

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**January 29, 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, Ms. Guay, and Mr. McAllister. Samantha Gallant, Student Representative, was also in attendance.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Program of Studies Presentation**

Principal Heather Galante, Assistant Principal Tom Casey and Assistant Principal Dan Hudder presented the proposed changes to the High School's Program of Studies for 2019-2020. Ms. Galante explained that there are no major changes and that all changes were discussed with Program Administrators over the last couple of weeks. Ms. Galante distributed the Executive Summary and the entire Program of Studies to the School Committee members.

One change being made is that the opportunity to change levels of a course (or switch courses) is now limited to the first three weeks of school. The three week mark was selected because it will allow teachers some time to get to know the students and students will have time to experience two cycles of classes and assignments. The goal is to finalize schedules earlier in the year. Requests for schedule changes after the deadline due to extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis by teacher, Program Administrator, and Director of Guidance and Counseling.

Mr. Casey noted that the name of the Guidance Department will be changed to Guidance and Counseling Department. This is a more current term and is recognized by professional organizations. Mr. Brosgol suggested that the department's mission statement be tightened up a bit.

Mr. Hudder reported that the math department is adding a college prep level to Pre-Calculus. Also the language for 9<sup>th</sup> grade placement in math courses has been amended to reflect current practices. Ms. Galante said she thought the current version of the math placement process seemed overly prescriptive and has even deterred some students choosing higher level math classes.

Ms. Gallant, student representative, said she thought adding a college prep level of Pre-Calculus was a great idea.

Mr. Hudder also reported that a new business class will be offered next year – "Hospitality and Tourism". This course will be taught by the DECA advisor, Ms. Flora. She thinks it will be a nice bridge to the DECA program.

Mr. Casey reported that participation in the fall play or winter musical will now be a requirement for the Theater Production courses. Ms. Guay asked if this meant athletes can no longer take the

Theater Production class. Ms. Galante said athletes can take the class and participate as crew or other non-cast parts of the productions.

Mr. Brosgol suggested that the Occupation Ed section be updated due to the Preschool moving to the new Davis School. For example, consider possibly adding that students will have to provide their own transportation.

Ms. Scoville asked how the new heterogeneous classes have been received by students and teachers. Ms. Galante said overall they were well received and that she is gathering information on this topic in order to present to School Committee later on in the year.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Bedford High School 2019-2020 Program of Studies as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

#### **4. FY'20 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Sills presented three FY'20 budget scenarios reflecting lower budget increase percentages for FY20. He began the discussion by reviewing the School's revolving funds. He said he is pleased that the Finance Committee does not ask the schools to exhaust any of the funds. However, he warns we may lose capacity to use these funds in the future. For example, he is proposing to use \$10,000 from the School Rental fund this year but in FY23 it will no longer be available to use as an offset. The Food Services account is another example. Additional revenue earned from Food Services will be used for cafeteria improvements but in FY'26 this offset will also be reduced.

Mr. McAllister commented that Bedford rarely increases lunch prices and the meals are a great value for families. He asked if the new point-of-sale systems at the schools have helped increase participation and if we have a large amount of uncollected lunch bills. Mr. Coelho said he would get these details for Mr. McAllister.

Mr. McAllister asked Mr. Sills and Mr. Coelho if we are meeting the balance goals that School Committee recently set for all of the schools' Revolving Funds. Mr. Sills said yes, but he is unsure that the formula used to do this was the right one. He plans to review and will bring the information back to the School Committee at a future date this year.

