



**School Committee
Meeting Book**

**September 23, 2020
7:00 pm**

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



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

September 23, 2020 7:00pm
Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue

THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC. TOWN HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR MEETINGS. THIS MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON LOCAL CABLE CHANNELS 29 & 329 AND STREAMED LIVE ON THE SHREWSBURY MEDIA CONNECTION WEBSITE AT <https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/iE0p5N2b-Se5BhxS-3KDrHfUWzLHfku2/stream/722>. SEE BELOW FOR INFORMATION ON CONTACTING THE CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

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.

Items

Suggested time allotments

- I. Public Participation
- II. Chairperson’s Report & Members’ Reports
- III. Superintendent’s Report
- IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:
 - A. Opening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report
 - B. Fall Athletics: Report & Vote on Athletic Fee
- V. Curriculum
- VI. Policy

7:00-7:05

7:05 – 8:05

8:05 – 8:25



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

- VII. Finance & Operations
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Approval of Minutes 8:25 – 8:30

- XI. Executive Session 8:30 – 9:00
 - 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

Next regular meeting: TBD



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO: I Public Participation

MEETING DATE: 9/23/20

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: **9/23/20**
A. Opening of the 2020-2021 School Year: Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dr. Sawyer and members of the leadership team will provide detailed information on the opening of schools for students for the 2020-2021 school year.

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 AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

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



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: IV. Time Scheduled Appointments: MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**
B. Fall Athletics: Report & Vote on Athletic Fee

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Athletic Director Jay Costa and Mr. Collins will provide an overview of how the athletics program at Shrewsbury High School (SHS) will look this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is enclosed and includes information on participation requirements, athletic seasons, and sports offered. A recommendation will be made on changes to athletic fees for 2020-2021.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee hear the report and vote to approve the 2020-2021 Athletic Fee be set at \$275 per sport with a \$825 annual cap, and \$40 per sport with a \$120 annual cap for students eligible for Free or Reduced Price lunch, due to modified seasons and competition schedules per current Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association [MIAA] protocols based upon COVID conditions.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jay Costa, Athletic Director, Shrewsbury High School
Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools

Shrewsbury Athletics



Adapted for COVID-19 Pandemic



Fall 2020

Jay Costa

Director of Athletics

Mission of the Athletic Department

- ★ Interscholastic Athletics can play a vital role in re-engaging our students as we seek to get back to school and to some sense of normalcy. A functioning athletic program will aid in rebuilding the interpersonal connections that would fundamentally support the implementation of any of the proposed academic instructional models. In the quest to educate the whole student, it cannot be overstated enough that Interscholastic Athletics can foster profound and positive social and emotional health outcomes in our collective communities.

Participation Requirements

- ❖ Parent Portal PowerSchool Online Registration
 - Includes permission form, emergency contact information, concussion education, opioid information, medical history information, and travel permission.

Physical Exam Requirements

- All students who plan to participate in athletics must submit written proof of a current physical exam to the athletic director and/or school nurse prior to the start of the sport season.
- Per DPH and MIAA regulations, physical exams are valid for 13 months to the day of the exam.
- A student athlete will NOT be allowed to participate once an exam has expired.
- The physical examination must be an in-person physical exam in order for the student to be eligible. Telehealth physicals are not valid for athletic participation.

Road Map to Athletics...



After receiving final guidance from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and our governing body for athletics, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Shrewsbury High School and the Midland-Wachusett League feel that we have a solid plan in place for the fall season.

Our main focus, is and has been, the health and safety of all our student-athletes and coaches!

Athletic Seasons for 2020-2021

Fall Season I: September 18 - November 20 (Cross Country, Soccer, Field Hockey and Golf)

Winter Season: November 30 - February 21 (Alpine Ski, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Indoor Track and Swim/Dive)

Fall Season II or “Floating Season”: February 22 - April 25 (Cheer, Football, G. Volleyball and Unified Basketball)

Spring Season: April 26 - July 3 (Baseball/Softball, Crew, Lacrosse, Track & Field Tennis, and Unified Track)

**These dates may change as we move through the year

**There will be NO MIAA Tournament for Fall I.

**No decisions have been made by the MIAA regarding postseason tournaments for the Winter, Fall II, or Spring seasons.

What sports we will offer this fall...

