

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Present: Dr. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.
Not present: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Dr. Magee at 7:01 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Mr. Wensky advised that his three year term on the Committee was drawing to a close, and that he will be seeking re-election. Mr. Palitsch noted that Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) would be hosting their annual fundraising dinner, which recognizes grant winners and leadership award recipients, on January 20th.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer also noted the upcoming SEF dinner and acknowledged the following John P. Collins Award winners:

Paraprofessionals:

Lisa Pashou, Sherwood Middle School

Cindy Reid, Parker Road Preschool

Support Staff:

Travis Perron, Custodian, Oak Middle School (and who recently filled in at Sherwood)

Unsung Hero:

Jim Roche, Community Volunteer, ESL Program at Sherwood

Professional Educators:

Ken Avery, Grade 2 Teacher, Floral Street School

Liz McGandy, ESL Teacher, Sherwood Middle School

Sarah Monica, Little Colonials Preschool Teacher, Shrewsbury High School

Leadership:

Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

Dr. Sawyer noted the Community Service Award is being given collectively to the students of Shrewsbury High School for their extraordinary contributions to serving the community.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. SHS Student Advisory Committee (SAC): Report

Benjamin George, Student, Class of 2018, SAC Chair; Maya McCollum, Student, Class of 2018; Erica Hanlon, Student, Class of 2019; Paulina Hruskoci, Student, Class of 2019; Prisha Singh, Student, Class of 2019, gave a report that included information on Student Advocacy as it relates to Town Meeting at Shrewsbury High School (topics included the timing of assignments in the Schoology learning management system software, parking, social science electives/financial literacy learning opportunities, and vegetarian/vegan cafeteria choices) and the newly developed Strategic Priorities (topics included school start times, student workloads, AP course options and availability, and real-world application of classroom learning).

They went on to discuss extracurricular activities, detailing successes and providing information on athletics (noting the addition of freshman teams as an area of opportunity), the performing arts, clubs (over 50 at SHS), and community service (noting the student body has continually surpassed set hourly goals).

Committee members asked clarifying questions and noted the sophistication and relevance of students' concerns presented at this meeting, as well as at their SHS Town Meeting, relative to academics, extracurricular activities, and student well-being.

B. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields: Report & Vote

Ms. Michelle Biscotti and Ms. Kathleen Keohane, Co-Coordinator of Development & Volunteer

Activities, provided an update on The Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields which included background information on the project and described how they have been working to raise funds. They noted that \$1,145,717 of the needed \$1.8 M has been raised, recognized donors, and described efforts in the coming weeks (which include the Tailgate for Turf fundraiser on

February 3) to raise the balance of funds by February 2018 to allow for field installation in time for the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Collins added that if funds were not raised in time, an increase of 3-5% in costs could be expected for installation the following year, and that maintenance costs for the existing natural grass fields would also be incurred for an additional year. The Committee asked clarifying questions, then Ms. Keohane read a statement from donors Columbia Tech and The Coghlin Family.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept a \$5,000 gift from Karyn Polito and Steve Rodolakis; a \$5,000 gift from Jim and Hannah Kane; a \$10,000 gift from Columbia Tech and The Coghlin Family; and a \$25,000 gift from Mark and Lisa Govoni, for the athletic field project at Shrewsbury High School.

C. Beal School Building Project: Space Planning Report

Mr. Collins, Katie Crockett, Lamoureux Pagano Associates, and Sean Brennan, Lamoureux Pagano Associates, gave a report to the Committee on the status of the Feasibility Study Phase (Module 3) of the Beal School Building Project, noting key elements of the Preliminary Design Program (PDP). Mr. Collins began by describing the post construction space and enrollment plan (which informed the proposed plan for 40 classrooms in the new school) and provided historical information on recently completed SPS projects (since 1997) that are already over capacity. Ms. Crockett and Mr. Brennan presented a Proposed Space Summary draft with detailed information on conditions at the existing Beal School, MSBA guidelines, and proposed space summaries on different school configurations dated 12-1-17 and 12-12-17, noting that Ms. Clouter's work on the Educational Philosophy Statement informs the modeling they use to determine allocated spaces. They also presented a Program Adjacency Diagram which provided a very general representation of the physical spaces proposed in the summary.

In response to questions from the Committee they advised that MSBA guidelines are a starting point for space allocation, and that the size of spaces can vary depending (as in the two configurations previously referenced) on the particular needs of a school in areas including Special Education. Dr. Sawyer provided clarifying information on the "common circulation spaces" shown in the diagram. Ms. Crockett and Mr. Brennan concluded by providing a very detailed summary of the steps of the Feasibility Study Phase (Module 3) of the project.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Program of Studies: Proposed Changes for 2018-2019

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal; Ms. Maureen Monopoli, Assistant Principal; and Ms. Jennifer DiFrancesca, Director of Social Sciences, Shrewsbury High School, provided an annual report on proposed changes to the Program of Studies at SHS for 2018-2019. Mr. Bazydlo began with an overview and timeline of the course selection process, noted changes in efficiency and occupancy from the current school year that would be taken into consideration, and noted

changes to special programs that included a redefinition of *Senior Exhibition* (grade 12 program) to *Capstone Exhibition* (spring of grade 11 through fall of grade 12 program) and the addition of *Job Shadowing* and *Cooperative Work Study*.

Ms. Monopoli described detailed changes to courses in Family Consumer Science, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physical Education, Instructional Technology and Media Services, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. Ms. DiFrancesca described detailed changes in the Social Sciences department, which included the addition of courses based on student interest.

The Committee asked clarifying questions around *Job Shadowing* (length of program, opportunities/family demographics as a factor, quality of programs offered), data entry relative to course selection, and coordinating enrollment requests with instructor availability. Dr. Sawyer thanked the group for the report and noted that the proposed Program of Studies anticipated changes informed by data from the *Portrait of a Graduate* and Strategic Priorities surveys.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

None.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

A. Superintendent's State of the District Annual Report

Dr. Sawyer noted that the annual State of the District Report would be an overarching view of the district from his perspective, summarized in five points:

- 1) Our students continue to demonstrate success by traditional measures, and community satisfaction with the quality of our schools is high.
- 2) We have articulated a bold, shared vision for the characteristics we wish for our students to develop as a result of their education in Shrewsbury.
- 3) We have developed an ambitious set of strategic priorities and goals that will guide the direction and focus the energy of our district and our schools for the next five years.
- 4) Realizing our vision, priorities, and goals will require the resources to do the job.
- 5) Empowerment is the key.

Dr. Sawyer discussed all five points, and specifically highlighted the resources needed to realize the district's vision, priorities, and goals: community partnerships with businesses, higher education, service agencies, alumni, etc; family engagement and culturally proficient practices in an increasingly diverse community; social emotional learning strategies and programming; comprehensive well-being strategy and programming for staff.

Committee members thanked Dr. Sawyer for the report and noted that: SPS students feel valued; the status of the district is strong, and keeps evolving; they like the reflective nature of the report and the district; and resources are needed to continue driving success.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes of the School Committee meeting on December 20, 2017 were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SAC Agenda
2. Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields Slide Report
3. MSBA Module 3 Document
4. Beal Project Space Planning Template
5. Beal Project K-4 Space/Enrollment Projection
6. Beal Project Slides
7. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Memo
8. SHS Program of Studies Proposed Changes Slide Presentation
9. Superintendent's State of the District Report
10. Superintendent's State of the District Slide Presentation
11. Lamoureux Pagano Documents
12. Set(s) of Minutes as Referenced Above