

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 8, 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, and Ms. Scoville. Ms. Guay was expected to arrive later.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills asked for approval of an out-of-state field trip request by Mr. Sunderland, BHS history teacher. A high school student is eligible to attend the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland on June 10-14, 2018. The student earned this opportunity by placing second in the Massachusetts competition. Mr. Sunderland will also attend.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip for one student (Eran Zelixon) to attend the National History Day Competition at the University of Maryland on June 10-14, 2018 at no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0 (Ms. Guay was absent)

Mr. Joe Casey, eighth grade social studies teacher, asked the School Committee to approve the annual Washington DC trip for 8th graders. Next year, 8th graders will travel to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 through Friday, May 24, 2019. This will be the 43rd year that this trip has been held. The trip is an integral part of the middle school experience and a much loved tradition at JGMS. The trip is coordinated by tour company World Strides. All students have the opportunity to go. Financial aid is available. Those that cannot go will go on local field trips.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the annual Washington D.C. trip for 8th graders on May 21 -24, 2019 at a cost of \$839 per student and no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0 (Ms. Guay was absent)

Mr. Sills asked for permission for 2 teachers, Megan Farrell and Kate Berrien, to attend the August Reading Institute at Columbia University in New York on August 6-10, 2018. This institute is designed for educators, classroom teachers, school administrators and curriculum specialists to turn their classrooms into richly literate reading and writing workshops. The cost to attend this will come from the Professional Development budget.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee allow two teachers to attend the August Reading

Institute at Columbia University in New York on August 6-10, 2018 at a cost of \$850 per teacher to be taken from the Professional Development budget.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0 (Ms. Guay was absent)

Mr. Sills announced the following:

Resignations:

Julia Herman	Elementary Teacher	Lane
Vera Corbett	Kindergarten Teacher	Davis
Katherine Fuller	Music Teacher	Lane

Transfer:

Julie Lane	Special Education Teacher	Davis to Lane
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Appointment:

Bette Jervinis	.5 Interventionist	Davis
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Mr. Sills presented two updated policies for review – “Administering Medicine to Students” and “Life Threatening Allergies” policies. He explained that the policies have been updated to reflect protocol on regulations governing administration of prescription medication. The language is drawn from state law.

Mr. McAllister said that since this is the first time that the School Committee has seen these policies, he will ask for a vote on it at the next School Committee meeting.

4. Technology and Library Media Department: Digital Literacy Presentation

This presentation was given by Ms. Donna Clements, Director of Technology and Library Media Department. Highlights of the presentation include:

- The vision of the department is, “Through the use of technology, students will build their own personal learning networks, collaborate with others, and be producers of knowledge, content, and creative expression.”
- The department believes that integrating technology in new and effective ways will help our students be:
 - *Reflective learners
 - *Creators of knowledge
 - *Critical thinkers and problem solvers of real world issues
 - *Digitally literate
 - *Good digital citizens
- The work of the Technology and Library Media Department is guided by the Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science frameworks. The vision of DESE is “to engage students in digital literacy and computer science skills and concepts through the integration of practices, while making connections to what they know and the world they live in”. Guiding principles and strands were explained.
- Curriculum follows the belief that digital literacy and computer science knowledge, reasoning and skills are essential both to prepare students for personal and civic efficacy

in the 21st century and to prepare and inspire a much larger and more diverse number of students to pursue the innovative and creative careers of the future. The abilities to effectively use and create technology to solve complex problems are the new and essential literacy skills of the twenty-first century.

Ms. Clements then shared a variety of projects from the schools as examples of how strands of the frameworks are met.

Ms. Clements further explained that our school libraries have changed as a result of the focus on computational thinking. Elementary school libraries are now “laboratories of change” and promote digital literacy skills. These are known as “Makerspaces” at Davis and Lane schools. Makerspaces are hands on learning environment where learning is highly personal and student initiated. Components of these “makerspaces” are being added to the middle and high school libraries too.

Ms. Clements said that today’s K-5 library programs better support the classroom curriculum. The Integrated Technologist and the Librarians meet often with teachers to learn what’s happening in the classrooms and to make a plan to complement it at the library/makerspace. They also held a professional development day to show teachers all that is available and how it can help answer essential questions of the curriculum.

Ms. Clements said that design challenges are very popular at the middle school, especially with 6th graders. The “Design Lab” is a very fun and engaging space. More development is needed with teachers.

There is also a focus on developing students’ research skills and our librarians are our research experts. Lane held a research skill workshop for teachers. The librarians try to coordinate these skills with classroom lessons.

Ms. Clements also reported that she has spent a lot of time looking and learning about student digital portfolios. She had an interesting visit at Weston Public Schools and the Francis Parker School in Devens. Bedford teachers are just beginning to curate students’ work.

Ms. Clements also showed a variety of examples of technology enhancing student learning and reflecting on work.

