

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 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, Ms. Melissa Maguire, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

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

Dr. Magee mentioned the passing of Ann Collins who had been employed with the Shrewsbury district for fourteen years. He extended sympathies to her family and requested a moment of silence before the beginning of the School Committee meeting.

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

Dr. Magee shared that a new episode of School Talk had been recorded at SHS on the topic of dealing with the new budget.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the twelve students that qualified to compete in the regional science and engineering fair at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He also congratulated the nine Shrewsbury High School (SHS) students who will be moving on to the state fair competition for science and engineering that will be hosted at MIT in May. Dr. Sawyer congratulated the girls gymnastics team who placed second in the state and fourth place in the New England region. He congratulated the competitive play *Heartwired's* cast, crew, writers, and director on great accomplishments competing in the regional competition. Dr. Sawyer said community members should have received the most recent issue of the Shrewsbury School Journal and said this publication is also posted online. He discussed some news items in the publication including that Newsweek ranked Shrewsbury High School 146th out of 14, 454 high schools (the top 1%) in the United States. Dr. Sawyer thanked Kim Cantin who is instrumental in putting the publication together.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Extended Learning Programs: Report & Vote

Ms. Karen Isaacson, Director of the Extended Learning Program, presented a comprehensive report on the recommended disincentives for issues related to late payments and pick-ups. She shared highlights about the program and said there are approximately sixty professionals working in the Extended Learning

Program throughout the week. She said there are a total of 555 students enrolled in Extended Learning Programs at the Shrewsbury Schools. Ms. Isaacson said that this year there will be a new Extended Learning Program conducted during the summer with the School Enrichment programs. She said the feedback about the new summer program has been extremely positive. Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to vote to accept the recommended changes for registration fees, late pick-up fees and late payment fees for the Extended Learning Program. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommended changes for registration fees, late pick-up fees and late payment fees for the Extended Learning Program.

B. District Goals 2015-2017: Initial Recommendation

Ms. Banios shared a report with the School Committee on the District Goals for 2015-2017. She said that the recommendations for district goals are extensions of the strategic priorities and achieve a cohesive and coordinated approach to the work. Ms. Banios said the district goals are developed every two years and are a subset of the strategic goals that are developed every five years. She discussed goals for professional practice, increasing value to the community, promoting health and wellness, and student learning goals. Committee members and Dr. Sawyer commended the effort and innovation of the leadership team in developing these goals that align with the five-year strategic plan and indicated their support of the goals as outlined by Ms. Banios during the discussion. Dr. Sawyer said that information about the proposed goals will be shared with the public and posted on the district website. Dr. Magee said the district goals for 2015-2017 will be voted on at the April 8th School Committee meeting.

V. Curriculum

None

VI. Policy

A. School Choice Participation 2015-2016: Vote

Dr. Sawyer recommended that at this time to decline participation and not open any seats through school choice. He added that initial analysis indicated that some number of seats at SHS could be opened without having any significant effect on class size. Therefore, he also recommended that the Committee consider signaling to the community that this decision could be revisited later in the spring depending on how the budget for Fiscal Year 2016 evolves, as the recent past indicates that this is a revenue tool that the district can employ successfully. Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to vote to decline participation in the inter-district school choice in the 2015-16 school year. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the School Committee voted unanimously to decline participation in the inter-district school choice in the 2015-16 school year.

B. Physical Restraint of Students: Second Reading & Vote

Ms. Fryc read the second reading of a proposed revision to policy #325 on physical restraint of students. She said there were no changes made since the first reading of policy #325 at the March 11, 2015 School Committee meeting. Ms. Fryc said there were no comments received from the public regarding Policy #325. Dr. Sawyer said to note that proposed changes with policy #325 will formally go into effect in January 2016. Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to approve the revisions to policy #325 on the physical restraint of students. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the revisions to policy #325 on the physical restraint of students.

VII. Budget

None

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Quarterly Report

Dr. Sawyer presented the quarterly report for the Assabet Valley Collaborative. He said the work of the collaborative continues to be very effective. Dr. Sawyer said that one big success is the ability to collaborate for special education programs. He shared that Grafton has been formally approved to be an official member of the Collaborative Board and now has a vote. Dr. Sawyer said the School Committee can feel good about the work of the Collaborative and the benefits for the Shrewsbury district.

B. Massachusetts State Building Authority Statement of Interest Submission for Beal Early Childhood Center: Vote

Dr. Sawyer shared background information with the School Committee and the Statement of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Beal School:

In 2011, 2012, and 2013 I submitted, with the your approval and the formal support of the Board of Selectmen, a so-called “statement of interest” (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) so that they would consider the Beal Early Childhood Center for possible renovation/addition or replacement under their building assistance program. In March 2014, the MSBA invited Shrewsbury into the “eligibility period” to determine whether a project involving Beal might be considered for entry into the MSBA’s capital pipeline for funding some years in the future. You surely recall that both you and the Board of Selectmen voted to decline this invitation, as the timing conflicted with the operational override ballot question and created too much uncertainty.

Because of the invitation last year, Beal was not eligible to submit a new SOI last year, but I plan to submit one this year, pending your approval and that of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Morgado is making arrangements for a vote of the Board of Selectmen in the near future, and I am requesting that you approve the following resolution at your meeting of March 25:

Dr. Magee read the resolution to the School Committee Members:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 25, 2015 prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated for submission no later than April 10, 2015 for the Beal School located at 1 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

a) replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and b) replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant

or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to vote to authorize the submission of a “statement of interest” regarding the Beal School for consideration by the Massachusetts School Building Authority for potential replacement or renovation/addition. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Samia, the School Committee voted unanimously to authorize the submission of a “statement of interest” regarding the Beal School for consideration by the Massachusetts School Building Authority for potential replacement or renovation/addition.

X. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Magee requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meetings for March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meetings for March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015.

XI. Executive Session

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

None

XII. Adjournment

Dr. Magee requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for March 25, 2015. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM on a roll call vote: Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; and Dr. Magee, yes.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Recommended fee changes for Extended School Care: Report and Slide Presentation
- 2) District Goals for 2015-2017 – Initial Recommendations: Report and Slide Presentation
- 3) School Choice Status & Recommendation: Report
- 4) Physical Restraint of Students: Second Reading: Report
- 5) Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts Building Authority for Beal School: Report