

**Shrewsbury School Committee**  
**Remarks by Erin Boucher, Chair**  
**Meeting of September 10, 2025**

Good evening,

Before we begin tonight's meeting, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent loss of Kevin Doherty, the parent of a Coolidge student, under extremely tragic circumstances.

Our hearts go out to the student and their family as they navigate this difficult time. We hope they feel the strength of the community around them.

At this time, I'd like to ask that we pause for a moment of silence – to honor the life of Mr. Doherty and to offer our quiet support to his family and friends grieving today.

Thank you.

Before we begin tonight's agenda, I want to take a moment to recognize and express our deep gratitude to the staff and first responders who acted quickly, decisively, and with great care during the recent emergency situation at Coolidge Elementary School on 8/28/25.

These situations are never easy for students, for families, or for those who are called upon to respond. But thanks to the calm, professional actions of our school staff, and the swift coordination with the Shrewsbury Police Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, and other first responders, we were able to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

To our teachers, administrators, and support staff – thank you for your calm care and professionalism, for following safety protocols under pressure, and for offering comfort and reassurance to our students during a very difficult and complex situation. We are incredibly proud of how the Shrewsbury Public Schools' team responded during this extremely stressful incident and the communication that was provided to families as the events of the day unfolded.

To our police officers, firefighters, EMTs, state police, and other emergency personnel – your partnership and presence make all the difference. We are grateful for your service and your unwavering commitment to protecting our schools and community.

And finally, to our students and families – thank you for your cooperation, patience, and resilience as we worked through the situation. We know that emergencies such as this one can leave a lasting emotional impact, and we remain committed to providing support in any way we can.

The safety of our students and staff is always the district's first priority. As we face challenges, like the one we experienced on August 28<sup>th</sup>, we face them together as a community united in care for one another.

Our Shrewsbury Public Schools community has also been grieving the recent loss of two longtime secretaries.

Judith Adair served our district for over 20 years, most of them as the secretary at Spring Street School. Judith was known for her infectious laugh and positive spirit as she ran the Spring Street office flawlessly, with an unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of students, families, and staff. Her kindness and care for the families and students she encountered contributed to creating a wonderful school environment.

Karin Freeman served as the secretary for almost 30 years at both the “old” and “new” Beal School, where she was always ready to answer a question, lend a hand, share advice, or offer a caring smile or hug. Karin kept the school running smoothly and was at the heart of the Beal community.

We offer our condolences to Judith's and Karin's families and to the Spring Street and Beal communities, and at this time I ask that you join me in a moment of silence in their honor.