

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM, SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL**

APRIL 2, 2014

Workshop convened at 6:06 PM.

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. John Samia, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Issue: Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Discussion: The committee and Dr. Sawyer held a discussion relative to the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 School Department budget. Discussion points included potential cost savings relative to the upgrading of math curriculum, the committee's ranking of budgetary priorities, potentially deferring expenses or phasing others in, the sustainability of the proposal, the possibility that reductions to the existing program might have to be made, key arguments to make the case for additional resources, and communications strategy.

Ongoing negotiations with the vendor for the updated math curriculum held the strong potential to drive down costs; further, some professional development aspects of this budgetary request were going to have to be accomplished within the current year's budget, as opposed to next year's. Dr. Sawyer estimated a potential savings on the earlier budget proposal of \$374,000, however the negotiations were ongoing.

The committee felt, based on the recommendation of Dr. Sawyer, that the upgrade to the math curriculum should move forward next year, regardless of whether or not an operational override is achieved to generate new revenues. Upgrading the math curriculum, the committee felt, had become a necessity or a "mandate in practice" if not by law.

The committee also held a discussion relative to a request by the Board of Selectmen to further rank the priorities in the proposed School Department budget; the committee felt that dividing the request into four broad categories (legal mandates, class sizes, curriculum, and Special Education/technology) – similar to the committee's priorities outlined in its FY 2015 Fiscal Policy document – was appropriate, however committee members expressed reservations that further or more explicit ranking was not appropriate. There was consensus that line items in the budget request were not mutually exclusive, and that other boards had sufficient information to make needed decisions.

It was noted that the School Committee would meet with the Finance Committee on April 3.

Motion to adjourn for the evening: Ms. Canzano; Second, Mr. Samia. Roll Call Vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.

Adjournment occurred at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Palitsch
Secretary

Addendum: "Budget workshop discussion points" from Dr. Sawyer
Document outlining 2014-2015 Projected Enrollment and Grade Configuration