

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 26, 2017**  
**Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room**

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present include Ms. Santiago, Ms. Scoville, and Ms. Guay. Mr. McAllister was absent.

**2. Comments from Public**

Frances Bigda Peyton, resident, asked the School Committee to consider making the Davis School building, which may undergo renovation, a Net Zero building. This would mean that the building uses zero energy or may even create extra energy. Ms. Bigda Peyton explained that the Town is considering hiring a consultant to review all town buildings and put them on a path to become Net Zero buildings. She estimates that the additional cost to do this is typically around five percent of the total.

Ms. Bigda Peyton explained that this is a growing industry and will send a message that Bedford cares about climate change and is taking action. In fact, by 2050 all public buildings in Massachusetts will have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent.

She asked Mr. Sills and the School Committee to ask the Architect to include a Net Zero option.

Ms. Janet Powers, another resident in the audience, also spoke on the same topic. She said the time was right to consider making Davis School a Net Zero building and that the Town would end up saving money in the long run.

Mr. Brosgol thanked both for addressing the School Committee tonight.

**3. Personnel Report**

Mr. Sills announced the following informational items:

*Resignations:*

Tracy Derderian	Educational Assistant at the Pre-School
Karen Robbins	Teaching Assistant at BHS

*Leave of Absence:*

Kelsey Little	ELA Teacher at JGMS
---------------	---------------------

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to vote on the proposed changes to the Internet, Newspaper, Television, Radio and Periodical Release Form which was discussed at the last meeting. (The change has the default as allowing the school to post a student's name, picture or work on the Internet, in Newspapers, on Television, on Radio and/or in periodicals and families must write or email a letter to the Principal if they want to deny the schools permission.)

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the updated policy on Internet, Newspaper, Television, Radio and Periodical release form with the added language that "if parents do not notify the school in writing (mail or email) that they are denying permission, then the default will be assumed to be a yes and the child's image, name, and/or work may be displayed."**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**  
**MOTION APPROVED: 4-0**

#### **4. Bedford High School's Ambassador Program**

Principal Heather Galante and teacher Ashley Martell introduced the High School's new Ambassador Program to the School Committee. The program was created to help ease the transition to high school for all ninth graders and any new student to BHS who wants to participate.

Ms. Galante explained that last year she received a lot of feedback from parents at the Principal's Roundtable, School Council and School Advisory Council that the transition for students new to Bedford High School could be improved. Ms. Galante and Principal Tracey from JGMS, met with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents last spring to hear their concerns and fears. The Ambassador Program was created to help.

Current juniors and seniors volunteered to participate in the program as mentors. The mentors met with the rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the spring. Five mentors were selected to go to the New England Leadership Conference in the summer, thanks to monetary support from the BHSPA. They then met with Ms. Galante and Ms. Martell over the summer to plan and organize an orientation for all 60 of the high school students who volunteered to help as Ambassadors.

The five leader mentors trained the Ambassadors on ways to ease fears of the rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders. They also created the theme for the evening to be "What's Your Why". This theme helps students think about their actions, decisions and daily routines and what motivates each to do what they do.

An orientation night was held during the last week of August for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders and any new student to BHS. Administration gave a presentation and then the new students broke into groups with their mentors. The groups went on a building tour, learned about short cuts, shared lunch tips and participated in ice breaker activities. There were goody bags and t-shirts for all. The evening ended with a Bedford Farms Ice Cream social.

Several mentors also presented with Ms. Galante and Ms. Martell. Emma Ferrari, Chris Cowles, Helen Pulizzi, Julia Sepe and Panayiotis (Peter) Kapanides spoke to the School Committee about their experience and plans for the year. They plan on meeting with their freshmen buddies in various flex blocks and have and will continue to email them and say hello to them in the hallways.

Ms. Guay thanked Ms. Galante and Ms. Martell and the students. She is sure that the mentors will make a big difference to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mr. Sills appreciated the deep thinking that the theme "What's Your Why" inspired. He said he was pleased that the program was revived (something similar was in place several years ago) and that it is a richer experience for the new students and the mentors.

Ms. Galante thanked BHSPA and Bedford TV for their support of this program.

Mr. Sills asked the students to pay attention to the social issues freshmen may face. He encouraged the Ambassadors to say hello and to try to get a sense if the freshman are truly OK. He also encouraged them to give feedback to Ms. Martell.

Ms. Galante and Ms. Martell said they were very proud of the Ambassadors. School Committee members said they were too.

