

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 22, 2019
Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Santiago, Ms. Scoville, and Mr. McAllister. Ms. Guay arrived a little bit late.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Mothers Out Front Presentation

Several members of Bedford's Mothers Out Front organization (Kristina Phillipson, Ranae Nichols, Corinne Doud, Janet Powers and Renu Bostwick) were on hand to present a donation to the schools. Ms. Phillipson spoke, reminding the School Committee that the organization works on a host of initiatives to address climate change. One initiative was introduced to the School Committee earlier in the year. Mothers Out Front and partner Revised Energy have been promoting no-cost home energy assessments in order to help Bedford homeowners reduce consumption of fossil fuels for electricity, heating and cooling. As part of the promotion, Revised Energy agreed to donate to the school department \$35 for each energy assessment completed in Bedford.

Mr. Dan Carroll of Revised Energy, explained that 142 assessments have been completed to date and he was here to present a check to Bedford Public Schools for \$4,970. The donation is to support the installation of solar panels on the schools.

Mr. Brosgol and Mr. Sills accepted the donation and expressed their gratitude to Revised Energy and to Mothers Out Front.

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee accept the donation of \$4,970 from Revised Energy to the Bedford Public Schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

4. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills presented an overnight field trip request from Lane School teachers Jamie Nolan and Kristen Lerra. The teachers would like to take 14 Lane School students to New Hampshire on June 13-14, 2019 on a hiking/camping trip known as the "Bedford Boston Outdoor Connections Field Trip". The purpose of the trip is to foster connections with Bedford and Boston students. A similar trip was taken last year and was very successful. The trip will take place at the AMC Lodge on Mr. Cardigan in New Hampshire. All seven residing METCO students and 7 Bedford students will be selected by application and lottery. There is no cost to the students. The cost to the schools will be \$2,240.

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Bedford Boston Outdoor Connections

Field Trip to the AMC Lodge on Mt. Cardigan in New Hampshire on June 13-14, 2019 for 14 selected students from Lane School at a cost of \$2,240 to the school department and no cost to the students.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills reported that so far, the school district has received 27 applications for the Assistant Superintendent position.

5. FY'20 Budget

Mr. Sills explained that he would present some budget alternatives as requested by the School Committee at the last meeting. But before he did this, he reviewed State and Federal Mandates that effect the budget request for FY20.

Mr. Sills noted the following mandates as drivers of the FY20 budget:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Accountability Regulations and High Needs Student

- Achievement – MCAS scores
- Student Growth
- High School Completion
- Progress towards English Proficiency
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Advanced Coursework completion

ELL New Indicators

- Students to achieve English language proficiency in six years
- Targets set for each ELL student
- School and district performance will be measured

Every Child Succeeds Act

IDEA and M.G.L. Chapter 766

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

603 CMR 53 Student Discipline

Mr. Sills also discussed some adjustments he made to the original budget request for Reading personnel which is needed for ELA leadership, coaching and teaching needs in the district. Mr. Sills proposes changing the request to the following:

- 1.0 6-12 Reading Program Administrator: .4 Admin/.6 Bhs Reading teacher
- Make the K-5 ELA coordinator full time and cover the .5 Reading Coach need at Lane.
- This results in a budget request which is \$46,219 lower

Mr. Sills then laid out his proposal for a 3.75 Increase FY'20 Budget (\$93,452 reduction):

- Reduce supplies by \$17, 000 across district (this should not increase the burden on teachers to provide their own supplies)

- Collapse a section of math at High School and save \$14,708
- Delay purchasing all desired Grade 7 Math texts (\$3,422) to future year
- Eliminate the science and social studies coordinator stipends at Davis and Lane (\$16,870)
- Reduce Professional Development budget by \$10,000
- Hire internal Reading Program Administrator, .4 Reading Interventionist that is a contractor, and reduce Library EA at the high school to .3 (\$31,452)

Mr. Sills noted that if he was unable to hire an internal candidate, the savings would be reduced to \$93,201.

Mr. Sills explained a proposed 3.5% Increase Budget (\$192,481 reduction)

- All of the above
- Reduce supplies by an additional \$8,000
- Delay first year leases on Davis Ipads \$8,000
- Reduce purchasing supplementary reading materials \$6,510
- Do not move forward with an additional .05 Recess EA at Davis \$1,300
- Do not move forward with an additional .1 Recess EA at Lane \$1,850
- Do not move forward with a library EA at High School \$9,273
- Do not move forward with a contract math Interventionist at Davis \$25,638
- Do not move forward with a .2 Gifted teacher \$12,819
- Do not move forward with adding .2 ELL and elementary schools \$12,819
- Do not move forward with adding .2 Adjustment Counselor at Davis \$12,819

Mr. Coelho explained that the school department needs to account for a \$60,000 deduction in the budget for the school's share of the new phone and internet service and equipment which was installed this summer.

Mr. McAllister said that the first budget option (a 3.75% increase) is certainly more palatable. He feels the 3.5% option makes much deeper reductions. He is not ready to make these types of decisions.

Mr. Sills agreed with Mr. McAllister.

Ms. Scoville said that the Davis School 'cuts' seem risky since the new building will be much larger and will house the preschool program. She thinks Davis will need all the support it can get.

Ms. Santiago and Mr. Brosgol agreed with the Davis School concerns.

Mr. Brosgol said that he is comfortable not taking a vote or firm position on the budget tonight especially given the unknown on how best to handle the \$60,000 phone and internet charge and the amount of the new bus contract.

Mr. McAllister suggested that the School Committee go to the Finance Committee and show them the reductions that have been discussed but explain that no vote was taken given the unknowns.

School Committee members agreed with Mr. McAllister and agreed not to vote on a FY20 the budget request number tonight.

Mr. Sills agreed that he will present the original budget request (3.97% increase) and adjust it accordingly if we know more about the bus contract. He will present the school's budget strategy to make reductions and ask the Finance Committee be part of this discussion.

Mr. McAllister said to remind the Finance Committee that the School Committee reviewed the budget in its entirety (line by line).

The School Committee thanked Mr. Sills and Mr. Coelho for the helpful information presented tonight.

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported:

- On Friday, there were very productive professional days held at all of the schools.
- The MLK Breakfast was a wonderful event. Mr. Sills participated with several high school students and graduates
- Principal Ackerman will lead the search committee for the Assistant Superintendent
- There were no facility or transportation issues today with school opening on such a frigid day.
- The CASE Collaborative has hired a new Finance Director

Mr. Sills reported that he is in the process of receiving applications for the Assistant Superintendent and that a search committee will be formed. He expects that candidates will be narrowed down to 10 for initial interviews after February break. He hopes to see 2-3 finalists which he will bring to each school. He expects a decision to be made sometime in Mid-March.

7. Minutes

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Future Agenda

- Creating textbooks (library)
- ELL presentation

9. Adjournment

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:40, not to re-open.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

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


School Committee Secretary


Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Jan. 22 2019
Exhibits/Documents

- Superintendent's FY20 Budget Proposal Presentation
- Draft of the January 8, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes