

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
December 10, 2013
Bedford High School - Large Instruction Room**

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Pierce called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Seibert, Mr. Hafer, and Ms. Guay. Ms. Emily Moss, student representative was also present. Mr. McAllister was absent.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1

4. Discussion: FY'15 School Budget Proposal

Mr. Coelho reported that the Finance Committee guideline for budget increases for FY' 15 is 2.88%. Mr. Coelho presented some additional information for the School Committee to consider. He presented offset account balance estimates, and proposed offset use by category and account. He also presented the FY' 15 utility projections and enrollment, based on a five year running average data from the census.

Ms. Guay asked if other towns have experienced a jump in enrollment like Bedford. Mr. Coelho said yes.

Mr. Coelho explained that enrollment projections for kindergarten are the most difficult to project. This year, enrollment jumped by forty-four students and there is no one big reason why.

Mr. Hafer commented that he was surprised to see a balance of \$40,000 in the Food Services account, because the last food service report was not good.

Other members were updated about the amount of money in the Mudge Fund. Mr. Hafer suggested that the School Committee use this resource more.

School Committee members also asked several questions about the budget proposal.

Mr. Hafer asked if the ERI account was less than last year. Mr. Coelho said yes for now. It is based on five retirees but people can still announce retirements up until the end of December.

Mr. Hafer asked what the budget increase would be if we kept everything the same as last year. Mr. Coelho said he would determine this number.

Ms. Seibert asked if there would be a reduction in the numbers of new computers needed due to the implementation of iPads. Mr. Coelho said no because Davis School needs to replace many of its PCs.

Ms. Seibert questioned the request for MAC purchases. Mr. Sills explained that these are need for iPad apps and for art and music classes at the high school.

Mr. Coelho and Mr. Sills said that the Technology Department is in the midst of preparing a detailed inventory report and an updated replacement plan. This will be shared with the School Committee.

Mr. Hafer and Ms Seibert asked for more details on the numbers of new people desired for next year.

Mr. Pierce asked who would be monitoring energy markets (for buying energy at the best price) when Richard Jones retires. Mr. Coelho said that Mr. Jones uses a consortium to monitor these markets and he is training staff to do this. Mr. Sills said he is in the middle of hiring a replacement and is cognizant of this need.

Ms. Seibert suggested that Mr. Sills start thinking about recommendations that will help bring the School budget closer to the town guideline. Mr. Sills said he has already started.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported that Denise Oldham, Special Education Director, met with the LABBB director and Middlesex Community College (MCC) to move forward with an inclusive and concurrent enrollment program to help LABBB high school student matriculate to MCC.

Mr. Sills said that he is in the middle of hiring a new Facilities Director and has several good candidates. He is using a consultant to help. A new person will be in place at the end of January.

Mr. Sills also reported that Bedford has been advocating change in the NEASC accreditation process. NEASC has agreed to set up a task force to review this change. Bedford, along with several other districts including Newton, Reading, Wayland, and Ludlow, are working on a position paper supporting this change. Bedford will likely not participate in the accreditation process going forward.

Mr. Sills said there would be two community events to look forward to in late winter and spring. There will be a technology showcase and an open house. Ms. Guay suggested inviting local business leaders to these events too.

6. Liaison Reports

Ms. Guay reported that the Bedford Community Partnership will hold a flu clinic. They also announced a new intramural basketball program for the kids and the police. She also noted that BEF announced new grants – a Smart Table for Davis School and a 3D printer for the High School.

Ms. Seibert said two of the school capital projects are on the top of the CEC priority list – Security projects and Davis Space modifications.

7. Future Agenda

The next meeting will be next week, December 17, 2013.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:05.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Pierce	Yes
Mr. Hafer	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	absent
Ms. Guay	Yes

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
December 10, 2013
Exhibits/Documents

- Draft of the minutes from the September 10, 2013 School Committee meeting.
- Draft of the minutes from the September 24, 2013 School Committee meeting.

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
December 10, 2013