

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 16, 2024

Meeting location:

Telecast remotely via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

At 7:02 PM, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Morrison, Ms. Mehta-Green, Ms. Scoville, Ms. McGinley, Hanscom Representative Ms. Howell, and Student Representative Shreyes Shivappa

2. Public Comment

No comments

3. Minutes

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee votes to approve the draft minutes with suggested edits on January 09, 2023

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. McGinley	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

4. Bus Contract Bids- 1st Read & Vote

Ms. Kirrane , Director of Finance presented a brief overview of the bid process for the bus contract. Ms. Kirrane stated that this was done in compliance with Massachusetts 30B Public Procurement laws, Bedford issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) on November 15, 2023. The invitation was to bid for a three-year contract with two one-year options to renew for comprehensive pupil transportations services (not including out-of-district special education transportation). The Bedford Charter Company submitted the only bid.

Ms. Kirrane spoke about cost increases due to maintenance and gas at current levels. Ridership is up although enrollment has declined slightly. With all of this Bedford's, costs are still lower than surrounding towns.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: That the Bedford Public Schools award a transportation contract to Bedford Charter for a three-year contract term according to the submitted bid documents.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. McGinley	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

5. FY25 Budget Update

Ms. Kirrane and Superintendent Chuang again presented the School Committee with an updated version of the proposed FY25 Budget. The Superintendent’s FY25 Budget Proposal was presented with revisions based on School Committee feedback and clear direction. The final proposal for the FY25 budget will presented at the Open Budget Hearing at your January 23, 2024, meeting.

The following changes in the revised budget proposal.

- Restoration of the 4th grade teaching position at the Lane School, bringing the projected average class size to 21.2 students, just under the 22 - 24 student range established by school committee guideline.
- A reduction in the request to further support Bedford’s data technology infrastructure.
- A reduction in the K-5 coverage model proposed for Davis to align to that for Lane, with one general education TA per grade level (instead of two).
- A reduction in the proposed investment for initial implementation of the next district improvement plan.

6. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Chuang spoke about the website outage. Mr. Chuang noted that the IT department was working on the issues and that the website should be up and running soon. Asked for everyone’s patience and understanding while the issue is resolved. Mr. Chuang thanked Bedford Police Department, SRO, Officer Brooks, DPW, Facilities Department, Bedford Fire and the health department for their continued partnership with the school district. Mr. Chuang shared that Phase II of his entry plan was ongoing and that an updated would be presented to the committee near the end of February.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made the following motion: To adjourn the meeting at 09:11 PM into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Unit A and Unit B Contract Negotiations with the Bedford Education Association. Not to reopen to the public.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Mehta-Green

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. McGinley	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes

Ms. Scoville
Ms. Mehta-Green

Yes
Yes

Exhibits/Documents

Draft Minutes-January 9, 2023
Bus Contract Bids
FY25 Budget Update

School Committee Approved

Date: January 23, 2024