

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 4, 2016
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:40 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 reported the following personnel items:

Retirement:

Lynda Bailey Educational Assistant Davis School (Effective 1/1/2017)

Extracurricular Appointments:

High School

Eric Driscoll	Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach
David Boschetto	Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach
Vincent McGrath	JV Assistant Football Coach
Eric Boehlke	Freshman Volleyball Coach
Courtney Patel	JV Volleyball Coach
Lisa Predaina	Varsity Volleyball Coach
Sean McGowan	JV Girls' Soccer Co-Coach
Heather Smiles	JV Girls' Soccer Co-Coach
Amanda Rabessa	Athletic Trainer
Tammy Burke	Varsity Cheerleading Coach
Joel Hebert	Girls' Cross Country Coach
Joseph Pike	Boys' Cross Country Coach
Charles Humphrey	Freshman Field Hockey Coach
Lisa Gnocht	JV Field Hockey Coach
Roseanne Ham	Varsity Field Hockey Coach
Jack Belcher	Varsity Head Football Coach
Derek Johnson	Varsity Co-Assistant Football Coach
Chris Zellner	Varsity Co-Assistant Football Coach
Jeff McGrath	Freshmen Football Coach
Jim Nagle	Golf- Head Coach
Bill Berlino	JV Boys' Soccer Coach
Pat Culhane	Freshman Boys' Soccer Coach

Middle School

Ken Norling	Athletic Coordinator
	Cross Country Coach
Bob Shelmire	Football Head Coach
Jeff LoPresti	Football Assistant Coach
Bev Barton	Field Hockey Head Coach
Elizabeth Cowles	Girls' Soccer Coach
Carlos Caprioli	Boys' Soccer Coach

4. New Principal of High School

Ms. Heather Galante introduced herself to the School Committee and also introduced the following student representatives to serve on the School Committee for the 2015-16 school year:

Miles Henderson – Senior
Mary Manning – Senior
Tracie Lewis – Junior

Mr. McAllister welcomed the student representatives, who will be taking turns attending the School Committee meetings. He encouraged the students to comment or to pass, whatever they felt comfortable doing. He noted that their feedback however is always welcome and valued.

Ms. Galante discussed her professional background and highlighted some of her recent activities. She mentioned that she has been very busy meeting teachers, staff, parents, students and community members and commented that she really enjoys personal conversations. She said that her focus will always be what is best for the students. She did point out that all of the teachers that she has talked to have told her how grateful they are for the support from the Administration and the Town. Ms. Galante explained that her focus will be on implementing the School Improvement Plan, Interdisciplinary PLC work around professional goals, and evaluating current initiatives. But her top priority is to get out of the office and go where the students are – classrooms, hallways, lunch, extra-curricular activities.

Student Representative Tracie Lewis said that Ms. Galante is indeed very visible and that she is a good listener and is interested in what the students have to say.

Student Representative Mary Manning agreed and laughed because she was initially worried about having a new Principal. She is happy Ms. Galante is so nice.

Student Representative Miles Henderson said he was skeptical and concerned that a new Principal would make a lot of changes. But now he is excited and feeling very positive.

Mr. Sills said that he is pleased with Ms. Galante's efforts to be out with the students.

Mr. Pierce was pleased that Ms. Galante did not plan on changing things right away.

Mr. Brosgol was pleased to hear that Ms. Galante would be focusing on increasing communications with parents.

Mr. McAllister asked Ms. Galante to remember that the School Committee is there to support her.

5. Summer Curriculum Presentation

Ms. Sallee reported on the accomplishments of the curriculum work done throughout the district this past summer. She informed the School Committee that the majority of the professional development in the district is done in the summer. Summer work allows for strong collaboration with peers. All projects are connected to the district vision.

All summer work proposals submitted for consideration are generated to do one or more of the following:

- Develop learning expectations for new standards
- Revise curriculum for greater cultural proficiency or differentiation

- Implement new programs or courses
- Revise recently implemented programs
- Develop new approaches
- Integrate ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies at the elementary level

In the spring, at leadership meetings and within departments-teams, ideas and proposals are generated. The proposals are then negotiated and prioritized with a goal of balancing commitments across all schools. Funding is then allocated and commitments are secured from participants and facilitators. The work is then documented and shared. Plans are made for rollout, implementation and sharing.

