

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 23, 2024

Meeting location:

Select Board Room, Town Hall, 10 Mudge Way and 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, METCO Representative Ms. Williams and Student Representative Shreyes Shivappa

2. Public Comment

Lisa Bourgeois, 158 Concord Road

Ms. Bourgeois a parent, former employee and community member, spoke in support of the dedicated educators that do a wonderful job supporting students and families. They go above and beyond what is required and they are more than worthy of a salary increase that reflects their dedication and hard work to all the students in the district.

3. Open Budget Hearing

Superintendent Chuang presented the Final Proposed FY25 budget to the public at large. Mr. Chuang went through the revised presentation that he made to the School Committee at last week's meeting. Mr. Chuang pointed out all the revisions made after the many discussions with the School Committee to come to budget item requests.

4. Open Budget Hearing Comments

Angel Petit, 16 Beverly Road

Mr. Petit asked a clarifying question about the Stabilization Fund portion of the FY25 Proposed Budget. Mr. Petit asked if the investor amount was set at one thing, could the Town approve a different amount or can any amount be set as needed.

5. FY25 Budget Discussion & Vote

The School Committee members had a lengthy discussion about the final FY25 Budget revisions. The members discussed the need to change the request for the Stabilization Fund from \$900,000 to \$500,000. As well as moving \$75,000 from the District Improvement Plan to Literacy to ensure, the proper funds are available when needed as the district moves towards a new Literacy Program for the Fall.

Ms. McGinley made the following motion: The School Committee approves the FY25 operating budget request of \$49,383,798 as presented with the transfer of \$75K from the District Improvement Plan and add it to Literacy.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 4-1-0 Mr. Morrison Yes

Ms. McGinley	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	No
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approves the request to establish a new Special Education Stabilization Fund allowable under Chapter 40, Section 13E of the Massachusetts General Laws and the request of a \$500,000 appropriation, transferred from the Town of Bedford’s Free Cash, into the newly established Fund. This funding will remain in the Fund until spent, and will carry over into future fiscal years. This Fund will act as a reserve to cover unexpected or extraordinary costs in the School Department's special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation budgets during the fiscal year. The balance of the reserve fund can be accessed by a recommendation of the School Department and joint approval of the School Committee and Select Board, without further appropriation by Town Meeting. The new Fund will supplement the existing Circuit Breaker Special Education Reserve Account and will allow the School Department more flexibility when needs arise during the fiscal year.

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

BHS Program of Studies- 1st Read & Vote

Mr. Hudder made a presentation to the School Committee on the proposed Program of Studies updates/changes for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Hudder spoke about changes being made in the Art Department, English, Math and counseling to name a few of the areas of change. Some of the proposed changes are due to staff retirement, not enough student interest, or feedback from students about offering they would like to see added. Some changes are due to lack of student interest over the past year or so.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approved the proposed changes to the BHS Program of Studies as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

6. Minutes

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approved the minutes of January 16, 2024, as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

7. District Literacy Leadership Team Update

Dr. Clifford provided an update to the committee about the upcoming meeting and work the DLLT Team will be doing. The DLLT Team will meet monthly with the Hill for Literacy to conduct core program reviews. Both administrators and teachers will take courses on the Science of reading. Administrators have completed two modules and teachers will begin their course on February 7, 2024.

8. Donations-Vote

BU made a donation of two used Olympus Microscopes for JGMS.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: That the School Committee accept the grants, gifts, and donations as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

9. Superintendent’s Report (to include Collaborative updates on CASE & LABBB)

Superintendent Chuang presented to the School Committee with an update on LABBB & CASE, sharing both the annual and quarterly reports respectively.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:10 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 Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Ms. Mehta-Green

Yes

Exhibits/Documents

Draft Minutes-January 16, 2023

FY25 Budget Presentation

Donations

BHS Program of Studies Presentation

LABBB & CASE (Annually & Quarterly Reports)

District Literacy Update

School Committee Approved

Date: February 13, 2024