We will offer the following sports during Fall Season I:

- Boys & Girls Cross Country - Varsity
- Field Hockey - JV1 and Varsity
- Golf - JV and Varsity
- Boys & Girls Soccer - JV1, JV2 and Varsity

- ❖ All levels of Football, Volleyball, Cheer, and Unified Basketball will be moved to the floating Fall Season II
- ❖ Cheer, Football, and Volleyball may be allowed to have limited practices during Fall Season I under EEA, MIAA, and league/District 3 guidelines. Crew may also have limited practices (different governing body)

Central Mass divided into PODS...

After extensive discussion on how to best move our league and district forward during this uncertain time, Central Mass has decided to divide the schools into geographic pods.

These pods were designed by a mileage model to limit travel amongst schools. Teams will only play teams within their pod and will not crossover into other pods. Our schools will not participate in non-league contests or scrimmages during the Fall I Season.

Shrewsbury's POD includes Algonquin, Leominster, Wachusett and Westboro.

Expectations of Coaches...

- Coaches will wear masks at all times.
- Coaches will keep bench players 6 feet apart.
- No close huddles with team pre/post game.
- Only 3 coaches will be allowed per each team's sideline.
- Coaches are responsible for making sure benches are picked up before leaving the field.
- Coaches will hold athletes on the field until fans clear the sidelines.
- Coaches will provide a travel roster with players' names to COVID captain at the home site (COVID captain is adult staff member responsible for protocols).
- Coaches will sanitize after getting off the bus, after warm-up, during halftime, and at the end of competition
- Do not organize or promote in-person team events outside of practices and games scheduled by the Athletic Department.

Expectations of Student-Athletes...

- Students must come ready to play each day as we will not have access to the locker rooms
- Athletes will be attended to by their own athletic trainer (if they have one) before boarding the bus
- Athletes must have extra masks (recommend 6) in their bag - wet masks are no longer effective and should be replaced with dry ones
- Athletes will maintain 6 feet of social distance in all bench areas
- Athletes must bring their own water bottle
- Athletes must sanitize after getting off the bus, after warm-up, during halftime, and end of competition
- Do not organize or promote in-person team events outside of practices and games scheduled by the Athletic Department.

Student-Athletes Athletic Bag Requirements...

- Multiple face coverings (masks) - Recommend at least 6
- Hand sanitizer
- Personal water bottle(s)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Personal equipment/clothes/shoes (no sharing)

Student-Athletes: Cohort D [Remote]

- Per the District Reopening Plan, Cohort D are fully-eligible to participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities

Expectations of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)...

- Spectators will not be allowed during tryouts /preseason practices or regular season practice sessions.
- Face coverings must be worn at all time
- Spectators must practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines
- Do not organize or promote in-person team events outside of practices and games scheduled by the Athletic Department.

Spectator Policy for Fall Season I

- Face coverings must be worn at all time.
- Spectators must practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines
- League lanyard must be worn at all times - athletes will be given 2 lanyards for spectators.
- Fans will only be allowed for the home team - should regulations change, this will be revisited
- Upon arrival fans will sanitize hands and have lanyards visible.
- Fans will vacate the facility after the game ends and not congregate on the sidelines or in Venue.

Individual Sport Modifications...

Due to the various guidance for athletics put forth by the EEA and adopted by the MIAA, various sports will see rule changes and modifications to play for this upcoming school year.

Although we do not like the idea of *drastic* changes to the way games, meets and matches are played, we must follow all rules and regulations to have the safest possible athletic contests for all involved (players, coaches and officials).

The MIAA issued their sport modifications for the 2020-2021 school year on August 28, 2020. We are prepared to implement these modifications as we begin our seasons.

In order to have a safe and productive season all team members and coaches must adhere to these sport modifications at all times.

Transportation for School Athletics...

Shrewsbury High School will continue to offer transportation to all athletic contests as long as AA Transportation can accommodate our schedule. All guidelines regarding social distancing must be followed. JV2, JV1 and Varsity teams will no longer be able to travel on the same bus to events.

Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times and seating arrangements must be adhered to while traveling on school transportation.

Families must provide transportation to/from all practices and if a bus cannot be secured for a competition.

Midland-Wachusett League Protocols...

The Mid-Wach League Athletic Directors have created protocols for the following topics:

- General POD Guidelines
- Pre-Season Schedules and Tryouts
- Practice Sessions
- Competitions
- Game Day Management
- Athletic Trainer and Training Room
- Rosters and Sub-Varsity

The AD's have finalized these protocols and have made recommendations to the Mid-Wach League Principals for final approval. All Mid-Wach Principals approved these protocols.

Game Schedules

- All game schedules are posted at www.mwlma.org.
- Golf matches begin on 9/29.
- Cross Country meets on Wednesdays.
- Field Hockey games on Monday and Fridays (except for 10/15).
- Soccer games are on Tuesday and Thursdays.
- Rescheduled Cross Country, Soccer and Field Hockey contests due to weather or other reasons will be made up on Saturdays. Golf matches will be made up based on course availability.

Student Registration/Participation

- For Fall Season I we have seen a very strong turnout for Tryouts and expect full student rosters

Modified Competition Schedules: Fall I

- **Typical Year:**
- Golf- 18 matches
- Soccer- 18 games
- Field Hockey- 18 games
- X-Country- 6 meets + Invitationals.

- **Fall 1 2020 [Modified COVID]:**
- Golf- 8 matches
- Soccer- 8 games
- Field Hockey- 8 games
- X-Country- 4 meets + no Invitationals.

User Fees for 2020-21

- CURRENT:
 - Fee structure for the 2020-21 academic year will be \$325 per sport per student due to COVID-19. Free and Reduced Lunch is \$50.
 - Family Cap of \$975 or \$150
 - User fees are due within the first 2 weeks of the regular season. Due dates are posted on the website and sent in the pre-seasons emails.
 - Failure to pay by the established date will preclude the athlete from participating in any team practices and games.
- RECOMMENDED CHANGE:
 - Fee structure for the 2020-21 academic year will be \$275 per sport per student due to COVID-19. Free and Reduced Lunch is \$40.
 - Family Cap of \$825 or \$120
 - User fees are due within the first 2 weeks of the regular season. Due dates are posted on the website and sent in the pre-seasons emails.
 - Failure to pay by the established date will preclude the athlete from participating in any team practices and games.

User Fees for 2020-21

- A lower fee is recommended due to fewer competitions
- As part of the FY21 budget process, we had forecast and assumed a 25% reduction in Athletic Fee revenue [\$87,500 for the entire year] primarily due to an expected drop in student participation which has not happened for Fall Season 1
- The recommendation is a 15% reduction which would equate to approximately \$52,500 reduction in revenue for the entire year with full participation
- We also are forecasting decreased costs for transportation and officials due to fewer competitions

User Fees for 2020-21: What Are Other Mid-Wach League Districts Doing?

Reduced their Fee	Algonquin, Gardner
Under Discussion/No Decision Yet	Fitchburg, Groton-Dunstable, Hudson, Leominster, Murdock, Quabbin, Westboro
No Change	Maynard, North Middlesex

User Fees Recommendation

- Recommended vote:
 - *I move that the 2020-2021 Athletic Fee be set at \$275 per sport with a \$825 annual cap, and \$40 per sport with a \$120 annual cap for students eligible for Free or Reduced Price lunch, due to modified seasons and competition schedules per current Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association [MIAA] protocols based upon COVID conditions.*

Info about Shrewsbury Athletics

Twitter: @ColonialsAD
Twitter: @ColonialsATC



Instagram: ColonialsAD



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **V. Curriculum**

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF & STUDENTS AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VI. Policy**

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **VIII. Old Business**

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

MEMBERS/STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **IX. New Business**

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on September 9, 2020 will be provided under separate cover.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on September 9, 2020.

STAFF AVAILABLE FOR PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sandra Fryc, Chairperson

Dr. B. Dale Magee, Secretary



**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

ITEM NO: **XI. Executive Session**

MEETING DATE: **9/23/20**

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**