

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

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

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

None.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer reported that he recently attended a Grade 5 concert, and a concert at Oak Middle School that featured the debut performance of "Shrewsbury Fair," Composer George Lam's suite of three movements inspired by locations in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, which was financed by the Shrewsbury Schools Music/Theater Association (SSMA) and partially supported by a grant from the Shrewsbury Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. He congratulated the following Shrewsbury High School students for their submission and recognition in the Anna Maria College Art Competition:

Digital Art and Design - FIRST PLACE - Jasmine Duerk

Photography - SECOND PLACE - Ashlee Phaneuf

Painting - FIRST PLACE - Karen Hou

Painting - THIRD PLACE - Alison Conolly

Painting - HONORABLE MENTION - Caroline Doiron

BEST OF SHOW (Third Place) - Karen Hou

Dr. Sawyer also advised that there would be a community fundraising event on February 3 to benefit *The Campaign for Shrewsbury Athletic Fields*.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Beal Building Project Preliminary Design Program: Vote

Kathryn Crockett, Project Architect, Lamoureux Pagano Associates, provided the Committee with updated information on the Beal Building Project, noting that the Preliminary Design Development phase (PDP) was transitioning to the more detailed and specific Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) phase. She described the PDP steps; showed three space summary proposals (with overall square footage declining as refined over time); discussed current Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) school capacities (noting recent projects Floral, Sherwood, Oak, and Shrewsbury High School (SHS) already exceeded capacity); provided detailed current construction cost data; described site evaluation factors for four options under consideration, noting the three recommended Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) options were:

BASE REPAIR OPTION – EXISTING BEAL SCHOOL

NEW CONSTRUCTION – GLAVIN CENTER SITE

NEW CONSTRUCTION – ALLEN FARM SITE

and described next steps for the project.

The Committee asked clarifying questions about the recommended options, cost differentials between the options, space allocation, and MSBA reimbursement. They noted that the current economy was more robust than for other more recent projects, and advised regarding the importance of building a school that would meet current and future demands. Dr. Sawyer discussed space allocation, especially as it relates to providing in-district special education programs, and Mr. Collins provided information on how the request for a 40 classroom school project was derived.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Preliminary Design Program submission to be made to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Beal Building Project.

V. Curriculum

A. SHS Program of Studies 2018-2019: Vote

Dr. Magee advised that the Committee heard a presentation of proposed changes to the Program of Studies (POS) at its January 10, 2018 meeting. There were no comments, questions, or concerns from the Committee. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Shrewsbury High School 2018-2019 Program of Studies as presented.

VI. Policy

A. School Year Calendar for 2018-2019: Discussion

Dr. Sawyer began his report noting that the proposed calendar was consistent with recommendations from the School Calendar Committee and provided a brief history of their work to inform decision making on a calendar that meets the needs of students, staff, and the

community. He advised that similar to school years prior to 2017-18, the proposed calendar included a parent conference day on election day, November 6. Dr. Magee noted that the draft calendar would be posted for public review and comment in advance of a vote at a future meeting.

At 7:45 pm the Committee recessed so that a technology issue could be addressed, then reconvened at 7:48 pm.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal 2019 Budget: Superintendent's Recommendation

Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer began their report by acknowledging Ms. Kim Fitzpatrick, Financial Coordinator/Budget Analyst, for her assistance in preparing the Superintendent's Budget Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2019 being presented at the meeting. They noted the proposed budget was designed to be in keeping with the Committee's guidance and priorities for a "level services" budget; discussed key questions around resources and funding; described funding sources in detail; and provided a recap of the proposed Town Appropriated Budget:

- Total recommendation of \$66,413,028
- \$4,038,028
- 6.47%
 - FY16 increase =2.20%
 - FY17 increase =3.34%
 - FY18 increase =3.26%
 - Three-year annual average = 2.93%

Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer went on to note the impact to the budget from growing enrollment and the increased need for English Language Learner (ELL) services (47% growth from 2015-16 to 2016-17), mandated services, the newly adopted District Strategic Priorities, and equipment. They provided detailed information on: state aid as a percent of the overall budget; maximizing revenue opportunities (fees, grants, School Choice); Shrewsbury's low per pupil expenditure (PPE) relative to the state average and other comparable districts; meeting community expectations; and independent recognition of success at SPS by various entities. Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer noted next steps in the process (the Town Manager will release his initial FY19 budget recommendation on February 7th), highlighted important questions relative to the budget, and summarized key points of the report as follows:

- 1) We need \$4 million in additional funding to maintain our current program and address mandates, enrollment growth, and strategic priorities.
- 2) There will be considerably less funding available to meet these needs.
- 3) The school district will create a cost reduction plan that will almost certainly result in changes to the educational program and fewer staff.

The Committee noted that the proposed budget is comprised largely of "needs" and few (or no) "wants", that PPE at SPS is consistently low, and that services and programs have been reduced

or eliminated over the years due to budget constraints, and acknowledged that the cost burden over time has shifted more heavily to the local community.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update

Dr. Sawyer advised the Committee that state law governing educational collaboratives requires four updates each year to member school districts, and that the Assabet Valley Collaborative's (AVC) Annual Report and Financial Statements must be provided to member school committees annually. Dr. Sawyer noted that he is the Chair this year, and described AVC as "healthy," noting that office and training space recently acquired by the collaborative has yielded benefits including adequate administrative space and revenue generated from hosting trainings. He advised that AVC rents space from SPS at SHS, and added that members realize lower transportation costs by sharing with other districts in the collaborative.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes of the School Committee workshop held on December 13, 2017, and the School Committee meeting held on January 10, 2018, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Canzano, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. SHS Program of Studies (POS)
2. Beal Project Update Slide Report
3. School Calendar 18-19 Draft
4. FY19 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation
5. FY19 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation Slides
6. AVC 2017 Annual Report

7. AVC Financial Statements
8. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above