



**School Committee  
Meeting Book**

**August 6, 2020  
7:00 pm**

**Town Hall -100 Maple Avenue  
Selectmen's Meeting Room**



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA

August 6, 2020 7:00pm  
Town Hall—100 Maple Avenue  
Selectmen's Meeting Room

THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC. TOWN HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. IF AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR THE PUBLIC BECOMES AVAILABLE WE WILL PUBLISH THAT INFORMATION SEPARATELY.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing.

The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means. "Adequate, alternative means" may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time. A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable afterwards.

In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.

While for this meeting the School Committee and members of the School Department administrative team will physically meet at the location listed above, members of the public may not attend in person. If a member of the public wishes to participate remotely in the Public Participation portion of the meeting, they should contact the Committee Chair, Ms. Sandra Fryc, by sending an email to [schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

#### Items

#### Suggested time allotments

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| I. Public Participation  | 7:00-7:05   |
| II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports  |             |
| III. Superintendent's Report   |             |
| IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:   |             |
| A. Project 351 Service Project: Presentation   | 7:05 – 7:10 |
| B. Plan for Reopening School for the 2020-2021 School Year:<br>Recommendation & Vote | 7:10 – 8:15 |
| V. Curriculum  |             |



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- VI. Policy
  - A. Revised Calendar for 2020-2021 School Year: Vote 8:15 – 8:25
  
- VII. Finance & Operations
  - A. Revised Fiscal Year 2021 School Department Budget Recommendation: 8:25 – 8:40  
Recommendation & Vote
  
- VIII. Old Business
  
- IX. New Business
  
- X. Approval of Minutes 8:40 – 8:45
  
- XI. Executive Session 8:45 – 9:15
  - A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.
  - B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.
  
- XII. Adjournment 9:15

**Next regular meeting: TBD**



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**ITEM NO: I Public Participation**

MEETING DATE: 8/6/20

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear thoughts and ideas from the public regarding the operations and the programs of the school system?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Copies of the policy and procedure for Public Participation are available to the public at each School Committee meeting.

**ITEM NO: II. Chairperson's Report/Members' Reports**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson of the School Committee and other members of the School Committee who may wish to comment on school affairs?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee to comment on school affairs that are of interest to the community.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

School Committee Members  
Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson  
Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary  
Ms. Lynsey Heffernan, Committee Member  
Mr. Jason Palitsch, Committee Member

**ITEM NO: III. Superintendent's Report**

**SPECIFIC STATEMENT OR QUESTION:**

Will the School Committee hear a report from Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools?

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This agenda item allows the Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools to comment informally on the programs and activities of the school system.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

**ACTION RECOMMENDED FOR ITEMS I, II, & III:**

That the School Committee accept the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**  
**A. Project 351 Service Project: Presentation**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Rising Shrewsbury High School (SHS) senior Preston Karp was selected as the Shrewsbury Ambassador for Project 351 in 2017, and has worked since then on multiple community service projects, including a 9/11 Tribute Service. Last year Preston worked with the SHS community to launch a first year pilot for this service campaign that included staff and students traveling to serve at the Be Like Brit Foundation, Grafton Community Harvest Project, and St. Anne's. Unable to safely travel to service sites this year, they plan to launch a first ever online component: *National Day of Service Online Donation Database!* Tonight Preston and Project 351 founder and Executive Director, Carolyn Casey, will talk about the new initiative.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee hear the report and take such action as it deems in the best interest of the school system.

**STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Preston Karp, SHS Student  
Carolyn Casey, Project 351 Founder and Executive Director



## SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:** MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**  
B. Plan for Reopening School for the 2020-2021 School Year:  
Recommendation & Vote

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per mandate by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), school districts in the Commonwealth had to perform an analysis and submit a plan for three types of scenarios for fall reopening of schools: in-person; a hybrid of in-person and remote learning; and a fully remote learning option, by July 31, 2020. At the meeting on July 29, Dr. Sawyer and Ms. Clouter presented an analysis of the different reopening options and noted the district's preferred option of a hybrid in-person and remote learning model on an alternating schedule. Tonight Dr. Sawyer and members of the leadership team will provide more detailed information on what the hybrid program will entail, and Dr. Sawyer will request that the Committee vote to approve his recommended school reopening plan and authorize its submission of the plan to DESE. The report will be provided under separate cover.

### ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the School Committee vote to approve the Superintendent's recommended school reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year as presented and authorize its submission to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools  
District Administrators



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

**A. Revised Calendar for 2020-2021 School Year: Vote**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Shrewsbury Public Schools 2020 - 2021 School Year Calendar was approved by the Committee on February 5, 2020. New information from DESE was released recently regarding delaying the start of school for students by ten days to enable thorough training and orientation for staff in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and planning for reopening of schools in the fall. Tonight a revised school calendar is being presented to the School Committee for approval as part of the reopening plan. Dr. Sawyer will summarize proposed changes to the revised 2020-2021 school calendar.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to approve the revised Shrewsbury Public Schools 2020 - 2021 School Year Calendar as presented.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools



# Shrewsbury Public Schools 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

**Revised 08-06-20**

AUG/SEP 12 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
24	25	26	27	28
31	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER 20 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 16 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER 17 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 18 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

## August/September

8/31-9/14 Training, Orientation, Planning for Staff

9/7 Labor Day

9/15 First Day for Students

## October

10/9 Professional Development (Incl. Paraprofessionals)/No School

10/12 Columbus Day/No School

## November

11/3 Parent Conferences/No School

11/11 Veterans Day Observed/No School

11/25-27 Thanksgiving Vacation

## December

12/24-31 December Vacation

## January

1/1 New Year's Day/No School

1/15 Professional Development/No School

1/18 M.L. King Day/No School

## February

2/15 Presidents Day/No School

2/16-2/19 Winter Vacation

## April

4/19 Patriots Day/No School

4/20-4/23 Spring Vacation

## May

5/3-5/4 No School for Preschool & K (New Student Screenings)

5/28 Last Regular Day for Seniors

5/31 Memorial Day/No School

## June

6/3 Graduation Day

6/16 Last Day/Half Day for all Students (No PM Preschool or K) Subject to Change

FEBRUARY 15 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH 23 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL 17 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY 20 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JUNE 12 Days				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

0 snow days = 6/16 last day  
 1 snow day = 6/17 last day  
 2 snow days = 6/18 last day  
 3 snow days = 6/21 last day  
 4 snow days = 6/22 last day  
 5 snow days = 6/23 last day



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

**A. Revised Fiscal Year 2021 School Department Budget Recommendation:  
Recommendation & Vote**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The state government has issued updated information regarding the minimum amounts of school funding (Chapter 70 aid) and unrestricted local aid to cities and towns that will be provided for this fiscal year, in order to provide more certainty given that the state will not be setting a final budget for some time.

As a result of the state's guarantee of this minimum amount of funding, and based on an understanding with the Town Manager regarding the additional amount of funding that will be available to the School Department, the School Department's Fiscal Year 2021 budget is able to be increased by \$915,283. This will result in a new bottom line School Department recommended town appropriation of \$67,995,283. This will reduce the estimated School Department budget gap of \$2 million by almost half.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee vote to recommend a School Department Fiscal Year 2021 budget of \$67,995,283 for approval at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on August 8, 2020.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

# FY21 BUDGET STATUS UPDATE

Patrick C. Collins

Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Operations

6 August 2020

# Topics

- FY21 Reality & Strategy
- State Aid Update
- Current Status
- Short-term Horizon
- Recommended Vote

## FY21 Reality & Strategy

- FY21 will remain a dynamic year with numerous changes in our financial status based upon a number of variables
- The educational modality will impact both costs and fee/tuition revenues. The cost to educate Remote Learners [Cohort D] is dependent on enrollment and cost/method of providing services.
- School closures could reduce some operating expenses AND also create new types of new expenditures

## FY21 Reality & Strategy

- Leverage federal stimulus funds to fullest extent knowing that those funds are both Use Restricted [CV-19 direct costs only] and Time Restricted [12/30/2020 deadline]
- More frequent budget status updates and monitoring required
- Mid-year reductions may be required and their impact decreases as we progress through the fiscal year, i.e., the amount of budget savings created through staff reductions diminishes if enacted with only a few months remaining in the fiscal year.

