

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
March 6, 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.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve an annual field trip request from Mr. Griffin for high school students to travel to Merck Forest & Farmland in Rupert, VT. This year the field trip is planned for May 18-20, 2018 and approximately 22 students will attend. The field trip focuses on learning about sustainability and energy conservation on a farm in Vermont. Students will also participate in guided hikes in the area. The cost is \$100 per student and no costs to the school department. Only a few hours of Friday afternoon will be missed.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip for 22 high school students to travel to and stay at Merck Forest and Farmland in Rupert, VT on May 18-20, 2018 at a cost of \$100 per student and no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Guay and Ms. Santiago both commented that they were pleased to see an affordable field trip offered to high school students.

Mr. Sills made the following personnel announcements:

Resignations:

Matt Mehler, Assistant Principal at JGMS

Adelle Girvan, 1.0 Teaching Assistant at BHS

Retirement:

Sandi McNutt, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

Leave of Absence:

Molly Singh will continue her leave from Lane School

Appointments:

Victoria Wolk	1.0 Teaching Assistant	BHS
Peter Simonini	1.0 Teaching Assistant	BHS
Sarah Nelson	1.0 Teaching Assistant	BHS
Ashley Osborne	1.0 Food Service Worker	BHS
Jessica Dussi	METCO A.M. Aide	Lane
Ella Bitman	1.0 Special Education Adjustment Counselor	BHS
Katelyn Andrus	1.0 Special Education Adjustment Counselor	Lane

1 Mr. Sills presented two updated job descriptions to the School Committee to review. The
2 "Library Media Specialist" description has changed due to the change in the role. The Specialist
3 is now an information specialist and focuses on digital literacy and being an instructional partner.
4 The "Assistant Principal" position for the high school has a small update.

5
6 School Committee members agreed to review and to vote on the final drafts of both descriptions
7 at the next School Committee meeting.

8 9 **4. Business Program/D.E.C.A Presentation**

10 Ms. Justine Flora, teacher at the high school, updated the School Committee on the Business
11 Education Program the high school and described the purpose and activities of the D.E.C.A Club.

12
13 Ms. Flora explained that she started teaching at Bedford High School in 2002 and that the
14 Business program has really grown since then. She currently teaches the following college prep
15 level classes:

- 16 • Introduction to Business (9-12)
- 17 • Introduction to Marketing (9-12)
- 18 • Accounting I (10-12)
- 19 • Accounting II (11-12)
- 20 • Personal Finance/Business Math (11-12 heterogeneous level)

21
22 Ms. Flora also described the D.E.C.A. Club which is very popular and started about 6 years ago
23 (due to student demand). The club now has 53 members.

24
25 D.E.C.A. – Distributed Educations Clubs of America was started in 1946. It is a very valuable
26 and practical club for any student interested in business – marketing, administration, tourism,
27 hospitality, entrepreneurship, ethics or business law. Students join and decide which area they
28 are interested in and which area they want to compete in.

29
30 There are several levels of competition – district, state and national. Students take an exam,
31 participate in a case study and do a lot of role playing in preparation for competitions. State-level
32 competitions usually have more than 2,000 students and national competition has about 17,000!

33
34 Ms. Flora was joined by several seniors who have taken business classes and participate in
35 D.E.C.A. Cameron Maurice, Nikhil Malrani, and Jacqueline Stevens reported on their D.E.C.A.
36 experience. Each student explained that the skills they have learned are very practical and that
37 they each have gained a lot of self-confidence when meeting new people and with public
38 speaking. Each agreed that the D.E.C.A experience has solidified their interest in studying
39 business next year in college.

40
41 Mr. McAllister asked Ms. Flora if students were taught about business ethics in class or in
42 D.E.C.A. Ms. Flora said yes and that the D.E.C.A organization really encourages students to give
43 back.

44
45 Ms. Santiago commented on how each student communicated very effectively and were very
46 poised during the presentation.

47
48 Mr. Brosgol asked about the gender breakdown of students participating in D.E.C.A. Ms. Flora
49 said that this year, it seems that there are more males than females but this is not often the case.
50 The competitions definitely attract both male and females.

