

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Director of Business Services, Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources, Shrewsbury Public Schools

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

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

None

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated and thanked the SHS students that participated in the High School Quiz Show on WGBH. He congratulated the SHS debate team for winning sweepstakes at last debate and the individual members who have qualified for national competitions. Dr. Sawyer thanked all the Town building and grounds personnel responsible for clearing snow during the challenging weather conditions.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report

SHS Student Advisory Committee Members presented their third report of the 2014-2015 school year. SAC members shared updates with the School Committee members about SHS electronics initiatives, midterm exams, sports and student activities. Students discussed the preparations for the transition to one-to-one devices next year including an innovation team, internship and technology advisory group. SAC members said some students have expressed concerns that the midterms account for 20% of class grades, while midterm exams count for 10% of class grades at other high schools. In addition, the SAC members shared that some students are concerned about the DDMs format because they do not receive comments as feedback. The SAC members said that overall students seem to be adjusting to the new DDM formats. The students said the weather has caused challenges for SHS students and teachers who are working to keep up with classwork and preparations for exams. SAC members shared that some SHS social events have needed to be rescheduled due to weather conditions. The students said that Mr. Costa, SHS Athletic Director, has made a change that allows students to attend all the home athletic activities without paying admission.

V. Curriculum

A. PARCC Assessment Update: Report

Ms. Banios presented an update regarding student and administration preparations for the PARCC Assessment. She discussed the development and alignment of curriculum and the infrastructure trial. Ms. Banios shared information about how students are preparing for the PARCC Assessment and that work is beginning with parent communications. She showed School Committee members some examples of the tools students can use on the PARCC website to become familiar with the assessments and practice some components of the test.

VI. Policy

None

VII. Budget

A. Fiscal Year 2015 Update Report

Ms. Wirzbicki shared a report on the 2015 year-to-date budget status. She said there is currently a positive savings of \$181, 581. Ms. Wirzbicki said the large positive variance is the result of some of the long-term substitute situations having fewer expenses than had been projected in the budget. She shared with the School Committee members that Ms. Maguire is monitoring the Special Education area which could impact the current fiscal year budget. Ms. Wirzbicki said that she and Ms. Maguire meet regularly to discuss potential budget changes. Dr. Sawyer reminded the School Committee members that the volatility in the special education area is great.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

A. School Calendar for 2015-2016: Draft

Dr. Sawyer discussed a draft of the proposed school calendar for 2015-2016. He said the calendar is very similar to other academic years. Dr. Sawyer discussed the professional development days that are built into the calendar, including a professional develop day scheduled on October 13th. He said the draft of the calendar will be on the website and publicized through the appropriate channels.

B. Evaluation of the Superintendent: Midyear Review

Dr. Sawyer shared highlights about the areas he has been focusing on during the school year and referred to the memo and information that was shared with the School Committee members. He said he is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with a strong team of people. Dr. Sawyer shared that some of the areas he will focus on include policy and setting the next set of district goals. School Committee members shared very positive feedback with Dr. Sawyer on his performance. School Committee members said they have heard positive feedback about Dr. Sawyer's recent blog post and his use of technology has been very effective. Mr. Samia stated that he believes Dr. Sawyer has been delivering on his promise of sustainability for the Shrewsbury district. In addition, Mr. Samia said that Dr. Sawyer has been doing what he said he would do in FY 2015 and he is doing a very good job.

X. Approval of Minutes

None

XI. Executive Session

None

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for February 4, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Student Advisory Committee (SAC): Report
- 2) PARRC Testing: Report and Update
- 3) Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Update: Report
- 5) School Year 2015-2016: Draft
- 6) Superintendent's Evaluation Mid-year Performance Review: Memo