# State Aid Update

						<i>Tentative Agreement from MA State Legislature</i>		
	<b>FY20 Final</b>	<b>FY21 Original Estimate Pre-Covid Jan. 2020</b>	<b>FY21 Revised Estimate #1 Post-Covid Apr. 2020</b>	<b>\$\$ Difference</b>	<b>% Difference</b>	<b>FY21 Revised Estimate #2 Post-Covid July 30,2020</b>	<b>\$\$ Difference Est.#1 v. Est.#2</b>	<b>% Difference Est.#1 v. Est.#2</b>
<b>State Aid Category</b>								
<b>State Education Aid</b>	\$ 20,098,149	\$ 20,292,506	\$ 19,176,418	\$ (1,116,088)	-5.5%	\$ 20,104,225	\$ 927,807	4.8%
<b>Unrestricted General Gov't Aid</b>	\$ 2,958,042	\$ 3,040,867	\$ 2,655,283	\$ (385,584)	-12.7%	\$ 2,958,042	\$ 302,759	11.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,056,191</b>	<b>\$ 23,333,373</b>	<b>\$ 21,831,701</b>	<b>\$ (1,501,672)</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>	<b>\$ 23,062,267</b>	<b>\$ 1,230,566</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
						<b>School allocation</b>	<b>\$ 915,283</b>	
						<b>Municipal allocation</b>	<b>\$ 315,283</b>	

Additional funding for FY21 School Budget

# Current Status: \$1.1M Estimated Remaining Gap

	FY21 Budget Status: 7.22.2020	FY21 Budget Status: 8.3.2020 w/ Add'l \$915K State Aid	Difference
Town Mgr. & School Committee Revised Recom.	\$ 67,080,000	\$ 67,995,283	\$ 915,283
<b>Net Budget Gap</b>	<b>\$ (419,696)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Estimated Covid-related Revenue Losses</b> <i>[These Losses Cannot Be Covered by Federal Stimulus]</i>			
SPED Circuit Breaker Decrease	\$ (465,000)	\$ (465,000)	
Bus Revenue Decrease [100% loss]	\$ (750,000)	\$ (254,413)	
Student Activity /Athletics [25% reduction]	\$ (114,250)	\$ (114,250)	
Full Day Kindergarten and Preschool [25% reduction]	\$ (233,750)	\$ (233,750)	
Gate Receipts [50% reduction]	\$ (20,000)	\$ (20,000)	
<b>Total Projected Revenue Losses</b>	<b>\$ (1,583,000)</b>	<b>\$ (1,087,413)</b>	
<b>Total Gap- Assume No Additional State Aid</b>	<b>\$ (2,002,696)</b>	<b>\$ (1,087,413)</b>	<b>\$ (915,283)</b>

Current estimated remaining gap





## Short-term Horizon

- Plan for decreased revenue from full-day kindergarten but no decrease in program costs
- Preschool tuition and programming needs a re-assessment but could be similar to above
- Potential negative impact on athletic fee revenue could be offset by reduced costs for coaching stipends. It all depends on what the fall season looks like and student participation rates

## Recommended Vote

- That the Committee vote to recommend a School Department Fiscal Year 2021 budget of \$67,995,283 for approval at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on August 8, 2020.



