

Organizers: Lilly Zhou, Qingfen Zhang, and Li Zhu of the Sharon Chinese Association
Anchor: Lilly Zhou (Z)
Guests: Veronica Wiseman (W), Timothy Farmer (F)

Introduction by Z:

W starts “career” as Heights elementary PTO, has *Wiseman’s friends* (?) on TV which is popular and could be watched on local channels. She invites representatives from the association to be on the program. F has being Sharon superintendent since 2011, 2nd term, was assistant superintendent before.

Opening remarks by W: There are 6 school committee seats in Sharon. 2 become available every year → the committee changes rather frequently and there are a lot of chances for parents to get onto the committee.

The committee meets twice a month on Wednesday nights with agenda posted a week before. There is an open meeting law which means school committee members can not discuss school matters other than during the committee meetings. Members automatically have representations on various town committees. This committee decides the budget for the whole school district where 76% of our tax goes to.

Opening remarks by F: there are roughly 3500 students in 5 schools, among which 1143 are high school students. There are over 500 employees.

Mid-school was renovated starting from around 2009, thus it is in good condition.

The school’s proposal for the town to support roof-replacing at Heights elementary was lost by 1 vote during town meeting. → Parents should go to town meetings (upcoming one on 5/2) to make your voice heard and vote counted.

High school was built 1958 with new wing added in 1964 (realizing the lack of capacity so quickly). It is in fair shape, but the science facilities etc could really use a lot of upgrading. The school has put forward a “statement of interest” to state. The plan is to ask the state to partner with the town to either build a new school or renovate the current one. This needs to be pushed forward strategically keeping in mind the funding cycles.

Volunteer opportunities: help with home-school communication, there are 11 task forces parents could join. These are created as a result of the current strategic plan that spans 5 years. They will wind down as the plan winds down, but new task forces will be created. The next strategic plan will likely be spanning 3 years.