

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 2, 2018
Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee.
Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay. Mr. Chris Cowles, Student Representative was also present.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reported the following personnel items:

Resignations:

Nate McMillian	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Carley Brognan	Teaching Assistant	BHS

Leave of Absence:

Kristina Barbacano	Central Office
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Appointments:

Neeti Bharatan	Long Term TA Sub	JGMS
Shannon Fama	.6 Teaching Assistant	Pre-School
Jessica Baker	Permanent Building Sub	Davis

Extracurricular Appointments:

High School:

Alexis Duffy-Protentis	Winter Athletic Trainer
Darin McDonald	Freshman Boys' Basketball Coach
Nuri Barlas	Boys JV Basketball Coach .1
Jeff McGrath	Boys JV Basketball Coach .9
Alvin Mayard	Basketball Girls' Freshmen Coach
Vinnie McGrath	Basketball Boys' Varsity Coach
James Greenwood	Basketball Girls' JV Coach
Jason Talanian	Basketball Girls' Varsity Coach
Jarrett Scarpaci	Hockey Varsity Coach
Sophia Grammenos	Indoor Track Co-Assistant
Charles Humphrey	Indoor Track Co-Assistant
Joseph Pike	Indoor Track Varsity Coach
Gerald Peters	Rifle Team Coach
Derek Johnson	Ski Team Varsity Coach
Lydia Patkay	Swim Assistant Coach
Beth Billouin	Varsity Swim Coach
Tammy Burke	Varsity Winter Cheerleading Coach
Andrew Scarpaci	Assistant Varsity Hockey Coach
Sam Sprangel	Varsity Wrestling Coach

1 Middle School:

2 Gunnar Olson

Basketball Boys' Coach

3 Jen Naylor

Basketball Girls' Coach

4
5 Mr. Coelho asked the School Committee to accept a \$50 donation from Lueders Environmental,
6 Inc. Mr. Coelho explained that this organization contributes \$50 each year to the school
7 department.

8
9 Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

10 **MOVED: That the School Committee accept the \$50 donation to the school department**
11 **from Leuders Environmental, Inc.**

12 **MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

13 **MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**
14

15 The School Committee thanked Mr. Lueders for his generous donation to the Bedford School
16 Department.

17
18 **4. FY'19 Budget Request**

19 Mr. Sills began the budget presentation by thanking Mr. Coelho for his hard work in preparing all
20 the information for the FY'19 Operating budget request.

21
22 Mr. Sills reviewed community expectations of the Bedford Public Schools:

- 23 • High performing schools
- 24 • A supportive, safe and caring school culture
- 25 • Intellectually engaging and challenging learning experiences
- 26 • Comprehensive, well-articulated curriculum
- 27 • Robust music, arts and wellness for all
- 28 • Ample athletic and extracurricular opportunities
- 29 • A commitment to educational equity
- 30 • Measurable and clearly identified learning outcomes
- 31 • Cost-conscious planning that respects the community's fiscal conditions
- 32 • 21st century STEM learning experiences

33
34 Mr. Sills explained that the budget presented tonight is designed to meet these expectations. The
35 total FY'19 budget request number is \$41,795,139, a 4.3% increase over FY'18. This number is
36 broken down as follows:

37
38 Maintenance of Effort (same programs as last year) \$40,109,985
39 Desired Program Changes for FY'19 \$ 1,685,154
40

41 Mr. Sills explained the Maintenance of Effort number (\$40,109,985) is 2.68% larger than FY'18
42 due to increases in contract obligations, out-of-district tuitions, and transportation costs. The
43 additional \$1,685,154 is being requested to enable the school department to add enrollment
44 driven staff, building expansion related custodial support and several important program
45 improvements.

46
47 Mr. Sills reviewed the major cost centers in the school budget:

48 Salaries 81.8%
49 Instructional
50 Materials, texts, technology 6.4%

1 Transportation 4.9%
2 Out of District Tuitions 6.8%

3
4 Mr. Sills then explained in detail, the budget drivers for FY'19.