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VII. Finance & Operations**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **X. Approval of Minutes**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The minutes from the School Committee Meetings held on July 22, 2020 and July 29, 2020, and the School Committee Workshop held on July 29, 2020 are enclosed.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meetings held on July 22, 2020 and July 29, 2020, and the School Committee Workshop held on July 29, 2020.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2020**

Present via virtual participation: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson (presiding); Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Hefferman; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this meeting was not open to physical participation by the public, but was broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29 & 329 and streamed live on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website. A complete audio/video recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Mr. Wensky at 7:00 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

Mr. Wensky encouraged anyone wishing to participate in the Public Participation portion of meetings to reach out to the School Committee via email. Mr. Wensky noted the passing of longtime Shrewsbury Media Connection TV producer and former Shrewsbury Public Schools (SPS) teacher John McDonald, and requested a moment of silence to remember Mr. McDonald.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

None.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer expressed condolences to the family of Mr. McDonald on behalf of all SPS staff; noted transportation registration for students living two or more miles away from school would begin soon, adding that updated state guidelines were expected later in the evening; advised refunds were in process for Extended School Care (ESC) and other after school programs, and that transportation refunds would follow in the first week of August; described work being done by the Reopening Task Force and provided key dates in the timeline for presenting information to the Committee; advised that all Kindergarten through Grade 12 students would have a school-issued iPad for the 2020-2021 academic year; noted a link was shared recently to the 2018 & 2019 SPS Annual Report, and that the latest issue of the Shrewsbury School Journal should arrive in homes later in the week, and thanked the production teams for both publications; and enjoyed attending the Zoom platform thesis defense (*Why Do Dark Matter Halos Die Together? An Intergalactic Murder Mystery*) of Shrewsbury High School (SHS) graduate (2010) Philip Mansfield, graduate student in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago.

#### **IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

##### **A. Gift from Beijing Chinese Language School: Vote**

Mr. Wensky advised that the Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School (MBCLS) would like to make an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 to the Colonial Fund, and also intended to donate medical masks and two infrared thermometers to support school nurses' offices at SPS. Dr. Sawyer thanked MBCLS for their generosity. He and Mr. Collins described the ongoing positive relationship between SPS and MBCLS, and Mr. Collins added that previously in 2016, MBCLS made a donation of \$5,000 to support an annual scholarship for an SHS graduating senior. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the unrestricted gift of \$5,000 to the Colonial Fund from the Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

After the vote Dr. Sawyer provided an update on the Colonial Fund, acknowledging fundraising efforts by SPS students Leah Rider in grade 12 (*Shrewsbury Smart Cookies*) and Nathan Robinson in grade 8 (yard sale proceeds), and expressing appreciation for \$57,873 in funds raised from over 225 donors in the latest campaign.

##### **B. Current Medical Information Regarding COVID-19: Report & Discussion**

Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing, began the report with a summary of key messages and ways children benefit from being in school. Dr. Timothy Gibson, MD, SPS School Physician, presented a summary of initial (June 2020) guidance and guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and then detailed subsequent (July 17, 2020) DESE protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings that address issues including symptoms, testing, outbreaks, and contact tracing. Ms. Freeman gave examples of evolving data and research on COVID-19 from the past week, and noted the importance of gathering feedback from SPS stakeholders in surveys sent to families regarding students returning to school, and to staff for questions, concerns, and ideas. Committee members asked clarifying questions and expressed concerns on a variety of topics including: the timing gap between symptom identification, testing, and receipt of results, and the potential for parents to allow labs to release test results to schools; the importance of receiving written test result reports; understanding the flow of information from the Worcester Department of Public Health (DPH); the importance of easy access to testing; concerns for the health and safety of older family members and SPS staff who have contact with students; communication with the public regarding student infections; ventilation/outdoor campus learning at schools; and remote learning opportunities as a fallback for students who will be absent for long periods of time due to infection.

#### **V. Curriculum**

None.

#### **VI. Policy**

None.



