

# **BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF:**

**January 22, 2010**

### **1. Call to Order:**

Mr. Pierce called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:37 am. Members present were Mr. Pierce, Ms. Bickford, Mr. Hafer, Ms. O’Gara, and Ms. Seibert. Also attending were Dr. LaCroix, Superintendent of Schools; David Coelho, Director of Finance; Meredith McCulloch and Bob Kenney, Finance Committee representatives; and Irene Gravina, SEPAC representative.

### **2. FY11 Budget Discussion:**

Discussion continued toward aligning the proposed FY11 School Department budget with the Finance Committee guideline of \$31,743,189. The guideline remains unchanged after the meeting of the Fiscal Planning Committee this week.

School Committee members further reviewed the itemized list of potential cuts to the original proposed budget of \$32,781,189 on December 1, 2009. This discussion had begun at the January 12, 2010 School Committee meeting. A reduction of \$1,038,054 would be necessary to reach the Fincom guideline.

The following areas were discussed for possible reductions:

Grade 2 teacher, high school professional staff, middle school gifted program teacher, computers, summer custodial staff, library staff, School Resource Officers, middle school summer professional work, supplies at all schools, Director of Curriculum, Director of Occupational Education. Athletic Department staff (likely assistant freshman football coach), middle school music staff, Davis School office equipment, Special Education contract services, and window cleaning contract service.

The implications of reductions were discussed. Particular concerns were noted about depleting supply budgets to the extent that parents may be asked to provide classroom items or that some specialized supplies (e.g., elementary science) may be in short supply. Further discussion noted concerns about sustainability of program quality and building maintenance. All personnel changes were reviewed and implications noted.

Agreement was generally reached to a discrepancy of \$350,000-400,000 with the Fincom guideline. Items not agreed for reduction included:

JGMS music teacher, School Resource Officers, library staff, JGMS Gifted teacher, computer replacement, BHS teaching staff, grade 2 teacher, supplies.

Dr. LaCroix planned to meet with the Administrative Team to finalize recommendations after this discussion. The School Committee will meet on January 26 to vote a

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recommended FY11 budget for presentation to the Finance Committee on January 28. Finance committee representatives asked to meet with Mr. Pierce for further discussion.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved: to adjourn at 8:47 am** (Ms. O’Gara)

**Motion seconded** (Mr. Hafer)

**Motion approved: 5-0**

Role call vote:

Ms. Bickford                      yes

Mr. Hafer                              yes

Ms. O’Gara                              yes

Mr. Pierce                              yes

Ms. Seibert                              yes

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School Committee Secretary

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Date

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