

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 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 7:05 PM by Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The Superintendent of Schools called the meeting to order according to the guidelines of School Committee Policy 112 for the first meeting following the Town election.

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Mr. Jon Wensky who ran unopposed for the open School Committee member seat.

I. Election of Officers

Dr. Sawyer requested and accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the School Committee. Dr. Magee nominated Mr. Samia for the Chairperson of the School Committee and Ms. Sandra Fryc seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Mr. Samia as Chairperson of the School Committee. As the elected Chairperson of the School Committee, Mr. Samia requested nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the School Committee. Ms. Canzano nominated Ms. Fryc for the position of Vice Chair of the School Committee and Dr. Magee seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Ms. Fryc as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Samia requested nominations for the position of Secretary for the School Committee. Ms. Fryc nominated Ms. Canzano for the position of Secretary of the School Committee and Dr. Magee seconded the motion. The School Committee members voted unanimously to elect Ms. Canzano as Secretary of the School Committee.

II. Public Participation

None

III. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

Ms. Canzano said that she wanted to share with the School Committee and the community that she was able to attend the Gold Medal Ceremony for the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductor's Association (MICCA) where the Honors Women's Choir performed at Mechanics Hall on April 26th. Ms. Canzano congratulated the participants, shared that they did an amazing job, and said the participants were a wonderful representation of the Performing Arts program from Shrewsbury High School. Ms. Canzano had the opportunity to visit a 4th grade class at Spring Street School on Community Reading

Day. She said that she and members of the 4th grade class had a really good discussion about technology. Ms. Canzano said that the students shared a lot of information about using the iPad, including what is going well with the iPad program and what could be done better.

Mr. Samia thanked Dr. Magee for serving in his role as the Chairperson of the School Committee over the last fiscal year. He said that Dr. Magee did a great job throughout the year which included the town vote for the override. Mr. Samia said he wanted to again publicly thank Mr. Palitsch for service to the School Committee and service to the community. Mr. Samia welcomed Mr. Wensky to the School Committee.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Mr. Samia on being named Chairperson of the School Committee and congratulated the other elected School Committee officers. Dr. Sawyer thanked Dr. Magee for doing an outstanding job as Chairperson of the School Committee. Dr. Sawyer invited the Shrewsbury community to the SHS Arts Festival on Thursday, May 7th. He said the art work the students do is tremendous. Dr. Sawyer commended and thanked the Oak Middle School mixed 7th and 8th grade choir for their great performance with the Spring Street School 4th grade chorus. Dr. Sawyer said the joint concert that was held that evening was an outstanding example of the Shrewsbury Schools' music programs.

Dr. Sawyer shared that twelve students from SHS advanced science fair to the regional competition that was held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in March. He said nine of these students advanced to the state fair which was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this past weekend. He acknowledged the 10th and 11th grade students who received awards and recognition at the state level. Dr. Sawyer congratulated members of the SHS Track Team for their great accomplishments at the national Penn Relays.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Shrewsbury High School Senior Scholars Presentation

Mr. Samia and Dr. Sawyer welcomed the SHS Senior Scholars. Dr. Sawyer said that he was very pleased to have had a chance to have breakfast with the Senior Scholars. He said that it is great to have the Senior Scholars and some of their family members at the School Committee meeting this evening. Dr. Sawyer shared brief highlights of each student's accomplishments and then each of the 11 Senior Scholars made statements. Senior Scholars spoke about their experiences, thanked teachers and family members, and shared updates about their future plans after graduating from SHS. School Committee members commented on the tremendous accomplishments of the students, thanked the parents and family members, and said that the students' ability to balance academic rigor and engage in community service is an incredible accomplishment. School Committee members encouraged students to give of themselves and to truly make a difference. Dr. Sawyer recognized that Mr. Bazydlo was in attendance at the meeting and Mr. Bazydlo congratulated the students and thanked the parents for all their support. Dr. Sawyer commended the 11 Senior Scholars being honored this evening, recognized the many SHS students who demonstrate great talent and accomplishments, and thanked the teachers in the district for their excellent work and their support of students. The Senior Scholars were invited to shake hands with the School Committee members and received tokens of appreciation.

