

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015**

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; Dr. B. Dale Magee, Mr. Jon Wensky, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Director of Business Services; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources

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

**I. Public Participation**

None

**II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Report**

Ms. Canzano and Ms. Fryc attended the Core Values Art Project at Sherwood Middle School (SMS) the previous day. They said there are a lot of talented artists and recommended that people stop by to view the art collection.

Mr. Samia congratulated the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Class of 2015. He commended the students in the Class of 2015 for completing 16,104 hours of community service over the last four years.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the SHS Class of 2015. He also congratulated the SHS faculty and staff members for their successful efforts during senior week. Dr. Sawyer said that the Core Values Art Project at SMS is phenomenal and he thanked all those who were involved with this collaborative project between SMS students, the Shrewsbury Artists' Guild and the SHS National Honor Society. Finally, he commented it was meaningful to see Sherwood Middle School celebrate the life of former educator Helen Lipkin, who passed away in 2014.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments**

**A. Elementary Student Presentation**

Ms. Banios gave a brief introduction to the program and discussed the critical role that curriculum coordinators play in the elementary school writing program. She introduced all the curriculum coordinators who were present at the meeting. The preschool through fourth grade students shared examples of informational writing. Committee members thanked the presenters for a great presentation. Dr. Sawyer congratulated the students and commended Ms. Banios, the teachers, and the curriculum coordinators for the excellent work on the writing program. Dr. Sawyer invited all the students to shake hands with the School Committee and receive special certificates.

## **B. Elementary School Improvement Plans: Report & Vote**

Mr. Samia welcomed the elementary school principals and assistant principal to speak about their School Improvement Plans for 2015-2017. The administrators presented their common goals to engage and challenge all learners, enhance learning through technology, and promote health and wellness. The principals and assistant principal also shared their school specific goals. Committee members also asked the administrators questions about collaboration among staff and faculty members. Committee members asked what potential challenges they see for meeting the goals for the 2015-2017 School Improvement Plans. Dr. Sawyer commended the seven administrators for their leadership. Dr. Sawyer said the students are thriving and the community is well served by the elementary school program.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee unanimously approved the School Improvement Plans for 2015-2017 for Parker Road Preschool, Beal Early Childhood Center, Calvin Coolidge School, Spring Street School, Floral Street School and Walter J. Paton School.

## **C. Food Services: Annual Report**

Ms. Beth Nichols, Director of Food Services, presented the department's annual report. She shared information about the program offerings at different locations, staff members, the menu, and marketing of the program. Ms. Nichols commended the staff for doing an outstanding job. She discussed legislation that affects the Food Services program, the new point of sale system, the statistics for the free and reduced population, the statistics for the number of students who eat with the program on a daily basis, the costs for this fiscal year, and the threats to the financial success of the program and the challenges of federal and state regulations. Ms. Nichols suggested that prices be raised a quarter (\$.25) for lunches in the next fiscal year. Committee members asked Ms. Nichols questions about the Food Services program, including details about the Meal Magic point of sale system. Dr. Sawyer suggested the School Committee vote on the proposed twenty-five cent increase for school lunches at the School Committee meeting on June 10, 2015. He said the report would be put on the website for review so that the public will have a chance to weigh in and share feedback if desired. Dr. Sawyer thanked Ms. Nichols for the report and the ongoing work in managing the program.

## **V. Curriculum**

### **A. PARC Testing: Report**

Ms. Banios shared where the Shrewsbury district is with the PARCC test pilot and what is going on in the state regarding PARCC. Ms. Banios discussed the timeline for PARCC. She said that next fall the state will determine which type of assessment would be chosen, PARCC or MCAS. Ms. Banios indicated that if PARCC is not chosen, there would still likely be a changes to the MCAS assessment. Ms. Banios discussed surveys of faculty and staff related to PARCC. Ms. Banios indicated that the primary purpose of the statewide assessment is to improve the level of instruction and build change within school systems. Ms. Banios presented recommendations to the School Committee to consider regarding the state testing program. Committee members asked questions and made comments. Mr. Samia suggested to Ms. Banios that the School Committee is interested in providing feedback regarding the state testing program to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. Sawyer suggested that a letter could be drafted to be included in the packets for the School Committee for the June 10, 2015 meeting for the Committee's approval. Mr. Samia agreed that this was a good idea and thanked Ms. Banios for sharing a very good

report. Dr. Sawyer said that he appreciated the report from Ms. Banios and the feedback of the School Committee members.

## **VI. Policy**

### **A. Updated Policy on Employment Eligibility: First Reading**

Dr. Sawyer recommended that the policy language be updated to state that a family member will not be hired as a new employee once a School Committee Member is in office, because this would create the appearance of a conflict of interest. In addition, Dr. Sawyer shared that in the case of a new School Committee member being elected when a family member is already employed by the district, there will be some instances when the Committee member will need to recuse him or herself. Dr. Sawyer summarized the suggested changes to the policy. He said the draft policy revisions will be posted on the district website for the public to view and requested a vote be taken at the June 10, 2015 School Committee meeting.

## **VII. Budget**

None

## **VIII. Old Business**

None

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Superintendent's Contract: Vote**

Mr. Samia indicated that a verbal agreement had been reached regarding an update to Dr. Sawyer's contract and the only change would be a 1.75% cost of living increase and that the contract term would remain at five years by extending the term of the contract by one year. Mr. Samia said that besides these two proposed changes to the agreement, all the other components of the contract would remain the same. On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Samia to sign an updated employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2015 that provides a 1.75 % cost of living increase and extends the Superintendent's contract until June 30, 2020.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Samia suggested a change to page number two of the meeting minutes for April 27, 2015: "Dr. Sawyer shared that the year over year operational costs will be reduced by \$661,866."

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes of the School Committee meeting for April 27, 2015 and the School Committee Meeting minutes for May 6 and May 13, 2015.

## **XI. Executive Session**

### **A. Potential discussion of collective bargaining negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; potential discussion of negotiations with non-represented employees**

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; the School Committee voted to adjourn to

executive session for collective bargaining negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A and discussion of negotiations with non-represented employees, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 PM on a roll call vote: Mr. Wensky, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes.

Respectfully submitted  
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Elementary School Improvement Plans 2015-2017: Report and Slide Presentation
- 2) Food Services: Annual Report and Slide Presentation
- 3) PARCC Testing: Report and Slide Presentation
- 4) Memo and Updated Draft Policy on Employment Eligibility
- 5) Meeting Minutes for April 27, May 6 and May 13, 2015