

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**April 24, 2018**  
**Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room**

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:32 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.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Personnel Report**

Mr. Sills asked for approval of an out-of-state field trip request by the teachers of the STEP Program. Sarah Leshay, science teacher and other STEP staff members would like to take 12 STEP students to Ordione Point in Rye, NH on May 7, 2018 to explore the tidal pools. This field trip is related to their studies in the Marine Science class. There will not be any cost to the schools. School vans will be used for transportation.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip request to travel to Ordione Point in Rye, New Hampshire on May 7, 2018 for 12 STEP students at no cost to the school department.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

**Informational Items:**

Resignations:

|                  |                    |       |
|------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Cynthia Slemaker | ELL Teacher        | BHS   |
| Heather Smiles   | Teaching Assistant | Davis |

Retirement:

|              |                           |     |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Deb Savarino | Special Education Teacher | BHS |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----|

Leave of Absence:

|              |         |       |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| Julie Sutton | Teacher | Davis |
|--------------|---------|-------|

Appointment:

|             |                     |     |
|-------------|---------------------|-----|
| Bobby Lyons | Assistant Principal | BHS |
|-------------|---------------------|-----|

Extracurricular Appointments:

High School

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Joe Pike         | Boys Track                       |
| Joel Hebert      | Girls Track                      |
| Gunnar Olson     | Head Baseball Coach              |
| Jay Johnson      | JV Boys Baseball Coach           |
| Megan Asp        | Varsity Softball Assistant Coach |
| Jeff LoPresti    | Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach      |
| Sophia Grammenos | Outdoor Track Assistant          |

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charles Humphrey | Outdoor Track Assistant          |
| Michael Healey   | Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach |
| Dennis Walsh     | Varsity Softball Coach           |
| Lisa Predaina    | JV Softball Coach                |
| Derek Johnson    | JV Boys Lacrosse                 |
| Matt Clarke      | JV Boys Lacrosse                 |
| Nicole L'Espasio | JV Girls Lacrosse                |
| Alyssa LaPane    | Girls Tennis Varsity             |
| Alex Duffy       | Athletic Trainer                 |
| Devon Hatch      | Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach     |
| John Geilfuss    | Boys Tennis Varsity              |
| Marjorie Marino  | JV Boys Tennis                   |
| Roseanne Ham     | JB Girls Tennis                  |

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Middle School   |                 |
| Sean Waldron    | Baseball        |
| Ken Norling     | Track           |
| Jennifer Naylor | Softball        |
| Al Dougherty    | Track assistant |
| Allison Luppi   | Track assistant |

Mr. Sills presented an updated job description for the 6-12 Guidance Program Administrator position. He has decided to change this position to a Director of Guidance K-12 position. Mr. Sills said he has been discussing this possibility with the leadership team for some time and has realized that there is a real need to bring the elementary counselors into a vertical team and to facilitate following the students K-12 developmentally.

Mr. Sills also presented the job description for the Director of Achievement K-5 which is a modification of the instructional coach position recently approved. The work will include data analysis, social emotional coaching as well as instructional coaching.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Director of Guidance (K-12) job description as amended by changing the number of extra days from 14 to 10.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Ms. Guay said that this position is now broader in scope. She asked if Mr. Sills thought that we would end up needing more counselors at the middle or high schools. Mr. Sills said that the need would not arise because of this change, but maybe as the population increases at the schools. He said the case load of the current Guidance Program Administrator would be spread among counselors that have room.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Director of Student Achievement K-5 as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Mr. McAllister asked if this was a new position. Mr. Sills said no, that this is a modification of the instructional coach position.

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to make the annual vote on whether Bedford should participate in school choice, a Massachusetts law that allows families to choose to send students to another district.

Mr. Sills said that Bedford Public Schools has always voted not to participate in this program. This means that we will not accept students from out of town to attend Bedford Public Schools. However, we do have to pay for any family who lives in Bedford and chooses to send their child or children to another school district that participates in School Choice.

Mr. Brosgol asked which districts around us elect to participate. Mr. Sills said he does not know offhand but can let him know.

Mr. McAllister asked if school districts can say yes one year and then no the next. Mr. Sills said yes, that there needs to be an annual vote on participation.

Ms. Guay said she wishes all students have the chance to attend school districts like Bedford Public Schools.

Mr. Sills said that the sentiment is right but it ends up taking resources away from the district which could be used to help those students in need.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the Bedford School Committee not participate in the School Choice Program for the 2018-2019 school year. Among the reasons is we are at enrollment capacity at all school levels.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol**

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

#### **4. JGMS/BHS Feasibility Study**

Mr. Alani, Director of Facilities, made a recommendation to the School Committee that the schools use TBA Architects to conduct feasibility studies for renovation work for the middle and high schools. Mr. Alani explained that we are legally able to award a contract to TBA Architects for this work without issuing an RFP. He recommends we do this because we have been working with TBA on the Lane and Davis school projects and they have been very responsive. Mr. Alani believes that TBA can meet our timeline which is June 8<sup>th</sup> – deadline for space needs requirements, October – estimate of construction costs, and fee approvals for Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee award the contract for \$100,000 to TBA Architects for feasibility studies at John Glenn Middle School and Bedford High School.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

## **5. World Language Program Self Study**

Ms. Dana Curran, Program Administrator for World Languages, presented the World Language Department Self Study which was completed during the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years.

