

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF  
September 24, 2013  
Bedford High School - Large Instruction Room**

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:32 p.m., Mr. Pierce called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Seibert, Mr. Hafer, Mr. McAllister and Ms. Guay.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Personnel Report**

Mr. Sills asked for approval for an out-of-state field trip for attendance to the National Association for Music Education Festival on October 27-30, 2013. A choral student has been accepted into the National Association for Music Education festival at the national level. He is one of 350 students from across the United States to be selected for this honor. Ms. Faulstich and Mr. Felker will travel with the student to Nashville, TN for this event. The \$500 admission and hotel cost will be paid by the school. Each person will pay their own airfare

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip request for one student to travel to the National Association for Music Education Festival on October 27-30, 2013 in Nashville, TN at a cost of \$1,000 to the music department.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Mr. Sills also asked the School Committee to approve the request for the volleyball team to go to Disney World in August for preseason games. The cost is \$950 per student and no cost to the school. Fundraising will be done to ensure all team members have the opportunity to go. No school will be missed.

Mr. Hafer asked if a team member could not attend, would they have ability to precondition/practice? Mr. Sills said yes.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball teams participate in the KSA 2014 Fall Classic Volleyball Tournament being held in Disney World, Florida on August 27-31, 2014 at no cost to the school.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Mr. Sills announced the following:

Resignations

Matthew Hagar	Teaching Assistant	High School
Paul Burke	Custodian	Davis

Retirement

Richard Jones	Director of Facilities	System
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#### Appointments

Katie Deisenroth	.7 Teaching Assistant	Lane
Brian Ake	Teaching Assistant	High
Irene Despradel	.4 Teaching Assistant	Lane

#### **4. Appointment of School Attendance Officers**

Each year, the School Committee is responsible for designating the school attendance officers.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee appoint School Attendance Officers for the 2013-2014 school year as follows:**

**School Principals**  
**Assistant Principals**  
**School Resource Officer Jeff Wardwell**  
**School Resource Officer Steven Waite**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

#### **5. Revote of the FY14 Budget**

Mr. Coelho explained that each year, the School Committee must revote the school budget due to hiring and changes in staffing levels. Mr. Coelho distributed a memo that explained that the revote is based on revised salary and non-salary projections, inclusive of all personnel and payroll updated through the opening of the school year. The annual revote of the FY14 budget is as follows:

	TM Approved Budget	FY14 Revote
Salary	\$24,928,468	\$24,867,179
Non Salary	\$ 9,286,100	\$9,347,389
Total	\$34,214,568	\$34,214,568

Mr. Coelho noted that the savings of \$61,289 in hiring across the district's professional and para professional staff will be shifted to the School Committee Reserve line item. Mr. Coelho recommends reserving \$30,000 of the savings as a hedge against probable increases in the electricity and heating budgets due to increasing commodity and transmission costs.

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee revote the FY14 budget as specified in the memorandum dated September 20, 2013.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

#### **6. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sills said that MCAS results just arrived and will be mailed home to families shortly. He gave the School Committee a preliminary review of the results.

He noted that overall, Bedford does not teach to the test and that the curriculum is well beyond the standards. He noted we do prepare students with practice test questions but in a limited way. He also reminded the Committee that MCAS is only one measure. He is proud of the MCAS results however he does want the subgroups to do better.

### 2013 Results

- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA – 100% scored advanced or proficient
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade MATH – 94% scored advanced or proficient
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA – 92% scored advanced or proficient
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math – 88% scored advanced or proficient
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA – 83% scored advanced or proficient
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade science – 87% scored advanced or proficient

Mr. Sills noted that there is room for growth in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. The subgroups of ELL, special education, low income and African American are doing better but still need improvement.

Mr. Sills noted several efforts underway in the schools to help struggling students.

- Implementing phonics in grades K-3
- Extending “running records” to grade 3 – a more deliberate teaching method in reading.
- Envision math curriculum is new in grades 3, 4 and 5
- Opening of the Skills Center in the middle school
- Adding ELL staff in Davis, Lane and JGMS
- Adding counseling staff at the middle school
- An overall focus on cohesion and coherence in curriculum

Mr. Sills also commented on the recent Boston Magazine school rankings. He said that it was not clear what formula the magazine uses to rank schools. He said the ratings do make us dig deeper into understanding their formulas and what we are doing well.

Mr. Sills said that elementary students today are increasingly more complex. Since 2010, we have seen a rapid increase in ELL and social-economic diversity in town. He thinks that this is an enriching change but also a challenging change. Bedford is learning how to improve teaching with a complex student body. The schools are taking deliberate steps to ensure all students perform at the highest level.

Ms. Guay said she thinks that this information will be helpful to parents as they digest the MCAS results of their children. She also feels that Bedford is unique in the fact that we have one K-2 school and one 3-5 school. This is very different from most towns. She also noted that she thinks Bedford has a problem with unaffordable preschool. She would like to see preschool spots reserved for low income families. Many families, in her opinion, cannot afford preschool. Preschool really helps with school readiness.

Mr. McAllister said he likes the point Mr. Sills made that MCAS is only one indicator of student achievement. He believes learning is more about growth and capacity building rather than scores and discrete knowledge. He would like to see Bedford’s growth percentiles because this is a meaningful measure.

Ms. Seibert is pleased that the schools strive to learn from the MCAS data.

Mr. Pierce thanked Mr. Sills for pointing out the fact that a small district such as Bedford may mean that our subgroups are very small and may even contain the same students. Longitudinal data would be more meaningful in Mr. Pierce’s opinion.

Mr. Sills noted that Friday night will be the first home football game of the season and the new turf field will be dedicated.

#### **7. Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pierce attended the Finance Committee meeting and they looked at Fiscal 2013 financial results. Local receipts are up by 12% town wide (due to fuel taxes and a very conservative estimate). He noted that the new DPW chief said that Bedford's roads are under funded.

#### **8. Minutes for Review**

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED:** That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 9, 2013 meeting as amended.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Hafer

**MOTION APPROVED:** 5-0

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED:** That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting as amended.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Hafer

**MOTION APPROVED:** 5-0

#### **9. Future Agenda**

Mr. McAllister would like to review Bedford's growth percentages in MCAS.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

**MOVED:** Motion to adjourn at 8:45 to Executive Session to discuss BEA contract language, not to reopen.

**MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Hafer

**MOTION APPROVED:** 5-0

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. Hafer</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pierce</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Seibert</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. McAllister</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Guay</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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School Committee Secretary

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Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**May 21, 2013**

**Exhibits/Documents**

- Draft of job description, “Bedford High School Integrated Preschool Program Coordinator”
- Memorandum dated May 21, 2013 from David Coelho to Jon Sills regarding donation of computer equipment.
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**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Session**  
**May 21, 2013**