## **VII. Finance & Operations**

### **A. Fiscal Year 2021 School Department Appropriated Budget: Recommendation & Vote**

Dr. Sawyer presented an overview of the FY21 Budget process timeline to date, noted the goal of moving forward without further cuts to staff, and advised that the budget being recommended was derived using a balanced risk approach. Mr. Collins and Dr. Sawyer, in turn, detailed components of the current estimated budget gap; described ongoing labor negotiations for cost mitigation; presented a timeline of upcoming budget events/information and noted the rationale for, and potential downside of, the balanced risk approach being utilized; and described the process going forward to the Annual Town Meeting.

Committee members expressed support for the recommendation.

Ms. Heffernan left the meeting at approximately 8:42PM due to a power outage at her home, and rejoined via phone at 8:45PM.

Dr. Sawyer added that a cohort of Special Education students successfully returned to school this week for in-person services and attributed this success to SPS staff, noting that taking a balanced risk approach to the budget presents a pathway to doing the best work possible for students in the fall with the hope that staff will ultimately be preserved going forward.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend a Fiscal Year 2021 School Department Budget appropriation of \$67,080,000 for Town Meeting approval. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

## **VIII. Old Business**

None.

## **IX. New Business**

None.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on July 15, 2020 and the School Committee Workshop held on July 20, 2020 were accepted as distributed.

## **XI. Executive Session**

- A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.**
- B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.**

Mr. Wensky requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session:

A)for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes; and

B)for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers. On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, on a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:51 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes, and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

1. MBCLS Donation Letter
2. Reopening Health & Safety Memo to SC 07-21-20
3. Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios 07-17-20
4. COVID-19 Medical Information Slide Presentation
5. FY21 Budget Recommendation Slide Presentation
6. FY21 Budget Recommendation Line Items
7. FY21 Budget Recommendation Summary
8. Set(s) of minutes as referenced above

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

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

Present via virtual participation: Ms. Sandy Fryc, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Vice Chairperson (presiding); Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms. Lynsey Heffernan; 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.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this meeting was not open to physical attendance by the public, but was broadcast live on SELCO Channels 29 & 329 and streamed live on the Shrewsbury Media Connection website. A complete audio/video recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Mr. Wensky at 7:01 pm.

**I. Public Participation**

Mr. Wensky encouraged anyone wishing to participate in the Public Participation portion of meetings to reach out to the School Committee via email in advance of the meeting.

**II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports**

Dr. Magee reported that he enjoyed cookies from the "Shrewsbury Smart Cookies" fundraiser that benefits the Shrewsbury Colonial Fund, and Mr. Wensky expressed appreciation to all organizers and attendees of the Graduation Part 2 ceremony for the Class of 2020 held at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) on July 25, 2020.

**III. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Sawyer thanked an anonymous donor who has offered to match new donations up to a total of \$10,000, for donations made to the Colonial Fund through August 31st. Mr. Collins reported that the Business Office would begin mailing refunds for paid March 2020 services the following day for the Extended School Care, After School Activities Program, and Summer Spark Programs, and would mail refunds for busing, Full Day Kindergarten tuition, and Preschool tuition in two-three weeks; and noted that bus transportation registration was now open via the parent portal for students living two or more miles from school.

**IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:**

**A. Authorization of St. John's High School to Add Grades 7 & 8: Vote**

Dr. Sawyer noted that per Massachusetts state law, the School Committee approves the operation and expansion of private schools in town. He advised that St. John's High School would like to add grades 7 and 8, has a long history of providing high quality education in the community and has a viable proposed

middle-level grades program, and recommended that the Committee vote to authorize the addition of grades 7 and 8.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury to add grades 7 and 8 to their existing configuration, so that it may operate as a private school offering grades 7 through 12. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

### **B. Required Reopening Planning Document Submission to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education: Presentation & Vote**

Dr. Sawyer began the report with a summary of key messages, noted a webinar on coronavirus medical information for Shrewsbury Public Schools staff would be held the next evening, and advised a presentation on the recommended school reopening plan would be presented to the Committee at their next meeting. Ms. Clouter noted that planning for reopening was based on input from multiple stakeholders; summarized the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) timeline, and noted preliminary plans for in-person, remote, and a hybrid of in-person and remote learning models were due to DESE on July 31st. Ms. Clouter advised that a preference for 6 foot physical/social distancing in classrooms as well as expectations for remote learning based on feedback and data from staff and families led to the recommendation of an alternating in-person and remote hybrid model as the preferred plan for safe and effective reopening of schools. She provided information on how a hybrid model might be implemented, gave examples of different models, provided key data points on participation and schedule preferences, and outlined continued planning around reopening, including (per DESE) a ten day delay to the start of school for students to allow for staff training and orientation.