Mr. Sills's alternative FY'20 budget requests are as follows (down from 3.83%):

#### **Option 1 Budget increase of 3.75% - \$41,884,793**

- \$26,225 revolving fund offset (one time)
- Reduce supplies \$25,000
- Reduce the number of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math texts \$2,817
- Delay 1<sup>st</sup> year lease of Ipads at Davis \$8,000

#### **Option 2 Budget increase of 3.6% - \$41,844,365 (all of Option 1 plus the following):**

- Further reduction in 7<sup>th</sup> grade math texts \$4,544
- Reduce support positions throughout all schools request by \$23,385 (Mr. Sills discussed in detail)

- Reduce Assessment and Professional Development budget by \$10,000
- Reduce the amount of supplementary reading materials purchased for elementary schools by \$2,500

**Option 3 Budget increase of 3.50% (all of the above plus the following):**

- Hire an internal candidate for the Reading Program Administrator and hire a Reading teacher at a lesser cost \$31,452
- Eliminate the Science and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinators at Lane and Davis \$16,870
- Do not move forward with hiring a .2 Gifted teacher \$12,819
- Do not move forward with hiring support personnel at all \$31,190

Mr. McAllister said that he thinks the 3.6% budget increase seems logical and does not seem to cause a lot of uncomfortable change. He thinks that all of Mr. Sills's proposals are well thought out and rationalized. He appreciates that the "cuts" are minimal and spread out. He would like to understand more about doing away with some of things – the Science and Social Studies Curriculum positions for example.

Ms. Guay said her immediate concern is the reduction in the amount of funding for assessments and professional development. She also hopes that the math text book purchase can be done in the near future. She agrees that the 3.6% budget is comfortable.

Ms. Scoville expressed concern that the new, larger Davis School will need as much support as possible and is afraid reductions in the amount of support personnel here may be risky. She is however, comfortable with the 3.6% budget option.

Ms. Santiago agreed with her colleagues that the 3.6% budget scenario was adequate but was not comfortable with other proposals especially in ELL and Curriculum Coordinator positions.

Mr. Brosgol said he generally supports the 3.6% budget option.

Mr. Brosgol asked School Committee members if they feel uncomfortable with any of the specific reductions (from original budget request).

Mr. McAllister said he believes that Mr. Sills and his leadership team must feel comfortable with the options proposed tonight. Other members agreed. Mr. Sills said he is comfortable with the 3.6% option. However, he feels that FY'21 will need some substantial funding for counseling and the SAIL programs and anticipates that the budget request will be closer to 4%.

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee agree to reduce \$102,471 from the original FY'20 budget request in order to get to a total FY'20 budget request of \$41,844,365 (3.65%).**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

## **5. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sills handed out the new "BHS Post Secondary Guide for Students" which was funded by BHSPA and put together by Alicia Lindsey, K-12 Guidance Director

Mr. Sills also reported that the Leadership team has looked at a new Student Information Program which will house student achievement data. He believes this will be a powerful tool for teachers and will present this to the School Committee later this year.

Ms. Sallee reported that all schools had a successful Professional Day last Friday.

**BHS**

There was an Ed Camp style day with the focus on Equity. Lots of students of students participated and shared their perspectives in the workshops for teachers. Also Ms. Gallant, student representative, led a workshop about her experience at the EDCO Equity Conference earlier this year. She led the activity which helped teachers learn how to be an ally and how they can foster a safe environment and promote equity at our school. Mr. Sills and a group of students also led a workshop for the high school teachers.

**JGMS**

The focus on the day was on literacy – specifically comprehension.

**Lane**

Mr. Sills addressed the teachers on equity background and Kristin Johnson spoke about her METCO experiences.

**Davis**

Teachers looked at student data, identified patterns and discussed instructional practices at the grade level meetings.

Ms. Santiago said that during February vacation, there are several critical things that need to be done on the Davis School project. Also, the Davis School Building Committee has voted to NOT keep the modular buildings once the new school is open.

**6. Future Agenda**

Mr. McAllister suggested that the School Committee revisit the topic of imposing fees for certain things like parking.

Ms. Santiago would like to review the Capital requests to ensure everything is included in the six year plan.

**7. Adjournment**

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:45 not to reopen**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Mr. McAllister Yes



4.23.19

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Jan. 29, 2019**  
**Exhibits/Documents**

- Executive Summary for Proposal for Changes Bedford High School Program of Studies 2019-20
- Revised Program of Studies 2019-2020