

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 20, 2016
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Pierce and Ms. Santiago.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to consider approving an out-of-state field trip. Mr. Zellner is proposing to bring approximately 22 seniors from his African American Literature class to New York City on December 2 and 3rd to see the play “The Color Purple” at the historic Apollo Theater. The cost is approximately \$225 per student. Ms. Flora will also be chaperoning. Students will miss one day of school.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip to New York City to see the Color Purple on December 2 and 3, 2016 for the seniors in Mr. Zellner’s African American Literature class at no cost to the schools, other than the cost associated with 2 substitute teachers for one day.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills reported the following personnel items:

Retirement:

Brad Smithson	Science teacher	JGMS
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Resignation:

Susanne Brueggman	Speech teacher	Davis
Deb MacLeod	Educational Assistant	Davis

Leave of Absence:

Elizabeth Marcotte	English Program Administrator	6-12
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Appointments:

Trent Bordock	Replacement English PA	.2 grades 6-12
Julie Phylis	Educational Assistant	Davis
Rajeswari Ravichandran	1.0 TA	High School
Marlene Faulkner-Hussein	1.0 TA	High School
Amanda Szidat	1.0 TA/Bahviorist	Davis
Caitlin Hall	.8 Speech Lang Path.	Davis

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the Restraint Policy which was presented to the School Committee in detail last year. The policy has been re-written to reflect the State changes and contains the DESE language.

Mr. Pierce said the policy does seem very procedural which is different from the typical way Bedford School policies are written. He said the policy is an example of how centralized the State oversight is becoming.

Ms. Santiago said she did not see the presentation and therefore will abstain from the vote tonight since it is a rather substantial change.

Ms. Guay said she is pleased that someone at the state level is tracking the use of restraints in schools because not all school districts have well-trained staff like Bedford.

Mr. McAllister agreed that there are some benefits of this new policy but is indeed an example of more supervision by the State.

Mr. Brosgol asked if the new policy would end up becoming more burdensome to the Principals. Mr. Sills said he is not yet sure.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion;

MOVED: That the School Committee approve Policy JKAA “Restraint of Students in the Bedford Public Schools”.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Ms. Santiago abstained)

4. Revote of School Budget

Mr. Coelho explained that based on revised salary and non-salary projections, inclusive of all personnel and payroll updates through the opening of the school year, there needs be a revote of the FY’17 school budget. The shift from salary accounts to non-salary accounts is \$23,291 and is based on savings in hiring across the district professional and para-professional staff.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve a FY’17 budget re-vote as follows:

Salary \$29,236,416

Non Salary \$ 8,474,287

For a total FY’17 budget of \$37,710,703 which is the same number approved and appropriated at the March Town Meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

5. Proposal for Special Educator for SAIL Program

Mr. Sills reported that the SAIL Program at Davis School is growing. At the last meeting, the School Committee approved adding 2 Behaviorists to help because 2 new students were entering the program. Funding for the positions was to come from cost savings associated with bringing the students back from out-of-district placements.

Now, two more students have been identified for the SAIL Program at Davis (total of 8). One student is a third grader but there is no such program at Lane. However, the proposed plan is to have the third grader attend the SAIL Program at Davis where instruction and curriculum will be differentiated.

Ms. Vines, Director of Special Education, has asked that rather than hire the two behaviorists as originally requested, she would like to hire one Special Education teacher with “severe” licensure. This hire would strengthen the program and the teacher could transition to Lane School next year with the students.

Mr. Sills said that the financing for this new position will come from savings associated with bringing students back in district. He thinks this is a creative solution and that there is sufficient funding to cover it. He does not anticipate adding any more students to the program, barring needs from future move-ins.

Mr. Pierce suggested adding financial detail to the proposal to hire a new Special Education teacher. It should clearly compare the costs of hiring a new teacher (using a salary range) and the money saved by bringing an out-of-district placement in-house.

Ms. Guay appreciated the creative solution but is concerned that the SAIL classroom student-teacher ratio of 6:1 is high when compared to some of the private schools.

Mr. McAllister said that it is great that we are bringing students back to their neighborhood schools at a neutral cost.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the addition of one Special Education teacher position at the Davis School for the SAIL Program.

MOTION SECONCED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

6. Review of FY’18 Capital Expenditure

Mr. Sills explained that the process for planning capital projects for years FY’18 through FY’23 is already underway. Mr. Sills reminded the Committee that the Town has been doing this type of six year planning over the last two years. This new process allows for better fiscal planning and is viewed more favorably by banks and bond rating institutions.

