

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, March 26, 2014**

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

The meeting was convened at 7:03 PM by Ms. Sandra Fryc.

**I. Public Participation**

None

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

None

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Joseph Sawyer announced that Caryn Keenan, Physical Education Teacher at Oak Middle School, is being honored by the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) as the 2014 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Keenan will be receiving an award for excellence in physical education teaching at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Sawyer congratulated Ms. Keenan and said that she does a great job teaching physical education classes to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments**

None

**V. Curriculum**

None

**VI. Policy**

**A. Public Hearing on School Choice**

Dr. Sawyer discussed background information regarding the inter-district student choice initiative that has been in effect since 1990. The Shrewsbury district has opted out of inter-district school choice for every year except four years ago. Twenty students from outside the district were accepted as 9<sup>th</sup> graders at SHS. There has been attrition over the last four years with some students moving or returning to their home districts and there are currently thirteen remaining students. Dr. Sawyer said the program has been successful for the participating students and the district has received approximately \$314,000 in revenue over the last four years. The rationale for participating in the program was to bring revenue into the district and four years ago this could be done without the need for the district to spend resources for the additional students. Dr. Sawyer said he is recommending that the district vote to not participate in the

School Choice program for this year. He said the revenue generated will be off-set by the extra resources the district needs to provide for additional students. Dr. Sawyer said he believes the district is not in a position to participate in the program this year. Ms. Canzano shared that she thinks Dr. Sawyer's recommendation makes good sense for this year and said the district can consider participating again in the future.

#### **B. School Choice for 2014-2015: Vote**

Ms. Sandra Fryc requested a motion for a vote for the Shrewsbury district to decline participation in the inter-district school choice for the 2014-2015 school year. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted unanimously to decline participation in the inter-district school choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

#### **C. Collective Bargaining – Educator Evaluation: Vote**

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, shared information about the new educator evaluator system and the state regulations regarding the evaluation of educators in Massachusetts public schools. This system went into effect for Shrewsbury district this year. She said certain elements of the education evaluation system are subject to collective bargaining. Ms. Banios said the new system is good overall; however the time that it takes for everyone to participate in the new system is substantial. Dr. Sawyer stated that he is pleased the Shrewsbury educators ratified this agreement today. He strongly recommended that the School Committee members also ratify this agreement.

Ms. Fryc requested a motion for a vote for the School Committee to ratify the agreement with the Shrewsbury Education Association regarding the new educator evaluation system. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the School Committee voted unanimously to ratify the agreement regarding the new educator evaluation system.

### **VII. Budget**

#### **A. Tuition and Fees: Report & Discussion**

Mr. Liam Hurley, Director of Business Services, presented a report on the current tuition and fees structure for the district and discussed a proposed plan for the 2014-2015 school year. He shared that the current \$1.3 million in revenue generated by tuition and fees is very important to off-set the Shrewsbury district budget. Mr. Hurley said the recommendation is to not increase tuition and fees for the 2014-2015 school year. School Committee members asked questions about the district's facility rental space, potential for providing air conditioning for the SHS auditorium in the future, and the Extended Childcare Program. In addition, School Committee members acknowledged that many families are stretched and burdened paying the current level of tuition and fees. School Committee members supported the recommendation to not raise the tuition and fees for the 2014-2015.

#### **B. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Discussion**

Dr. Sawyer said there is no new information regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget since the last School Committee meeting. He shared slides and discussed key points about future sustainability for the Shrewsbury district. Dr. Sawyer said he cannot imagine another recommendation for a double digit budget increase during the next few years if the request for the current FY15 Budget is funded. School Committee members said they think it is important for Shrewsbury community members to take a look at the sustainability piece for the School budget. They said the district is in a critical situation where it is important to invest now or pay more in the future.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Recommendation: Vote**

Ms. Fryc requested a motion to vote on the recommendation for the FY15 budget of \$58,828,708 which represents an increase of \$6,788,062 from the current fiscal year. On a motion by Mr. Samia, seconded by Dr. Magee, the School Committee voted unanimously to support the recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Beal Early Childhood Center: Massachusetts School Building Authority Board – Potential Action**

Dr. Sawyer shared that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has voted to invite the Town of Shrewsbury into the eligibility period phase. This is the first potential phase of a future school building project. The MSBA helps districts identify if they are ready to start a capital project. Dr. Sawyer said this is a preparation phase to see if a school building project would eventually be put before the Town Meeting to vote on doing a feasibility project. He said the eligibility period phase is 270 days and that the Shrewsbury district had an excellent experience previously working with the MSBA on the Sherwood School project.

### **Approval of Minutes**

None

## **XI. Executive Session**

None

## **XII. Information Enclosures**

None

## **XIII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Samia, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM: PM. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Samia; Ms. Fryc, yes.

Documents referenced:

- 1) School Choice Information Report
- 2) Tuition and Fees Report and slide show
- 3) Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Discussion and Sustainability Information and slide show