

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Sept. 11, 2018
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 included Ms. Scoville, Ms. Guay, Ms. Santiago and Mr. McAllister.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reported the following:

Resignation

Donna Tiano Educational Assistant Lane School

Appointment

Andrea Koni .25 Educational Assistant Davis School

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the Guidance K-5 Curriculum stipend position which was presented at the last School Committee meeting.

Ms. Guay asked if the qualifications should include experience in Special Education. Mr. Sills said yes and that the position will likely be filled by an in-house person who will have Special Education experience and understanding.

Mr. Brosgol asked how much time this position will demand. Mr. Sills said it had not been quantified as the position is being developed.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Pre-K to Grade 5 Guidance and Counseling Coordinator stipend position as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

4. Land Swap Discussion

Mr. Don Cullis from the Town's Land Acquisition Committee and town residents Allan and Marcia Chertok presented a land swap proposal to the School Committee.

The Chertok family lives at 359 North Road and some of their property backs up against Lane School property. The Chertoks would like to build a garage on their property but in order to do this, some of the garage would straddle a piece of town-owned (Lane School) land. Mr. Chertok is asking permission to do this and in exchange would give the town approximately 2.3 acres of his land which abuts the Lane School property.

The Chertoks explained that they aspire to age in place in their home at 359 North Road and would like to build a garage in order to avoid the burden of snow removal after storms. The

amount of land that they would like to use is .1 acre and in turn they would give the town 2.3 acres.

Mr. Cullis presented maps of the properties which highlighted the areas to be exchanged. He reported that the Land Acquisition Committee unanimously approved of this swap but would like to know how the School Department feels about it since the property is part of Lane School property.

Mr. Cullis said he just needs to know if the School Committee is willing to consider this swap so they can move forward with the next steps to make it happen.

Ms. Guay said that the proposal sounds reasonable and asked if any lawyers are involved in the transaction at this point.

Mr. Chertok said he has discussed the idea with former Town Manager Rick Reed a few years ago but has not yet talked to any attorneys. He said that if the School Committee feels comfortable with this idea, the next step will be to meet with an architect to make sure that the garage project is feasible.

Mr. McAllister said that it seems like a good idea for both parties. He feels that it is an interesting way to help keep life-long residents in town.

Ms. Scoville asked if Mr. Chertok had presented the idea to the School Committee before. He said no but he has spoken to Mr. Sills about the idea. He said that the idea was never formally presented nor rejected. Mr. McAllister agreed with Mr. Chertok's account.

Ms. Santiago asked for clarification on what action he is asking of the School Committee. Mr. Cullis said that he is just looking for the Committee's feedback so they can move further in the process with the Town. She agreed that it is important to try to help residents.

Mr. Brosgol concurred with the sentiment that it is good to help longtime residents and will consider expressing an opinion on the matter at the next meeting. He feels that the time may be right to move forward since the Lane School project is complete and the schools have decided not to pursue building an access road to the school at this point in time.

Mr. Sills asked if an attached garage was considered (and therefore not straddling Lane property). Mr. Chertok said they did and it will not work with his house.

Mr. Sills said that the School Committee may end up giving a conditional opinion on the project because it will be important to understand the swap and its implications.

5. Amended District Strategic Improvement Plan

Mr. Sills explained that he wanted to clarify a part of the Strategic Improvement Plan which was presented last week. He would like to add under the Equity and Diversity objective the following:

"Ensure that the historic integration mission embraced by the BPS as a METCO district is realized through purposeful school-based planning and the facilitating of bridge-building family partnerships."

Mr. Sills said deliberate work has not been on fostering bridge-building family partnerships and it needs to be.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the “District-Wide Strategy for Achieving the Mission: 2018-2019” as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

6. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Sills reported that there was a successful opening day at all of the schools.

Mr. Sills reported several Bedford Education Foundation grants were made to purchase the following items to help enrich curriculum:

- Interactive Notebooks for Science Dept. at BHS
- Digital Cameras for the Art Dept. at BHS
- Heat Press for DECA at BHS
- Weather station for JGMS Science Dept.
- Ipads for the Performing Arts at JGMS
- Reflex Math program at Lane
- Problem solving wheels for Davis and Lane

Mr. Sills noted that an MSBA representative visited JGMS to look at our proposed building project. Mr. Sills said that he feels that it will be highly unlikely that the MSBA will select to support our project. He also said if they did, the project would take seven years to complete. He is prepared to move forward with the project without any help from the State.

7. Appointment of Liaisons

Mr. Brosgol and the School Committee members discussed who will be the School Committee liaison to the town boards and committees. Mr. Brosgol agreed to share the assignments with the Committee members this week.

8. Minutes

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the June 19, 2018 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Mr. Brosgol abstained)

9. Discussion and Vote: JGMS/BHS Building Project Options

Mr. Sills reviewed the building renovation options under consideration for JGMS and BHS. He explained that the two options selected by the Building Committee and endorsed by TBA are as follows:

JGMS Option 3

This option efficiently accommodates the anticipated growth of the middle school, frees the LGI from constant program use, and does not inhibit future expansion to connect the A and D wings.

The scheme will add 7,500 square feet of space and renovate 3,000 square feet. This work will accommodate SAIL, OT, an art classroom, two foreign language classrooms, a health classroom, teachers' workspace and counselor offices. The Bridge and special education areas will also be repurposed. The estimated project cost is \$5,146,000.

BHS Option 2

This option accommodates the anticipated growth of the high school within the existing building, allows for flexible programming and does not inhibit future classroom expansion. The work will renovate 6,700 square feet of space primarily in the D wing. The renovated areas will provide enough space to accommodate a SAIL suite, learning center, ELL classroom, counselor office space, a transition/life skills suite, METCO, and SRO offices. Also the Academic Achievement Center, JROTC suite and a Directed Study space will be created. The estimated project cost is \$1,689,000.

Mr. Sills added that enrollment numbers indicate the projections used to plan these renovations are on track.

Ms. Scoville mentioned that the Recreation Department needs to be in the loop given the Plateau field at the middle school will likely come off line.

Mr. Brosgol said the plans are sensible and he fears that growth will make it a close call.

Ms. Santiago is comfortable with the plans given he housing uncertainties in the next few years.

Mr. Brosgol asked if these plans included space for Bedford Cable TV. Mr. Sills said no.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the recommendations of the BHS and JGMS Building Committee for Option 3 and its derivatives at JGMS and Option 2 and its derivatives at BHS as the basis for the design of the addition/renovation.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

10. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. to Executive Session for non-union contract negotiations, not to reopen.


MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

Roll Call Vote:

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

School Committee Secretary

 11/6/18
Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Sept. 11, 2018

Exhibits/Documents

- Job Description: Pre-K to Grade 5 Guidance & Counseling Coordinator (stipend position)
- Presentation of proposal to exchange property from 361 North Road with Town of Bedford
- Draft of minutes from the June 19, 2018 School Committee meeting.