B. Charter School Enrollment: Report

Dr. Sawyer presented a report to the School Committee members on Charter School enrollment. He said that attending charter schools is one of two ways that students living in Shrewsbury can attend a public school outside of the Shrewsbury school district. He said the total number of Shrewsbury school district students choosing to attend charter schools peaked in 2011 at 144 and the number of Shrewsbury students choosing to attend charter schools has declined steadily since this time. Dr. Sawyer shared that the number of students in the Shrewsbury Schools for Fiscal Year 2016 that are projected to attend charter schools is 81. Dr. Sawyer said that if the numbers of students in the Shrewsbury district attending charter schools had remained high, there would be more money diverted from the Shrewsbury school district budget. Dr. Sawyer said that as the Superintendent he does not begrudge any family from making a choice, but wants families to feel that there is a world class education offered through the Shrewsbury Public School system. Ms. Canzano asked Dr. Sawyer if he could explain in a simple way to the School Committee and the community about how charter school tuitions worked in relation to the Shrewsbury district budget. Dr. Sawyer shared the rates that were being charged for each charter school attended by students who live in the Shrewsbury district. He said the Chapter 70 Funding formula is different for students at different grade levels. Dr. Sawyer explained that the reimbursement formula has nothing to do with the individual students. Dr. Magee commented that he thinks it is important to innovate. He commented that the less reliant the Shrewsbury district is on reimbursements, the better it is for the school district. Mr. Samia said that Dr. Sawyer and the School district personnel and staff members have done a good job innovating and thinking outside the box to get things done. Mr. Samia said the fiscal study committee did a study a few years ago. He said that the results of the fiscal study demonstrated that participants feel that the school district provides thoughtful opportunities to keep students in the district to achieve their educational and personal goals. Dr. Sawyer said that the funding formulas for charter schools are not equal to the economies of scale. He shared that the funds for students attending charter schools comprise about 1.7 % of the total school district budget. Dr. Sawyer said that even when small numbers of students leave the district to attend charter schools it affects the funding and budget.

VI. Curriculum

None

VII. Policy

None

VIII. Budget

A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Update: Report

Ms. Wirzbicki updated the School Committee Members on the Fiscal Year 2015 year-to-date budget status. She thanked her team for helping and doing a great job with the budget work. Ms. Wirzbicki shared with the School Committee that the year-end projection for the Fiscal Year 2015 budget is expected to land on target at \$57,196,278. Ms. Wirzbicki shared details with the School Committee and discussed the year-end projection for the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. She explained that some off-setting for the budget was done by moving resources in the revolving accounts. Ms. Wirzbicki told the School Committee members that some Circuit Breaker reserve funding would be added to the Fiscal Year 2015

budget in order to end the year on target. Mr. Samia asked a question about the cost for substitutes in the district, as this expense category for Fiscal Year 2015 is above the projected budget line item allocation. He asked if there is any concern that the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Recommendation is light in the categories of resources allocated for projected substitute costs. Ms. Malone responded to Mr. Samia's question. She said that there are many staff members having babies, taking maternity leaves, and this is one of the examples of why substitutes are employed in the district. Dr. Sawyer commented that sometimes the costs for substitute salaries and the cost savings on the portions of maternity leaves where staff members are not receiving salaries balance out in the budget.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

None

XI. Approval of Minutes

None

XII. Executive Session

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

Mr. Samia 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. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Fryc, 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 the purposes of discussing collective bargaining negotiations with the cafeteria workers association and/or paraprofessionals association.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Samia requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for May 6, 2015. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the School Committee meeting for May 6, 2015 at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Guidelines of School Committee Policy 112: Instructions
- 2) SHS Seniors Scholars Recognition: Student Biographies
- 2) Charter School Enrollment & Tuition Report and Slide Presentation
- 4) Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Update: Report