



**Resolution by the Shrewsbury School Committee
in Support of the Beal School Building Project**

Unanimously approved by the School Committee on October 10, 2018

The Shrewsbury community has an excellent opportunity to partner with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to construct a new Beal School. This project will be a significant benefit to our town for the following reasons:

- 1) The current Beal Early Childhood Center building, originally constructed in 1922, is coming to the end of its useful life as a school. Investing millions of dollars in renovating this building to bring it up to current standards would not be a wise investment, nor would it meet the short- or long-term space needs for the elementary grades.
- 2) The construction of a new, 790 student Kindergarten through Grade 4 Beal School on the site of the former Glavin Center will be a long-term solution to the problem of having too many students and not enough space at the elementary level, where current overcrowding exists and enrollment is projected to increase over time.
- 3) A new Beal School will create parity across the K-4 grade span by ensuring each elementary school has sufficient space to provide educational programming, including general classrooms and rooms for art, music, special education, and English language learning.
- 4) A new Beal School will provide sufficient space so that all Shrewsbury Public Schools kindergarten students may have a full-day instructional program. (Currently, 95% of Massachusetts public school kindergarten students are in full-day classes, but only 60% of Shrewsbury kindergarteners are receiving a full-day kindergarten experience.)
- 5) Through partnering with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will provide approximately \$34 million in a construction grant towards the cost of this \$92.8 million project, making this a fiscally responsible approach where the investment is shared between the town and the state.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage Town Meeting members to vote to authorize the town to borrow the funds necessary for the project at the Special Town Meeting on October 22, and for all Shrewsbury voters to vote YES on the November 6th debt exclusion ballot question, either on November 6th or during the designated Early Voting period, to provide the town's share of funding to build a new Beal School.