## **5. Building Project Updates**

### *Davis*

Mr. Sills said that the Davis School roof replacement plan, currently on the capital plan for 2024 may be moved to be part of the renovation project. This would add another \$1.2 million to the project cost. He has presented this idea to the Finance Committee and they seemed receptive to the idea. Mr. Sills said he and Mr. Alani will present the project to the Capital Expenditure Committee tomorrow evening.

### *Lane*

Mr. Sills reported that the Building Committee recently met with neighbors regarding tree removal and lighting concerns. The Building Committee agreed to consider the concerns as the parking lot project is still in the conceptual stage. Also, the DPW discovered some ledge in the area which may require some redesign to the parking plan.

Mr. Brosgol asked when the plan would be finalized. Mr. Sills said midwinter and that work will begin in the summer 2018.

Ms. Santiago asked if the architects could consider "Net Zero" options. Mr. Sills thinks that this is reasonable for the Davis School building project. He will get more information and reconvene the Davis School Building Committee as soon as possible.

Ms. Scoville asked to clarify what will be on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Davis School. Mr. Sills said the schools will be asking for approval of \$990,000 for construction documents for the Davis School project.

Mr. Sills commented that due to the Davis School project, the Capital Plan needs to be revised. Right now, it looks like FY'2018 capital projects may include:

Davis School Project	\$11,300,000
Davis School Roof Replacement	\$1,200,000
JGMS Feasibility Study	\$ 101,000
BHS Feasibility Study	\$ 50,000

Mr. Sills said that this is a work in progress and that a formal presentation on the Capital Plan will be made to the School Committee in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Guay said she would like to hear from Ms. Vines about the growth and staff ratios of the in-house special education programs. She would also like to hear more about the work the Consultant did on the high school's Bridge and STEP programs. Mr. Sills agreed to move Ms. Vine's presentation to the School Committee to the fall.

Mr. Sills also noted that the Technology Replacement plan (under the Capital Plan) needs to be discussed. Right now, Chrome Notebooks are being tested at the schools as a supplement to the iPads. Mr. Coelho explained that this is financially possible because the cost of leasing Ipads has decreased. Mr. Sills said right now, the goal is to have Chrome Notebooks handy for students to use since they offer different tools compared to the iPad. "There are no plans to change the one-to-one program to Chrome Notebooks or to move the one-to-one program to other schools."

## **6. Superintendent's Evaluation Goals for 2017-18**

Mr. Sills reminded the School Committee that the Superintendent is to be publicly evaluated by the School Committee. Therefore, Mr. Sills presented his goals for the year. They are as follows:

1. Launch/co-lead the focus on strengthening literacy K-12.
2. Shepherd the Davis School Building Project through the general contractor bidding process in April and groundbreaking in June.
3. Increase racial diversity of faculty and staff in Bedford Public Schools.
4. Student Goal – Over the next two years, bring MCAS 2.0 ELA scores/growth to level one.

Ms. Guay was impressed with these goals. She reminded Mr. Sills to reach out to parents in the community as resources to recruit new, diverse staff.

Ms. Santiago asked why there was not a math goal. Mr. Sills said that work in math continues districtwide. In fact the School Committee will soon hear two presentations on math. He further explained that the focus on literacy will not be at the expense of math or any other subject. In fact, he believes that the focus on literacy will help all other academic areas improve.

Mr. Brosgol asked if it was difficult to “sell Bedford” to diverse candidates. Mr. Sills said that he believes that Bedford has a unique story. “We are diverse, intimate, and nimble.” Unfortunately, Massachusetts has a small pool of diverse teaching candidates.

## **7. Revote of FY'18 Budget**

Mr. Davis Coelho asked the School Committee to revote the FY'18 budget. He explained that this was necessary and a standard thing to do this time of year, after the summer hiring season.

Mr. Coelho explained that FY'18 saw savings in out-of-district tuitions and changes in staff as a result. The total shift from Non-Salary accounts to Salary accounts of \$76,449 is available based on these projected savings in out-of-district tuition costs. These savings will cover additional related staffing expenses.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee agree to shift \$76,449 out of the Non-Salary line item to the Salary line item so that total Salary is \$31,272,720 and total Non-Salary is \$7,788,841 for FY'18.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 4-0**

## **8. Minutes**

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the August 29, 2017 School Committee meeting as amended.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED: 4-0**

## **9. Adjournment**

Ms. Guay made the following motion.

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:10 P.M**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED: 4-0**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. McAllister</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mr. Brosgol</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Santiago</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Guay</b>	<b>Yes</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Committee Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**September 26, 2017**

**Exhibits/Documents**

- Draft of revised Policy on Internet, Newspaper, TV, Radio & Periodical Release form.
- Presentation: Student Ambassador Program Transition to High School
- Draft of minutes from the August 29, 2017 School Committee meeting.