

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Present: Ms. Erin Boucher, Chairperson; Ms. Rachel Sharifipour, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Sandra Fryc; Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Amy B. Clouter, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships & Well-Being; Ms. Kelly Seddiki, Executive Director of Human Resources; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Mr. Rajesh Velagapudi

A complete audio/visual recording of this meeting is available on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website.

The meeting was convened by Ms. Boucher at 7:00 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Ms. Boucher reported that after 30 years in the district, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships and Well-Being Dr. Jane Lizotte would retire effective June 30, 2026, and commended Dr. Lizotte for her strong and far-reaching service to students and staff as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and district leader, emphasizing the long-lasting impact of her efforts and expressing particular appreciation for her recent work to enhance career technical education.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer congratulated Dr. Lizotte on her retirement and expressed appreciation for her service to the district. He reported that PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) was the focus of a recently held early release Professional Development day for staff.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. Superintendent Search: Update

Ms. Boucher, (a School Committee member of the Superintendent Search Screening Committee with Ms. Fryc) provided an update on the Superintendent Search process to date, including that an initial pool of 30 applicants had been narrowed down to a slate of four candidates who were being advanced for further consideration: Todd Bazydlo -current Principal of Shrewsbury High School; Reuben Duncan - current Superintendent of SAU 47 Jaffrey and Rindge, NH; Tiffany Ostrander - current Principal of Calvin

Coolidge School in Shrewsbury; and Dr. David Thomson - current Interim Superintendent of Wilmington Public Schools, Wilmington, MA. Ms. Boucher then provided a timeline of steps going forward.

B. State of the District: Report

In his report, Dr. Sawyer addressed the state of the district and the question “And how are the children?” with information, and via a series of quotes supporting: the education of all children; education and democracy; civil discourse; compassion; a unified approach to educating all children; and the importance of community.

Committee members shared their perspectives in turn, with all expressing support for the report and the messaging.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2027: Superintendent's Budget Recommendation

Dr. Sawyer began the report by addressing the national, state, and local landscapes for public education, before summarizing key messages relative to the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and recommending an FY27 Appropriated Budget of \$94,631,135 (4.75% increase over FY26). Later in the presentation he provided information on: Chapter 70 funding; FY26 investments for mandates and key needs and cost shifts for the FY27 appropriated budget; planned use of Circuit Breaker funding; themes culled from District Leadership Team FY27 initial budget requests; and steps going forward in the budget process.

Mr. Girardi shared 10-year historical budget information, summarized key budgetary risks and strategic directives from a 2025 third-party fiscal study on the district, and provided per pupil expenditure data. Later in the presentation he shared information on: allocation of resources in the proposed FY27 Budget by category; student enrollment; class sizes; vocational enrollment; and Special Education out-of-district placements and tuitions.

Committee members shared their perspectives in turn, with consensus around themes including: the district’s already high level of efficiency; appreciation for the financial stability afforded by the 2021 override agreement; and the importance of maintaining the Circuit Breaker reserve at 50% .

B. OMS Window Project Certificate of Completion: Vote

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent and School Committee Chair to sign the enclosed Massachusetts School Building Association Commissioning Certificate of Completion for Shrewsbury Public Schools Oak Middle School Project # 202102710030.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update

Dr. Sawyer advised that the Audit Report for the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) was as expected, and that finances were well-managed and stable at AVC.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Workshops held on January 14 and January 19, and the School Committee Meeting held on January 21, 2026, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Wensky, seconded by Ms. Sharifipour, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Sharifipour, yes; and Ms. Boucher, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

State of the District Slide Presentation

FY27 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation

FY27 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation Slide Presentation

MSBA Commissioning Certificate of Completion Oak Window Project

Assabet Valley Collaborative FY25 Audit Report

Assabet Valley Collaborative FY25 Audit - Board of Directors Letter

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above