

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013

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

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

I. Public Participation

A. Mr. Ben Tartaglia shared information about diabetes and the glycemic index. He discussed his concerns about the need for children in the Shrewsbury Public Schools to be served foods and snacks that promote healthy eating. Sandra Fryc thanked Mr. Tartaglia for his comments, acknowledged that she and he have discussed the important issues of healthy foods for school children, and told him he may contact Beth Nichols, Director of Food Service for Shrewsbury Schools.

B. Ms. Deborah Freidman, Speech Pathologist for the Shrewsbury Public Schools spoke and said that she and her fellow educators came to the School Committee meeting to let people know that they have been working without a contract since August 2013. She said that after a year of mediation, they find themselves unable to come to a contract agreement. Ms. Freidman stated that there comes a point when Shrewsbury must invest in the school system and part of this is teachers' salaries. She said the educators are asking Shrewsbury to support good education work and they hope the contract will be settled as soon as possible so that teachers can do what they like most and that is to educate the students of Shrewsbury. Sandra Fryc thanked Ms. Friedman for coming to the meeting to speak and said she wants people to know the School Committee members respect the Shrewsbury teachers and are hopeful for a contract resolution soon.

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

None

III. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, shared the Superintendent's report in place of Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools who was attending a conference and not present at the meeting. Ms. Banios shared that some Shrewsbury High School (SHS) students will be performing Charlotte's Web and performances will be held on November 8th and November 9th. In addition, Ms. Banios shared that the Shrewsbury Educational Foundation (SEF) would like to remind the public that the John P. Collins Awards are coming up and they are seeking nominations. She said SEF encourages re-nominations of teachers for the Awards who were not selected in recent years. Ms. Banios thanked the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury for sponsoring a second grade reading day and for donating five hard covered books to every second grade classroom in the Shrewsbury Public School district.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Physical Education Grant: Report

Ms. Patricia Degon, Director of Family and Consumer Services, Shrewsbury High School, Madilynn (Maddie) West, SHS student, Class of 2014 and Christopher (Chris) Newville, SHS student class of 2014 presented the report. Ms. Degon shared that the Shrewsbury Schools are entering into year three of the Get Fit Adventure, the program funded through the federal Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant. Ms. Degon shared that students have made progress and are excited to participate. She shared details about the program, the positive changes for the physical education program, team building adventures, and programs that engage students and families. Ms. Degon said that beyond the adventure education, the Physical Education (PE) department has invested in other areas of fitness including the Personal Fitness and Conditioning class at SHS. She added that she believes the program is creating lifelong benefits for students and their families. SHS students Maddie West and Chris Newville shared information about their positive experiences participating in the Get Fit Adventure and SHS physical education programs. Highlights of their experiences included really enjoying gym classes and engaging in beneficial team building experiences with classmates that have helped to build a sense of community for the students. Dr. Magee asked questions about the data collected from the project and students' improvement and progress in the Get Fit Adventure program. Ms. Degon shared some background information and details about the data collection process for the programs. Ms. Banios thanked Ms. Degon for writing the grant application for the Get Fit Adventure program and thanked the Physical Education Department staff for their great work and engaging in professional development activities during the weekends.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Class of 2013 Test Results: Report

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, Shrewsbury High School and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of Guidance at Shrewsbury High School shared the SHS Class of 2013 Test Results report. On the 1600 version scale of the SATs, SHS scored an average of 1124 which was the highest average that has been achieved over the last ten years. Mr. Bazydlo shared that SHS has a really robust Advance Placement Program and that 99% of students who take Advanced Placement classes are in 11th or 12th grade. In addition, Mr. Bazydlo said that he does not think students are ready for college work in the 10th grade. Ms. Huynh shared information about the programs available to SHS students when preparing for the PSAT and SAT exams. She said there is an evening test preparation program open to students that costs a nominal fee and an online test preparation program was started for SHS last year. Mr. Samia asked how many times students take the SATs and Ms. Huynh said the guidance staff encourages students to take the exam twice. She added that if a student chooses to take the SATs more than three times, admissions officers at colleges start to wonder why a student keeps re-taking the exam. Mr. Samia followed with a question about what are the best predictors of how students will do in college to which Ms. Huynh replied that the school record is the best predictor for student success in college and that not every student will test well. Mr. Bazydlo said he believes the success of students in college comes down to grit, self-advocacy and resiliency. He said the first thing that colleges look at is the transcript and the highly selective schools look deeper into who the student is because most students applying to these institutions have similar transcripts and test scores. Ms. Huynh said that students who get B grades in high school do better in college because they know how to pick themselves up to move forward. The committee asked several more questions regarding comparison of test results from last year and this year, opportunities for college

credit for AP classes and the cost of standardized test prep programs offered at SHS. Ms. Banios thanked Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh for their work and everything they do to benefit the students.

B. MCAS Test Results: Report

Ms. Banios and Ms. Melissa McCann, Math Coach at Sherwood Middle School presented the MCAS Test Results report. Ms. Banios said that the results of the MCAS Test indicate the district has insufficient resources to meet the needs of the students and referred to the State of the District reports. As an example, information on how the mathematics curriculum has not yet been aligned to the new state curriculum frameworks, resulting in students doing poorly on some mathematics test items on topics they did not cover in that grade level. There was a performance rating downgrade and five out of seven Shrewsbury schools were downgraded from level 1 to level 2 and the Shrewsbury district has been downgraded from level 1 to level 2. Ms. Banios said it is a concern that the growth percentiles for student achievement declined in the district. Data was presented that suggests that students in classes with high enrollment did not perform as well with regard to growth.

C. PARCC Testing Plans: Report

Ms. Banios shared the PARCC Testing Plans report. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) has determined that it is necessary to create a new assessment to measure students' performance relative to the Common Core State Standards and to determine career and college readiness. The DESE is currently working with the Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC) testing program. Ms. Banios shared details about the pilot testing and the timetable the DESE has created for the potential adoption of PARCC as a replacement for the MCAS. Mr. Samia asked if the planning process has determined how students will get measured. He said that one of the challenges he sees the Shrewsbury district facing is the funding level from the state and that there are no changes from the state for funding the common core.

VI. Policy

None

VII. Budget

None

VIII. Old Business

None

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IX. New Business

None

X. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Jason Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Erin Canzano, the School Committee voted unanimously to collectively approve the minutes for the School Committee Meetings for October 9 and October 23, 2013.

XI. Executive Session

At 9:25 PM, on a motion by Ms. Sandra Fryc, seconded by Mr. John Samia, the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes.

XII. Information Exclosures

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Samia the meeting was adjourned at 10:06PM. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Taylor, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) Physical Education Grant report and slide show
- 2) SHS Class of 2013 Test Results report and slide show
- 3) MCAS Test Results report and slide show
- 4) PARCC Testing Plans report and slide show