

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013**

Present: Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jason Palitsch, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Dr. B. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services, Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources. Absent: Mr. John Samia, Vice Chairperson

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Ms. Sandra Fryc.

**I. Public Participation**

None

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

None

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joseph Sawyer updated the School Committee on the situation with the homeless families staying at the Days Inn in Shrewsbury. Dr. Sawyer had the opportunity to meet with officials at the State House to discuss issues and he thought it was a productive discussion. The conversation focused on the understanding that the Shrewsbury community wants to assist families in crisis but does not have the resources to handle the volume of families (i.e. potentially 100 families). Dr. Sawyer said the DHCD representatives seemed to understand the limits on Shrewsbury's resources to handle the needs of these homeless families. He said the biggest concern related specifically to education is that the potential number of school-age children residing at the Days Inn is higher than what the district is aware of at the present time. Many of the children residing at the Days Inn, who are enrolling in the Shrewsbury School District, are coming with significant challenges that need to be addressed and resources are required.

Dr. Sawyer said a pipe burst in the ceiling yesterday at the SHS cafeteria causing damage. He is hopeful that the situation will be remedied by the time school vacation ends and school resumes. Dr. Sawyer commended and thanked the food service personnel and staff for doing a great job handling the temporary situation today at the cafeteria.

Dr. Sawyer shared that Ms. Elizabeth McCollum, coordinator of volunteer activities for the Shrewsbury Public Schools, is leaving her position and has accepted another opportunity. He publicly thanked and congratulated Ms. McCollum. Ms. McCollum was a recipient of the John P. Collins award last year.

Dr. Sawyer mentioned this year's recipients of the John P. Collins Awards sponsored by the Shrewsbury Educational Foundation (SEF) and congratulated the winners. The Annual Awards Dinner will be held on January, 25 2014 and event details are available on the SEF website.

Dr. Sawyer congratulated the Shrewsbury Middle School students, faculty and staff members on a great job with the production and performance of The Glass Slipper.

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments**

##### **A. SHS Student Advisory Committee: Report**

SHS students Kira Sommer, Chairperson, Class of 2014; Kayla Freeman, Class of 2015; Nithya Pathalam, Class of 2015; Emily Taylor, Class of 2015 and Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, SHS presented the SHS Student Advisory Committee Report. The students discussed highlights from the November 26 SHS Town Meeting. They discussed Mr. Bazydlo's idea to implement a staff standout program where teachers and staff members would be recognized by students for outstanding work. Some of the issues that were discussed by students at the Town Meeting were concerns with scheduling guidance counselor appointments with the computer system, requests to start a SHS boys' volleyball team and concerns with the school food policy. SHS Student Advisory Committee members discussed positive and exciting experiences with this year's Class Cup Competition including increasing the number of students attending school events and student participation in volunteer activities. Mr. Bazydlo discussed the positive impact of the SHS Town meeting including instilling students with a sense of pride and giving them the opportunity to gain real world experience. Mr. Bazydlo and Dr. Sawyer thanked the SAC leaders for their great work. They shared that they are proud of the members of the student body for promoting events and for the positive involvement with SHS activities.

##### **B. SHS Exam Schedule Change: Vote**

Mr. Bazydlo presented information regarding a change in the high school mid-term exam schedule in order to include an additional early release date. He is recommending a change in the current exam schedule in response to feedback from his leadership team and faculty. Mr. Bazydlo said he would like to run a one-year pilot for this year with a shift from a three half-day to a four half-day mid-term exam schedule. The SAC members who presented the report were asked to provide input. They felt that the change in the exam schedule would be positive for students, including students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) who may require additional time to complete exams. Mr. Bazydlo said a key piece regarding the potential exam schedule change is that student learning needs have changed over time and SHS needs to change with the times. Mr. Bazydlo recommended that the School Committee vote to approve a one-year pilot change to the SHS mid-term exam schedule. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the change to the mid-term exam schedule.

#### **V. Curriculum**

None

#### **VI. Policy**

None

#### **VII. Budget**

##### **A. Fiscal Study Committee Report: Discussion**

Mr. Maurice DePalo, member of the Board of Selectmen and co-chair of the Fiscal Study Committee discussed the report from the Fiscal Study Committee released to the public on November 26, 2013. He shared that Henry Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen was a fellow co-chair of the Fiscal Study Committee. Mr. DePalo said the committee met sixteen times between July 11, 2013 and the

second week in November. He said a basic conclusion of the Fiscal Study Committee Report is that the Committee could not find new areas to target for additional cost savings and revenue generation. Mr. DePalo said the conclusions of the report completed in November were similar to the Fiscal Study Committee Report completed in 2007. He said the Town of Shrewsbury faces some real fiscal challenges ahead and the question is what the community will do about this situation. Ms. Sandra Fryc discussed the increased number of single family homes being built in the Shrewsbury community. Mr. DePalo said that increases in student enrollment in the Shrewsbury School District may be seen in the future. Dr. Sawyer encouraged community members to read the Fiscal Study Committee Report which is available on the Town of Shrewsbury website.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation**

This agenda item is postponed until the next School Committee meeting on January 8, 2014 when Mr. John Samia will be present.

### **X. Approval of Minutes**

None

### **XI. Executive Session**

At 8:10 PM, on a motion by Ms. Sandra Fryc, seconded by Mr. Jason Palitsch, the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. On a roll call vote: Mr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.

### **XII. Information Exclosures**

### **XIII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46PM. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes

Respectfully submitted

Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Report
- 2) SHS Exam Schedule Change Memorandum