



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 31, 2020

To: School Committee

From: Joe Sawyer

Re: Recommendation regarding full-day kindergarten tuition in Fiscal Year 2021

Dear School Committee:

A range of options regarding the financial impact of different full day kindergarten tuition levels was presented to you at the last meeting. As you know, the initial FY21 budget was devised with the assumption that the tuition level would be reduced by 50%, from the current \$2,400 to \$1,200 annually, as the final step-down towards providing tuition-free, full-day kindergarten in FY22.

While I believe it is important to make progress toward this important School Committee goal, the budget situation for FY21, which was already problematic, will certainly become more difficult due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, I am recommending that the annual full-day kindergarten tuition be set at \$2,205 for FY21, which is a reduction of \$195 for families, and will offset the FY21 budget gap by approximately \$200,000 due to the additional projected revenue compared to the original assumption of \$1,200 annually.

It is important to note that, if the Committee adopts this recommendation, the estimated amount of tuition funding that would need to be shifted to the appropriated budget in FY22 when the new Beal School is scheduled to open would then be approximately \$440,000 instead of the approximately \$240,000 originally projected. While it is undesirable to create this more significant fiscal challenge for FY22, I believe it is warranted given the very difficult financial circumstances we face for FY21.

I look forward to answering any questions you have regarding this recommendation at our meeting on April 1.