Ms. Sallee then introduced the Kindergarten team who worked on revising “Davis Town”, a long held tradition at Davis School, into a culminating project. Vera Corbett, Kindergarten teacher, Alysse Bridenbecker, Kindergarten teacher, and Jessica Colby, former Kindergarten teacher (and now Assistant Principal at Davis) enthusiastically discussed how they developed and implemented this integrated play project. They showed many examples of the students’ work and enjoyment of this project. The teachers noted that the next step will be to focus on assessing if the students are truly understanding the big ideas of the project. They will also be figuring out how to get the kindergarten teachers who could not participate in the summer work, on board.

Ms. Santiago said that the presentation really helped her understand what type of learning is going on in classrooms today.

Mr. Pierce asked how certain teachers get involved in summer curriculum projects. Ms. Benoit, Principal of Davis School, said that teacher’s write-up a proposal and ensure that it is aligned with learning goals. She helps decide which project goes forward for consideration. She tried to get a wide variety of teachers to participate.

Ms. Sallee clarified that the facilitators and the participants get stipends for doing the work and for rolling it out to others on Wednesday teacher days.

Ms. Guay said that the presentation illustrated how important planning time is for teachers.

Mr. McAllister said he was impressed with the amount of learning that goes on with the Davis Town project. He now appreciates how connected it is to the learning standards in kindergarten.

Mr. Sills said that this example is a great demonstration of higher-order thinking skills and to developing metacognition skills even at the kindergarten level. “It tells a great story of Bedford Public Schools’ core values.”

Mr. Sills credited Ms. Benoit for her vision of what early childhood education should be like and how she has a team of teachers with the same vision.

Ms. Sallee reviewed some of the other summer work projects:

- Lane School spent a lot of time updating the grades 3-5 science curriculum
- The Art Department worked on district-wide vertical alignment
- The Foreign Language Dept. worked on the development of common learning expectations in grades 6-12.
- Algebra II learning expectations for High Honors, Honors, and College Prep were defined.

- The Asian-American Literature course and the African-American literature course were developed to run as an unlevleed option for seniors this year.
- The high school has taken on a Social Justice project in hope to enrich the 9th grade experience during XBlock.

Ms. Sallee concluded the presentation by thanking the School Committee for supporting the summer curriculum work.

6. Approval of Annual Report

Mr. Sills presented a version of the Annual Report that incorporate the edits sent to him. He also included salient PARCC result information.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Bedford Public Schools Annual Report FY'16 as amended and presented tonight.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

7. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported that there was a change made to the Capital Projects report presented at the last meeting. The Lane School Building Committee is looking at four parking options and will make a recommendation to the School Committee to move forward with one. Therefore, Mr. Sills proposes moving the Energy Management System project (\$200,000) off of the FY'18 and replace it with a Lane School parking lot project (to be determined by Building Committee).

Also, Mr. Sills reported that the Selectmen will put the Press Box renovation project on the warrant for Special Town Meeting. However, the Selectman are encouraging that all parties involved with the project consider alternative funding sources.

Mr. Sills reported that the newly updated website for the Bedford Public Schools went live and he encouraged all to check it out.

Mr. Sills presented the district's current Residency Policy (JFA-E) for the School Committee to review. Mr. Pierce said he would like to see how this policy compares to the MASC policy.

Ms. Guay suggested that the policy address the practice of residency exceptions for METCO and teacher's children.

Mr. McAllister suggested ensuring proof of residency documentation be strictly adhered to and even more onerous.

Mr. Sills agreed to bring the policy forward again after consideration of these comments and after gathering more information on our district's procedures.

8. School Committee meeting minutes

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

9. Future Agenda

Mr. McAllister asked that Mr. Coelho print out the specifications of using Mudge funds in preparation of future discussions about paying for the press box upgrades.

Mr. Pierce also suggested that the School Committee review the new policy in place about balances on School accounts.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn. at 9:40 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

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
October 4, 2016
Exhibits/Documents

- Presentation: Summer Curriculum Development dated October 4, 2016
- Presentation: Davis Town 2015-16
- Revised Bedford Public School's Annual Report FY'16
- Draft of minutes from the September 20, 2016 School Committee meeting.