In summary, Ms. Clements said that the Technology and Library Media Department is committed to bring about change and will do so by:

- Having Instructional Coaches and Technology Integration Specialists provide development for teachers in individual, small and large group work.
- Having librarians who are instructional partners especially in research and adopting the makerspace philosophy.
- Sharing best practices
- Continuing with Ed Camp offerings where teachers are the leaders.

Ms. Guay thanked Ms. Clements and was amazed to see how technology has transformed the classroom.

Ms. Scoville is excited to learn about the makerspace because she sees so many benefits for teachers and students. She hopes the makerspace philosophy is embraced in addition to more traditional teaching methods. She would like to follow the progress towards digital portfolios too.

Ms. Santiago thanked Ms. Clements for her enthusiasm for bringing technology to the classroom. She is also pleased to learn more girls are involved in coding.

Mr. Brosgol asked how new software and tools are kept current. Ms. Clements said the department has tried to streamline the programs offered and to try to use the Google platform whenever possible.

Mr. McAllister asked how many were in the department. Ms. Clements said there is one Integrated Technologist for Davis and Lane but will be adding another one who will also incorporate instructional coaching. There are 2 instructional coaches who work with JGMS and BHS.

5. Energy Task Force

Mr. Alex Deng and Mr. Tassir Alani, members of the town-wide Energy Task Force, were present at that meeting to ask the School Committee for help in achieving town-wide energy goals and to help implement some of the challenging initiatives laid out in the updated Energy Policy. They hope that the schools (as well as all town organizations) will help establish Energy Teams and Captains who can lead their schools/departments in meeting energy goals and increase awareness of new metrics.

Mr. Deng said that he recognizes the value of employees' time and he does not want to be a burden, but the Energy Task Force needs help in finding ways to implement changes and energy-saving measures.

Mr. McAllister agrees that schools are a good place to do this. He suggests finding teachers and staff who are early adopters. He also said that elementary students especially can be eager to help if you give them special "jobs" that help implement the new programs or to hold contests. He also suggests finding ways to "visualize" the goals.

Ms. Scoville suggested connecting efforts with recycling efforts in the schools.

Ms. Santiago asked if the policy could be used to give town-wide guidance on what is feasible for standards for constructing or renovating our buildings. Mr. Alani thought this was a good idea.

The School Committee agreed to vote on approving the updated Energy Policy at the next meeting.

6. Math Text Book Presentation

Mr. Patrick Morrissey, Math Program Administrator Grades 6-12, asked the School Committee to approve the purchase and adoption of new Statistics text book. Mr. Morrissey reminded the Committee that the High School will be offering an AP Statistics class and needs a new text book that meets College Board requirements. Currently, teachers of Honors Statistics use a hodgepodge of texts and online resources as well as teacher created materials.

Mr. Morrissey is proposing the purchase of “Stats, Modeling the Word” for both the AP and Honors class. He really liked the readability, regular checks for understanding, real world examples, and the extra teacher support.

Mr. Morrissey would like to purchase 75 text books at a total cost of \$9,582.60. Mr. Morrissey noted that online texts are now more expensive than printed. He said that there is money in the budget for this purchase. He also has some professional development funds available for teachers to attend an AP Stats class in the summer.

Mr. Morrissey said he believes that AP Stats will be more popular than AP Calculus. Twenty-five kids have already signed up for the class next year!

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the adoption of the text book, “Stats, Modeling the Word”, 5th edition.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

7. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Sills said he hopes that Ms. Clements presentation showed how technology can enhance student learning. He also said that there are plans to pilot a Google program to help us move to digital portfolios.

Mr. Sills also reported that Ms. Sallee is looking at two different Google platforms to help pull together all of the data the schools have and to help present it in a very appealing and usable way.

Ms. Sallee said we are considering using a data visualization program that will help present data and to pull data from Google sheets to a dashboard. We are also looking at another tool that will help with visualizing the larger picture and move us closer to looking at students on a longitudinal basis.

Mr. Sills said that enrollment in French has grown and a new teacher has been hired at JGMS. The high school also needs to add a .2 to handle the enrollment increase in French.

Mr. Sills reported that Kate Boynton, Assistant Principal at BHS, has been selected to be Principal of Reading High School.

Mr. Sills is looking to create an inter-racial advisory committee made up of families. So far, 35 people have volunteered.

8. Minutes

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

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

9. Adjournment

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:00 not to reopen

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

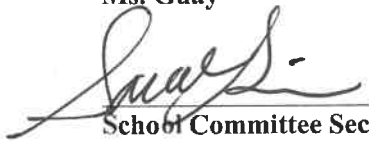
Mr. McAllister **Yes**

Mr. Brosgol **Yes**

Ms. Santiago **Yes**

Ms. Scoville **Yes**

Ms. Guay **Yes**



School Committee Secretary

Date

1/22/19

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 8, 2018
Exhibits/Documents

- Technology and Library Media Department: Digital Literacy presentation
- Energy Policy Presentation
- Stats Text Book presentation
- Draft of April 10, 2018 School Committee meeting minutes