

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

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Present: Ms. Rachel Sharifipour, Chairperson; Mr. Jon Wensky, Secretary; Ms. Erin Boucher; Ms. Nicole Torres; Mr. Christian Girardi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Ms. Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Ms. Kelly Seddiki, Executive Director of Human Resources; Superintendent-Elect Dr. Tiffany Ostrander; and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Not present: Mr. Rajesh Velagapudi, Vice Chairperson.

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

The meeting was convened by Ms. Sharifipour at 6:00 pm.

I. Public Participation

None.

II. Chairperson's Report & Members' Reports

Ms. Sharifipour reported that the Shrewsbury High School (SHS) Girls Varsity Softball Team was currently playing in the Final Four Tournament at UMASS Dartmouth and wished them luck.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer offered congratulations to the SHS Girls Softball Team, and to the Shrewsbury Robotics FIRST LEGO League *Neon Nerdettes* Middle School Team on being awarded the 4th Place Robot Design Award at a National Tournament held at Georgia Tech.

Superintendent-Elect Dr. Tiffany Ostrander reported that Mr. Keith Goodier, a Shrewsbury resident, was selected to be the next Principal at Calvin Coolidge School, and expressed appreciation to all parties who assisted in the search process.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments:

A. State Champions: Recognition

The following 2026 State Champions from Shrewsbury High School (unless otherwise noted) were recognized at the meeting along with their Coaches and Advisors:

Speech and Debate Team

Pranav Krishan in Congressional Debate

Pradnya Cowlagi in Original Oratory

Aanchal Karthik, Trisha Madamsetty, Navya Hazarika, Heet Patel, Rayyan Alam, Anvitha Kura,

Mariyah Khokhar, and Akshaj Aineni in Multiple Reading

Mia Muchnik in Novice Oral Interpretation

Mr. Gabriel Hopkins, English Language Education Teacher (Oak Middle School) is the Speech and Debate Head Coach

Massachusetts (MA) DECA 1st Place State Champions

Haylee Finlayson and Grace Boucher - Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making

Navyaa Shakthi Ravi - Professional Selling Event

Sanjay Pappu - Principles of Finance

Mr. Jason Andreola, Instructional Technology & Media Services and Business Teacher, is the Advisor to the team

Ms. Angie Flynn, Director of School Counseling, is the Assistant Advisor

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)

Prajetha Prasad and Ananya Sahani - CPR/First Aid Team Event

Shriram Shenoy - Epidemiology

Advaith Vijayasankaran - Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking

Ms. Jessica Linsey, English Teacher, is the Advisor to HOSA

Shrewsbury Crew

Northeast Regional Champions 2026, Princeton, NJ

Girls Novice 4 + Coxswain

Aiko Tanaka

Chloe LaPlume

Joceline Boulay

Chloris Chan

Divija Bontala

Massachusetts Public School Rowing Association State Champions, Spring 2026

Girls Varsity Quadruple Scull with Coxswain

Shruti Sivashankar (Captain)

Delia Lagrander (Captain)

Mackenzie Lemerise Bielack

Francesca Thibodeau

Joceline Boulay

Girls Novice 8 + Coxswain (Undefeated Spring Season)

Divija Bontala

Matilda Evans

Natalie Rodriguez

Sky Litchfield

Allison Sobiech

Chloe LaPlume

Joceline Boulay

Chloris Chan

Aiko Tanaka

Girls Novice Double Scull (Fall 2025 & Spring 2026 State Champion Title Holders)

Allison Sobiech

Aiko Tanaka

Middle School Mixed Coxed Quad (First time ever won by Shrewsbury Crew)

Uma Belkhode

Honora O'Brien

Logan Stoessel

Eaden Mbaneme

Sydney Markland

Girls Rowing Coaches:

Mitch McManus - Rowing Director, Varsity Girls Head Coach, Middle School "Quad Squad" Coach

Megan Donaty - Novice Girls Head Coach

Sowbernika 'Niki' Rajesh - Varsity Girls Assistant Coach

Kaitlin Urbanik - Varsity Girls Assistant Coach

Rafael Bueno Jr. - Head Strength & Conditioning

Each group of State Champions had an opportunity to present brief remarks before being invited up to be recognized by Dr. Sawyer and the School Committee, receive certificates, and have photos taken.

B. Staff Recognition: Retirees

Noting Dr. Sawyer and Dr. Lizotte would be recognized at a future meeting, Ms. Seddiki acknowledged the following 2026 Shrewsbury Public School retirees:

Beth Nichols - District Food Service Director

Dotty Flynn - Accounts Payable Specialist

Betsy Caforio - Grade 2 teacher at Floral Street School

Catherine Manning - Grade 3 Teacher at Floral Street School

Mary Ellen Beaton - English Language Education Teacher at Oak Middle School

Donna McGrath - Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher at Oak Middle School

Stacey Militello - Grade 8 Science Teacher at Oak Middle School

Joan Carlson - Grade 2 Teacher at Walter J. Paton School

Chris D'Aniello - Physical Education Teacher at Walter J. Paton Elementary School

Linda Berard - School Nurse at Sherwood Middle School

Gloria DiGiacomo - Grade 6 Math and Science Teacher at Sherwood Middle School

Sharon Fraioli - Speech and Language Pathologist at Sherwood Middle School

Lisa Hurter - Special Education Teacher at Sherwood Middle School

Kimberly Plourde - French Teacher at Shrewsbury High School

Cheryl Barron - Education Teacher at Calvin Coolidge Elementary School

Lesley Burnap - Grade 2 Teacher at Calvin Coolidge School

Sheila Parnell - Preschool Teacher at Parker Road Preschool

Deborah Martel - Literacy Tutor at Floral Street School

Linda Lepieszka - Literacy Tutor at the Walter J. Paton Elementary School

Genevieve Steere - Job Coach at the RISE Program

Amy Russell - ABA Technician at Sherwood Middle School

Lisa Gaudette - Special Education Instructional Assistant at Sherwood Middle School