5
6 Driver #1 Enrollment

7 Enrollment is growing and is projected to continue to do so for the next 10 years. However,
8 Mr. Sills explained that not only is the enrollment growing, the complexity of the students is
9 also increasing. Therefore, the schools need different programming than they have had in the
10 past. "Fifteen years ago, Bedford had a much more homogeneous population." Mr. Sills
11 further explained that a complex student body includes, low income, ELL, students with
12 disabilities, etc.

13
14 Mr. Sills said that the elementary class sizes are at or above guidelines so he is proposing to
15 add a new 5th grade class at Lane and a .5 reading teacher at Lane.

16
17 Ms. Santiago asked why adhering to class size guidelines is so important to Bedford. Mr.
18 Sills said that Bedford tries to ensure that all students are able to learn so the teachers need to
19 differentiate instruction to meet all the vast learning needs. Also, he said that the more
20 students in a classroom, then the less flexible a teacher can be. A teacher would end up
21 "managing" a large class rather than teaching.

22
23 Mr. McAllister said that the School Committee needs to articulate this need in its budget
24 presentations.

25
26 Mr. Sills did comment that he believes some districts have larger class sizes than Bedford and
27 still perform at high levels, However, he believes that these districts do not have as complex
28 of a student body as we do.

29
30 Ms. Santiago and Ms. Guay both commented that having complex students is a good thing
31 because the real world is diverse and complex.

32
33 Mr. Sills noted that the middle school has large class sizes in Spanish. Also, more students
34 are arriving at JGMS without elementary foreign language instruction. Therefore, there is a
35 need for Spanish 1 or French 1 class. Mr. Sills is proposing to add a 1.0 Foreign Language
36 teacher at JGMS.

37
38 Other needs include:

39 .5 ELL teacher at Lane

40 .6 ELL Program Director

41
42 Driver #2 Expanded Building Space

43 Mr. Sills said he is requesting an HVAC technician and some additional custodial support.
44 Last year, his request for custodial support was not fulfilled. He has included:

45 1.0 custodian for Davis

46 1.0 HVAC technician

47 Custodial & Maintenance Foreperson stipends

48 Mr. Sills explained his rationale for asking for these positions but Ms. Santiago asked for
49 more information. Mr. Sills agreed to find out how much it has cost the schools for using an

1 HVAC contractor and how much overtime has been occurred due to a stretched custodial
2 staff.

3 Driver #3 Special Education

4 Mr. Sills described what Bedford's special education population is today v. 2008:
5

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2008</u>
6 Autism	12%	7%
7 Emotional	15%	6%
8 Specific Learning	22%	59%

9
10
11 Mr. Sills explained that in addition to the change in the disabilities, our special education
12 model has shifted to a more inclusive one with push-in services rather than pull-out. In the
13 past, the special education budget would be adjusted to cover unanticipated fluctuations in
14 our ODD numbers. Today, we need the same budget flexibility with our in-house programs
15 due to expenses that may increase (but at a significantly lower cost than ODD.)
16

17 Mr. Sills said that during this past year, we had to add Special Education staff to all the
18 schools but the cost to do this was covered by ODD savings. These additions are now part of
19 the FY'19 Maintenance of Effort number.
20

21 Mr. McAllister asked if the increase in Autism diagnosis was a Bedford issue or is it a
22 national trend?
23

24 Ms. Guay said both. More people are diagnosed to get services and it is quite a broad
25 spectrum of services. Also she believes people do move to Bedford because we have good
26 schools and we have good special education services.
27

28 Ms. Guay and Mr. McAllister suggested that the special education information be presented
29 in a way that clearly shows the amount of support needed based on the IEPs and 504 plans.
30 Mr. Sills agreed that this would be beneficial in explaining SPED impact on the school
31 budget.
32

33 Driver #4 Program Improvements: Personnel

34 Mr. Sills said he is requesting the following in order to improve the programming a Bedford
35 Public Schools:

- 36 1.0 Technology/Instructional Coach – Davis and Lane
- 37 .2 Computer Lab Tech for Lane
- 38 .5 Reading teacher for BHS
- 39 1.0 Campus Aid for Bedford High School
- 40 1.2 FTE for Educational Assistants at Davis (have all EAs become fulltime)
41

42 Program Improvements: Resources and Contract Services

- 43 • Expand Calculus Project and Summer Math \$24,230
- 44 • Additional Chromebook Carts (2 each at Lane and JGMS) \$42,500
- 45 • System wide software \$21,250
- 46 • Textbooks, supplies, contract services \$28,951
47

48 Mr. Sills presented some additional information on the FY'10 budget. One chart compared
49 guidelines and mandates. Other information showed the schools budget history, changes in

1 professional staff, salary data, special education statistics and budget to actuals. He also
2 presented information on the School's offset and revolving fund account balances.

3
4 Mr. Sills reminded the School Committee that the Finance Committee's guideline for the
5 School's FY'19 budget is 3.5% increase.

6
7 School Committee members asked several questions and requests for more information. For
8 example:

9
10 Ms. Guay asked for more information on the high school Campus Aid, the Instructional
11 Coach, and ELL positions.

12
13 Ms. Santiago asked for more information on the request to have an orthopedic doctor attend
14 home football games.

15
16 Ms. Santiago asked Mr. Sills to look into our substitute pay. She wanted to make sure it was
17 minimum wage and that it did not stand in the way of the schools having adequate coverage.

18
19 Ms. Santiago also questioned why we were asking for additional custodian support now when
20 we will really need it in 2020 with the new Davis building.

21
22 Mr. Brosgol said that right now, the school budget is approximately \$318,000 above the
23 Finance Committee guideline so the budget request does need some further scrutiny. He
24 would like to know more information on the desire to buy Chromebooks and more details on
25 the expansion of the Calculus project.

26
27 Mr. McAllister said the School Committee should look at the revolving funds and make
28 decisions on using or not using some of the funds. He would also like to hear the Principal's
29 vision of the Campus Aid position.

30 31 **5. Davis School Updates**

32 Ms. Santiago and Mr. Sills reported on the recent Building Committee meeting. The
33 Committee met to consider adding some pod space to the second floor and to review exterior
34 options. They did vote to include adding pod space as another alternative addition to the
35 project.

36
37 Mr. Sills said that the total roof replacement project was not included in the Capital Expense
38 plan for next year.

39 40 **6. Minutes for Review**

41 Ms. Guay made the following motion:

42 **MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the November 21, 2017**
43 **School Committee meeting.**

44 **MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

45 **MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-2 (Mr. Brosgol and Ms. Scoville abstained)**

46 47 **7. Adjournment**

48 Mr. Brosgol made the following motion.

49 **MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:25 P.M. not to reopen.**

50 **MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

1 **MOTION APPROVED: 4-0**

2

3 **Roll Call Vote:**

4 **Mr. McAllister Yes**

5 **Mr. Brosgol Yes**

6 **Ms. Santiago Yes**

7 **Ms. Scoville Yes**

8 **Ms. Guay Yes**

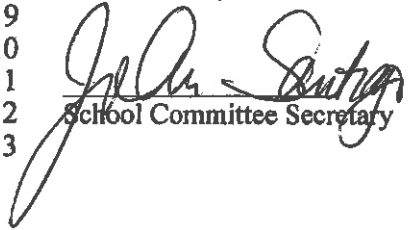
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School Committee Secretary

1/30/2018
Date

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BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 2, 2018
Exhibits/Documents

- Superintendent's FY'19 Budget Request December 13, 2017
- Draft of minutes from the November 21, 2017 School Committee meeting