1
2 Mr. Brosgol asked about the cost to be part of D.E.C.A. Ms. Flora said that the students do need
3 to invest in business attire and it does cost to go to the competitions. There are several
4 fundraisers including a booth at Bedford Day to help defer the costs.
5

6 Mr. McAllister suggested reaching out to local businesses to help defray the costs.
7

8 Mr. McAllister complimented the students on their polished presentation and appreciates the hard
9 work and dedication of Ms. Flora.
10

11 Mr. Sills said he is very proud of the way Ms. Flora has built this program and that we should
12 figure out a way to get all kids exposed to such practical education.
13

14 **5. March 14th Commemoration**

15 Mr. Sills explained that March 14, 2018 is designated as National Student Walkout Day to
16 commemorate the students and adults that were killed in the Stoneman Douglas High School on
17 February 14, 2018 and to make a statement about what students would like to change as a result.
18

19 Mr. Sills noted that not all students may want to participate. Therefore, the Principals at each
20 school in Bedford have been thinking about this event. Each recognizes that civic
21 engagement/activism is important for students but public schools should not take political
22 positions. Mr. Sills agreed and said that teachers should not take a position but should encourage
23 students to listen and learn. Teachers should create safe places for the students.
24

25 Mr. Sills also said that student's do have a first amendment right but cannot disrupt education.
26

27 Therefore, Mr. Sills said the Principals at the middle and high school have determined age
28 appropriate ways to help students participate in the National Walk-Out Day without causing a
29 disruption to their school day. The elementary schools will not participate since all feel it is
30 inappropriate for this age group to tie anything in to the Florida tragedy.
31

32 The Middle School will have a moment of silence and possibly light candles to commemorate
33 lives lost at the high school in Florida.
34

35 The High School has planned a 17 minute break where any student (or teacher) who wants to, can
36 walk out to the football field to gather to memorialize the 17 lives lost at Stoneman Douglas High
37 School on Feb. 14, 2018. Police will be present to ensure this remains a safe and peaceful event
38 for high school students only. Mr. Sills said it is inappropriate for community members to join
39 the students at this time.
40

41 Mr. Sills said that both of these events fall in line with Bedford Public School's tradition of
42 memorializing lives lost. It was done following 9/11 and for graduates who have died while
43 serving the military. Mr. Sills said the plan is for this to be a memorial only. The schools are not
44 endorsing a student protest. He recognizes that students may do other things besides memorialize,
45 but he expects teachers to stay true to the memorial format.
46

47 Students, families and staff members will all be notified. Community members will also be
48 notified that this is a school event.
49

1 Mr. McAllister thanked Mr. Sills for being so thoughtful and clear on why the middle and high
2 schools' are having these memorials.

3
4 Ms. Santiago said this is a good opportunity to teach students how to communicate with their
5 legislators to make desired changes.

6
7 Mr. Sills acknowledged that the schools are walking a fine line but feels it will be a good day.

8
9 **6. Superintendent's Report**

10 Mr. Sills said that the annual Bedford Public School's newsletter is being mailed to all residents
11 and should be received before Town Meeting which starts on Monday, March 26th.

12
13 Mr. Sills reported that Friday, March 9th is a no school day for students and a full professional day
14 for staff. Ed Camp will be held at the high school for teachers from all buildings. Also, Audrey
15 Jackson, 2016 Teacher of the Year, will be the keynote speaker.

16
17 Mr. Sills reported that two neighborhood meetings were held – Davis and Lane- to update
18 residents on the school building projects.

19
20 **7. Minutes for Approval**

21 Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

22 **MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the January 30, 2018 School**
23 **Committee meeting.**

24 **MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol**

25 **MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

26
27 **8. Adjournment**

28 Ms. Guay made the following motion.

29 **MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. not to reopen.**

30 **MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

31 **MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

32
33 **Roll Call Vote:**

34 **Mr. McAllister** Yes

35 **Mr. Brosgol** Yes

36 **Ms. Santiago** Yes

37 **Ms. Scoville** Yes

38 **Ms. Guay** Yes

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Ms. Santiago 4/10/2018
School Committee Secretary Date

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BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
March 6, 2018
Exhibits/Documents

- Presentation: BHS Business Education and D.E.C.A
- Draft of minutes of the January 30, 2018 School Committee meeting