

**School Committee Workshop  
Shrewsbury High School  
Principal's Conference Room  
64 Holden Street  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

**Present:** Dr. Dale Magee, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Sandy Fryc, Secretary; Ms. Erin Canzano; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Amy Clouter, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; Ms. Barb Malone, Director of Business Services; and Ms. Meg Belsito, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

Workshop opened at 6:32 PM

**I. Presentation of information regarding Fiscal Year 2019 Budget projections and initial recommendations**

Mr. Collins provided the group with the FY19 Budget Initial Draft Summary.

The group discussed Dr. Sawyer's initial FY19 Budget Recommendation. The initial FY19 budget recommendation is \$ 66,413,028, which is an increase of 6.47% or \$ 4,038,028 over the FY18 budget. In keeping with the Committee's guidance, the initial budget recommendation represents a carry forward/level service number that is inline with the Committee's strategic priorities and guidelines; inflation; contractual obligations; mandated costs associated with providing educational services; and anticipated growth in district enrollment.

The group discussed the need for budget discussions with the public and other town boards to highlight increased operational costs, decreased grant funding and lack of full funding for Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement, which result in more of the cost of education shifting to the town's appropriated budget.

Mr. Collins informed the group that Governor Baker's FY19 budget proposal includes additional state aid for Shrewsbury of \$20 per student or \$120,740. While any additional funding is appreciated, it does not keep pace with the cost of education in Shrewsbury.

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins will be meeting with Town Manager, Kevin Mizikar on January 25, 2018 to discuss the Superintendent's FY19 initial budget recommendation. Mr. Mizikar is expected to release his initial FY19 Town Budget Recommendation on February 7, 2018.

**II. FY19 Circuit Breaker Projections**

Mr. Collins and Ms. Belsito presented the FY19 Circuit Breaker (CB) assumptions and projections. After assessing historical CB reimbursement rates and Out of District placements, it was determined that a factor of 63% would be used to estimate the FY19 Circuit Breaker reimbursement. The initial FY19 CB estimate will also apply an FY18 CB surplus carry forward amount of \$655,000 for a total net general fund budget of \$ 3,212,760, which would be used to offset or lower the appropriated budget for out-of district tuition costs. The FY19 method of CB reimbursement rate is more aggressive than in past years, but will most likely result in less change between the initial and subsequent budget projections. It was also acknowledged that SPED costs are a volatile area and there is the possibility of fluctuation throughout the budget year.

### **III. FY19 Draft Superintendent's Budget Recommendation**

Dr. Sawyer provided his draft of his initial FY19 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation, which will be presented at the January 31, 2018 School Committee meeting. The recommendation material highlights new staff needed due to continued growth in student enrollment as well as English Language Learners; class size; new staff and equipment needed to meet mandated services; new investments needed to meet the district's strategic priorities; and replacement equipment costs.

The committee agreed that the format for the proposed FY19 initial budget recommendation presentation material was well done.

Dr. Sawyer discussed the proposal to add a district-level leadership position with the working title of *Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships and Well-being*. He believes this position is necessary to advance the district's new strategic priorities and goals and enhance the quality of our educational program for students and staff.

After reviewing the draft of the potential responsibilities for this role, the group discussed the large number of job duties and the proposed salary for the position. There was discussion regarding the use of the term "well-being" and the possible perception this term might convey to the community. It was suggested that consideration be given to changing the job title. The group agreed that this new position would add value to the district; however, as it is a staff addition at the district level, it will be heavily scrutinized.

As the FY19 budget process matures, prioritization of any additions above the carry forward/level service budget will need to be considered by the School Committee.

### **IV: Executive Session**

Dr. Magee requested a motion for the School Committee to enter into executive session for the purpose of negotiations with represented and non-represented personnel and reviewing, and approving executive session minutes. The Committee will reconvene to open session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening. On a motion by Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, on a roll call vote: Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky,

yes; and Dr. Magee, yes, the Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

### **IX: Adjournment**

On a motion from Ms. Canzano, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, open session was adjourned at 8:55 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Canzano, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Dr. Magee, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fryc - Secretary

Documents referenced:

1. Circuit Breaker History and Projections
2. Superintendent's Budget Recommendation Draft Slide Presentation
3. FY19 Character Code Summary
4. Memo on District Leadership Capacity