Mr. Sills said that the overall, the school’s six year capital project plan has gotten more expensive due to the increased cost projections for the building projects. Therefore, he has tried to trim the capital project budget. For example, the FY’18 technology budget was reduced by \$61,950.

Mr. Alani, Facilities Director, presented the plan to the school committee for review with a special focus on FY’18. The total FY’18 capital project request is \$1,654,260. Some of the projects discussed included:

- Buying a sidewalk snow removal tractor for \$50,000. This would allow one member of the facilities crew to clear the school sidewalks around the buildings. The tractor can also be driven on the road so it could plow the High School and the Middle Schools.

- Purchase a town wide Energy Management system for \$200,000. Mr. Alani explained that this would replace a very outdated and inflexible system.
- Information Technology budget is \$445,000 which is smaller than the past due to reductions made by the Tech Dept. as well as savings made in recent purchases.
- Constructing a pressbox wheel chair lift for \$ 47,369 or deconstruct and store the existing pressbox for \$30,000. Mr. Sills explained that the ADA is requiring us to upgrade access to the Press box by March. If we do not do this, then we are mandated to remove the pressbox or face a fine of \$1,000 a day. Mr. Pierce said that some people in town are unhappy that the School built the pressbox without securing funding for this piece. Mr. McAllister said that there was an understanding that the costs for the ADA upgrade would be covered but acknowledged it was not in writing.
- Mr. Sills said that the \$98,000 Davis School feasibility study and the \$350,000 Davis School schematic design are place holders in case the MSBA rejects the Davis School addition funding request. If this happens, we may have to move forward with funding the project ourselves if the School Committee believes it is best to do so.

Mr. Alani and Mr. Coelho explained that the entire 6 year plan will be previewed to the Capital Expenditures committee tomorrow. At the next School Committee meeting, Mr. Sills will ask the School Committee to vote on acceptable projects to move forward to Cap Exp in November.

7. Approval of Superintendent's District Goals

The School Committee reviewed Mr. Sills' District Goals for the 2016-17 School Year presented at an earlier meeting.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Superintendent's District Goals as presented at the September 6, 2016 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Annual Report Presentation

Mr. Sills handed out a draft of the Bedford Public Schools Annual Report FY16. School Committee members agreed to review the document and to take a vote on a final version at the next meeting. Members said they would send edits to Ms. Sallee to incorporate into the final draft.

9. Superintendent's Evaluation Goals 2016-2017

Mr. Sills explained that every educator in the school district needs to be evaluated, including the Superintendent. Since the Superintendent's evaluation is a public process, Mr. Sills outlined his professional practice and student achievement goals for the 2016-17 school year.

Professional Practice Goals:

1. Support the high school leadership team (new Principal).
2. Strengthen communication between the District, the parents, and the community.

3. Continue to effectively address space issues at the Davis, Lane, and John Glenn Middle schools.
4. Increase racial diversity of our faculty and staff by developing and following an effective and deliberate plan.

Student Learning Goals:

1. Support the faculty's integration of increased opportunities for student reflection of work and curation.
2. TBD after the PARCC and MCAS results are released.

Mr. Sills said he would like the School Committee to approve these goals after he finalizes the last Student Learning Goal. School Committee agreed.

10. Web Page Presentation

Ms. Sallee introduced the new website, which has been under construction for several months, to the School Committee. She explained that our old site was not informing nor vibrant. The new site aims to be user friendly and current because each school will be responsible for updating information themselves. Information no longer has to flow to one person to update.

The School Committee was pleased with the preview.

11. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills said that the DESE has been receptive to the Superintendent's pushback on using Student Progress measures. The Commissioner agrees that this should not be a prescriptive measure. Mr. Sills feels this is a positive step.

Mr. Sills also spoke about the recent 7th grade field trip to Millipore. Half of the seventh grade class spent an entire day at Millipore visiting several labs, shadowing scientists and even participating in lab experiments on water pollution. Everyone involved thought it was the best field trip ever. Arrangements are underway to have the second half of the class participate in a similar field trip later in the year.

12. School Committee Minutes

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Mr. McAllister was absent at that meeting)

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the May 31, 2016 meeting as amended

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce
MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Ms. Guay was absent at that meeting)

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Mr. McAllister was absent at that meeting)

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 13, 2016 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

13. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McAllister	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 20, 2016
Exhibits/Documents

- FY 2018 to FY 2023 School Capital Expenditure Projects Spreadsheet
- Superintendent's Evaluation Goals 2016-2017 handout
- Draft – Bedford Public Schools Annual Report FY16
- Draft of School Committee Meeting Minutes as follows:
 - May 17, 2016
 - May 31, 2016
 - June 14, 2016
 - Sept. 6, 2016
 - Sept. 13, 2016