Members' three core duties. He shared information about the structured process for evaluating the School Superintendent. Dr. Magee shared some comments made by School Committee Members that were included in the evaluation report. Dr. Sawyer's overall rating score for his evaluation was in the proficient and exemplary range. School Committee Members said that Dr. Sawyer's positive impact within the school district and Shrewsbury community is extremely important and beneficial. Dr. Sawyer thanked his colleagues in the district central office, school principals, teachers and staff members for their great work. He thanked the School Committee members for supporting his work.

Dr. Magee requested a motion to accept the Superintendent's evaluation report as read. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the Superintendent's evaluation report as read.

X. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Magee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for April 8, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the School Committee members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for April 8, 2015.

XI. Executive Session

A. Potential discussion of collective bargaining negotiations with cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining negotiations with cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, on a roll call vote: Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:26 PM.

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for April 29, 2015. On a motion by Jason Palitsch, seconded by John Samia, the School Committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) FIRST Robotics Team 467 Slide Presentation
- 2) Safety and Security Update: Report and slide presentation
- 3) Superintendent Evaluation Process 2014-2015: Report
- 4) Minutes for the April 8, 2015 School Committee Meeting