Mr. Sills explained the World Languages is the first department to use the “self-study model” for a program study. Previously, the schools used to have peer reviews by outside districts. This model proved to be very time consuming and expensive.

Ms. Curran began her presentation by thanking Kim Alexander, Tracey Greenspan and Veronique Meyer for their participation on the Self-Study Committee. She explained that the mission for the study was based on “the belief that all students can learn another language and will need to participate in a global society. The World Language Department will help students engage in real-world communication tasks and explore commonalities and differences among global cultures.”

Ms. Curran’s presentation included defining the study’s Guiding Questions. She explained that the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association rubrics were used as industry standards and to measure Bedford’s program.

As a result, the following strengths and needs were identified:

### *Strengths*

- World language programming scheduled the same as other core classes
- The number of student participating
- The curriculum is aligned with World Readiness standards
- World Language staff is highly qualified

### *Needs*

- Additional days are needed in the grade 6 day cycle
- Improve high school retention for third and fourth years
- Improve communication of proficiency targets
- Additional professional development in core practices
- Increase staff participation in foreign language professional organizations
- Increase the opportunity for service learning
- Regular communication with community

Ms. Curran discussed how the goal is to shift to proficiency in communicating in the language rather than about the language. She also wants to ensure non-European cultural representation is covered in our curriculum. (However, she feels Bedford is not ready to move to new languages such as Mandarin). Ultimately, Ms. Curran would like to propose a Global Citizenship Program for the high school where more disciplines would be part of the World Language study.

The study highlighted the following accomplishments:

- An enhanced process for Davis students transitioning to Lane School
- French enrollment has increased
- Curriculum has been updated
- In the middle school, students are placed by proficiency levels
- A new Foundations of Spanish course is offered for students without elementary exposure

- New Latin 2 and Advanced Latin courses are offered at the high school
- French 1 course is now offered
- Service learning opportunities are available at the high school

Ms. Guay thanked Ms. Curran for paying attention to the ELL and Special Education students and for finding a way to get kids into the right class in the middle school level.

Ms. Guay asked if these changes help the Hanscom students. Ms. Curran said that French 1 and the Latin sequences do help.

Ms. Guay asked if Ms. Curran was surprised by anything revealed by the study. She said she was surprised to learn how far along our programs are in the process towards proficiency. She also learned during some of the site visits about new ways to help student communicate in the language.

Ms. Scoville asked how big the World Language Department is. Ms. Curran answered 16 staff members.

Ms. Scoville asked why the self-study process started with World Language Program. Mr. Sills said that there have been some big questions about where the elementary language program fits in. Also, Ms. Curran is a relatively new Program Administrator so it seemed a good time to undergo the self-study.

Ms. Scoville said that at the Lane School, the language choice often boils down selecting a language that would help increase the chance of being in a class with friends. Ms. Curran said that the Lane School has changed the placements so kids can now choose the language they want and still end up in classes with friends who may have selected another language.

Ms. Scoville said she loves the early morning language classes taught by parents at Davis School. Ms. Curran said she would love to find more ways to get World Languages to Davis School and was thinking maybe the French or Spanish Clubs could do something.

Ms. Scoville suggested that it may be helpful to communicate to parents and students to value languages more than just a transcript builder. Ms. Curran agrees and hopes that the new Global Citizenship Program will help do this.

Ms. Santiago said she was pleased to hear that the focus is moving towards proficiency.

Mr. Brosgol asked if achievement gaps popped up in the data from the self-study. Ms. Curran said yes and she will be working to make language more equitable for all students.

Mr. McAllister asked if there are foreign language waivers. Ms. Curran said yes, the foreign language graduation requirement may be waived if a student's supports are so extensive that there is no room in the schedule. For example, students in our sub-separate special education program have waivers.

Mr. McAllister said he frequently gets asked why the high school still teaches French and not Mandarin. Ms. Curran said that Bedford has a history of teaching French. She also feels that

Africa is an upcoming area in the global view and French is the predominant language. Also, French is the language of the European Union and the language of our neighbor Canada.

Mr. Sills said that given the size of Bedford's school district, it is hard to take on many languages. For example, it would cost a lot to start teaching Mandarin because ideally this would have to happen at the elementary level. He also feels that there are not many qualified teachers of Mandarin.

Mr. McAllister thanked Ms. Curran for a very comprehensive report.

#### **6. Superintendent's Report**

None

#### **7. Minutes**

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 School Committee meeting as amended.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

#### **8. Adjournment**

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:02 not to reopen**

**MOTION SECONDED by Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. McAllister**                      **Yes**

**Mr. Brosgol**                        **Yes**

**Ms. Santiago**                      **Yes**

**Ms. Scoville**                      **Yes**

**Ms. Guay**                         **Yes**

 6/5/2018  
School Committee Secretary      Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**April 24, 2018**

**Exhibits/Documents**

- World Language Program Self Study Presentation
- Draft of March 26, 2018 School Committee meeting minutes