Deborah Jacobs - ABA Technician at Spring Street School
David Lowy - Instructional Assistant at Floral Street School
Deb Troio - Therapeutic Support Paraeducator at Oak Middle School
Susan McKay - Job Coach at the RISE Program
Liz Petkauskos -Guidance Registrar from Shrewsbury High School
Angela Simone - Food Service Cafeteria Aide at Sherwood Middle School
Mary Rana - Assistant to the Director of Extended Learning
Joanne Tonelli -Site Leader for the Extended School Care Program at Floral Street School
Gretchen Cotton -Extended School Care Provider at Major Howard W. Beal School
Susan Kelly - Extended School Care Provider at Major Howard W. Beal School
Gretchen Thibodeau -Extended School Care Provider at Major Howard W. Beal School

Several retirees in attendance shared brief remarks. The School Committee, Dr. Sawyer, and Dr. Ostrander offered congratulations, and then the retirees were invited up to be recognized and presented with a small token of appreciation from the district.

C. Student Services: Report from District Management Group

Ms. Belsito and Maggie Gallagher, Assistant Director, District Management Group, began the report with an overview of the Opportunity Review's process and methodology, goals, and phases. Ms. Gallagher went on to: present a summary of commendations/district strengths (including dedicated staff, supportive leadership, thoughtful curriculum, keeping students in district, supporting multilingual learners); note changes to the student landscape (including increased Social Emotional Learning and 504 Plan needs and student population diversification), and share potential opportunities for the district going forward (around Direct Service Time with students, paraeducators, co-teaching, transition protocols, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support processes) before answering clarifying questions from the Committee.

V. Curriculum

None.

VI. Policy

None.

VII. Finance & Operations

A. Extended School Care Tuition: Vote

Ms. Sharifipour advised that no feedback from the community had been received since information on the proposed tuition increase had been posted after the prior School Committee meeting, and Dr. Sawyer recommended that the Committee vote in favor of the increase.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to adjust Extended School Care tuition by an increase of 5.0% for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. Fiscal Year 2027 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Adjustment: Vote

Dr. Sawyer provided historical information on non-represented staff compensation adjustments, noted the proposed adjustment was aligned with other employee groups, and advised the FY27 budget can support the increase, before recommending a 3% increase for non-represented staff.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve compensation adjustments of 3% to non-represented hourly staff for Fiscal Year 2027.

C. Food Service Meal Rate Adjustment: Vote

After providing background information on school lunch meal pricing and reimbursement, Mr. Girardi recommended that the School Committee vote to approve the adjusted rate at the meeting so that when it becomes available, likely in the first week of August, the information can be provided to families as soon as possible.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the district to adjust the amount charged for full lunches from \$4.90 to the updated rate set by the National School Nutrition Program for the 2026-2027 school year.

D. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget: Update & Fund Transfer Vote

Mr. Girardi provided an update on the FY26 Budget by category (staffing, transportation, Special Education and vocational tuitions, and “other”/contracted services), noted variances, advised that transfers would be made to fully expend the budget by June 30, 2026, and provided additional information in response to questions from the Committee.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the administration to make budget transfers from the original budget plan as necessary to eliminate deficits and surpluses, with the intent of fully expending the total FY26 appropriation by June 30, 2026, and balancing all accounts.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. New Business

A. Superintendent’s Contract: Vote

Ms. Sharifipour reported that the School Committee and Superintendent-Elect Dr. Tiffany Ostrander had arrived at a mutual agreement on the terms for her contract effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, and highlighted aspects of the contract including compensation, and expectations for membership in relevant professional associations. There were no questions from the Committee or Dr. Ostrander.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent Contract for Dr. Tiffany Ostrander as presented

B. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Update & Vote to Appoint Board Representative

Dr. Sawyer presented an update on the Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC) that included the approved 2026-2027 Tuition and Service Rates; advised the Collaborative was in solid financial shape; and recommended that the Committee appoint Dr. Tiffany Ostrander as its representative to the AVC Board effective July 1, 2026, so that she would be able to conduct Board business after assuming the role of Superintendent.

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Tiffany Ostrander as its Representative to the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors effective July 1, 2026, when she begins her role as Superintendent of Schools.

X. Approval of Minutes

Without objections from the Committee, the minutes from the School Committee Meeting held on June 3, 2026, were accepted as distributed.

XI. Executive Session

Ms. Sharifipour 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;

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”);

C. For the purpose of addressing G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” – non-union clerical and support staff and/or administrators. (“Purpose 2”);

D. For the purpose of addressing GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) "To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements" - Federal and Massachusetts student record laws (“Purpose 7”); and

E. For the purpose of GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) "To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual." – personnel complaint and/or Open Meeting Law complaint (“Purpose 1”), 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. On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, on a roll call vote: Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Boucher, yes; and Ms. Sharifipour, yes, the School Committee voted to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:27 pm.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Wensky, the committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 pm. Roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Wensky, yes; Ms. Sharifipour, yes; and Ms. Boucher, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McCollum, Clerk

Documents referenced:

Shrewsbury High School 2026 State Champions

2026 Staff Retirees Memo

District Management Group Report - Executive Summary

District Management Group Final Report Slide Presentation

FY27 Non-Represented Staff Compensation Recommendation

FY27 Student Meal Cost Memo

FY26 Final Budget Report

Superintendent’s Contract

Assabet Valley Collaborative Update

Set(s) of minutes as referenced above