Committee members appreciated how the primacy of health and safety of staff and students factored into planning, but noted that acceptable standards of safety can vary; asked clarifying questions about Zoom technology etiquette, cohort sizes, masks, and the timeline for reopening planning; and expressed concerns for working parents during the remote learning portions of a hybrid plan relative to schedule consistency, financial hardship, and/or an inability to stay home.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Dr. Magee, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize submission of the state-mandated reopening plan document containing an analysis of options for school reopening, and including the district's preferred option of a hybrid in-person and remote learning model on an alternating schedule, to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes.

### **V. Curriculum**

None.

### **VI. Policy**

None.

### **VII. Finance & Operations**

None.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None.

## **IX. New Business**

None.

## **X. Approval of Minutes**

None.

## **XI. Executive Session**

- A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.**
- B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.**

Mr. Wensky requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session:

A) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes; and

B) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.

On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, on a roll call vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; and Mr. Wensky, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to executive session at 8:18 pm.

## **XII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Heffernan, seconded by Mr. Palitsch, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes, and Ms. Fryc, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

Saint John's High School Grades 7 & 8 Information

DESE School Reopening Plans and Recommendation Document

School Reopening Plans and Recommendation Slide Presentation

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
100 MAPLE AVENUE  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS  
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  
July 29, 2020  
Videoconference**

**Regular School Committee meeting opened at 4:33 PM.**

**Present:** Mr. Jon Wensky, Assistant Chairperson (presiding); Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson; Dr. Dale Magee, Secretary; Ms Lynsey Heffernan; Mr. Jason Palitsch; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

**School Opening Discussion:** Dr Sawyer presented content of the form required by DESE for proposed plans for reopening. Issues regarding timing of opening, spacing, logistics of operationalizing the changes and need for flexibility were discussed. Vagaries regarding staffing and transportation were discussed. Transportation is currently planned at 1/3 bus capacity. Concerns regarding child care both for staff as well as for students' families during hybrid sessions were discussed. A more complete plan will be presented next week.

**Teachers' Union discussion:** Discussions continue with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A. Negotiations now include more content regarding working conditions related to school reopening plans.

**St. John's Grades 7-8 expansion:** Per regulation the Committee must approve the addition of new grade levels at private schools in town. There were no questions regarding the content or quality of the offering. This will be voted in open session later today.

**Government Funding discussion:** The potential for the government modifying current conditions for spending Covid related expenses to beyond December 30, 2020 as well as the potential for more funds from the state may require the Committee to re-enter into negotiations with bargaining associations as the school year progresses.

On a motion by Mr. Palitsch, seconded by Ms. Heffernan, on a roll call vote: Ms. Heffernan, yes; Dr. Magee, yes; Mr. Palitsch, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; and Ms. Fryc, yes. The Regular meeting adjourned at 5:45PM.

Documents referenced:

DESE School Reopening Plan Analysis and Recommendation Document



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **8/6/20**

**A. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes.**

**B. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers.**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Executive session is warranted for these purposes.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Committee enter into executive session:

A) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g) – for the purpose of reviewing, approving, and/or releasing executive session minutes; and

B) for the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” (“Purpose 3”) - the Shrewsbury Education Association Unit A; Shrewsbury Education Association Unit B; the Shrewsbury Paraprofessional Association; and/or the Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers, where deliberation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body; and return to Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning for the evening.

**STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Barbara A. Malone, Executive Director of Human Resources

Mr. Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations





**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XII. Adjournment**