

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
November 19, 2013
Bedford High School - Large Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Pierce called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Seibert, Mr. Hafer, Mr. McAllister and Ms. Guay. Ms. Emily Moss, student representative, was also in attendance.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills made the following informational announcements:

Coaching Appointments at the High School

Beth Billouin	Cheerleading
Joseph Pike	Indoor Track – head coach
Ken Norling	Indoor Track – assistant
Jim Byrnes	Varsity Boys' Basketball coach
Vin McGrath	Co-JV Boys' Basketball coach
Tom Brinklow	Co-JV Boys' Basketball coach
Jeff McGrath	Co-Freshman Boys' Basketball coach
Ryne Tillman	Co-Freshman Boys' Basketball coach
Matthew Ryan	Varsity Girls' Basketball coach
Jim Greenwood	JV Girls' Basketball coach
TBA	Freshman Girls' Basketball coach
Rich Carson	Rifle
Peter Dion	Varsity Ice Hockey coach
Michael Sargent	Assistant Ice Hockey coach
Meagan Asp	Varsity Swimming coach
TBA	Assistant Swimming coach
Derek Johnson	Varsity Skiing coach
Amanda Rabesa	Athletic Trainer

Middle School Coaching appointments

Akil Mondesir	Boys' Basketball
TBD	Girls' Basketball

4. Technology Infrastructure Presentation

Ms. Donna Clements and Mr. Max Turkewitz gave an overview of the school department's technology infrastructure. Mr. Turkewitz began by defining some of the equipment being used or in need.

For example:

Access Points – wireless devices used to connect the network and Internet

WLAN – pipeline over the network

Switches – allows network devices to talk to one another

Servers- special computers dedicated to storing and serving information to users

Bandwidth – network capacity, determined by the number of devices and applications used.

Mr. Turkewitz noted that access points should be installed at the same time and be the same make and model.

Mr. Turkewitz also explained the lifespan of infrastructure capital, in general. For example, Access Points have a 7-year life span as do WLAN Controllers, Switches and Core Switches.

The High School has the following:

- 120 Access Points
- 1 WLAN (serves 125 licenses)
- 29 Switches
- 1 core switch
- 50 mbps bandwidth

Mr. Turkewitz reviewed what was at the other schools and noted that it was all somewhat limited.

Ms. Clements then presented an overview of the desired implementation and renewal plan for all the schools for the years FY'15-FY'23. She based the plan on renewal estimates of 7 years, The plan is her best guess in terms of cost and future technology.

For FY'15

BHS	nothing until FY'17
JGMS	\$160,000 to replace 18 access points, install additional access points, add a WLAN controller
Lane	\$20,000 to replace two switches
Davis	\$20,000 to replace two switches

Mr. McAllister asked if there would ever be enough bandwidth. Mr. Turkewitz agreed that the need for bandwidth is always and will always be growing as demand for quality increases.

Ms. Clements noted that the new PARCC testing will require a lot of technical and bandwidth capacity, something that was not anticipated a couple of years ago.

Mr. McAllister asked is there was any state funding available for this new mandate for PARCC testing. Ms. Clements said none that she knew about. Mr. Sills added that the state is looking at funding for technology but he is not sure what will become of this.

Mr. McAllister said that after reviewing the information presented to him, he estimates that it will cost approximately \$190,000 per year for technology infrastructure implementation and renewal.

Ms. Seibert said that the School Committee needs to keep in mind that this technology plan is fluid and that things can change. She also noted that the town is looking into a fiber optic loop. She asked Mr. Turkewitz how this might affect the schools. Mr. Turkewitz said we would need equipment to access the new fiber and that would depend on how much bandwidth is allocated to the schools.

Mr. Hafer thanked Mr. Turkewitz and Ms Clements for the clear presentation on the school's infrastructure.

Mr. Pierce asked for individual costs of each piece of the infrastructure plan. Mr. Turkewitz agreed to provide.

Mr. McAllister asked why we did not use “cloud” or remote servers. Mr. Turkewitz said the main concern is with privacy since the data has sensitive student information. This option would also consume a lot of our bandwidth.

4. FY’15 Budget Discussion

Mr. Sills presented a preliminary look of the identified needs for FY’15.

Mr. Sills identified the budget drivers:

- Enrollment increases at Davis and the pressure on class size at the high school
- Federal and state mandates
- Growth of successful in-house special education programs
- Providing a level of instruction needed as student body is more complex and individualized instruction is required.

Mr. Sills shared a preliminary chart of anticipated personnel needs and other anticipated costs. The total increase is 6.4% over last year’s budget. Some of the needs are as follows:

- An additional psychologist due to the numbers of initial evaluations and re-evaluations done in district.
- ELL students are continuing to grow especially at Davis.
- The high school needs more directed study teachers, in order to be in compliance with time and learning hours.
- The high school needs one more full time technology specialist.
- Lane, Davis and JGMS need to get devices in the hand of students (not necessarily one-to-one)

Ms. Guay asked how many languages are spoken in the district. Mr. Sills said twenty-five. He explained that we cannot support 25 languages but that’s ok because we are not offering a bi-lingual education. ELL teachers teach language- total immersion. The teachers help students acquire learning language to help students learn.

Dr. Jackson noted that the district does need help with translation for parents and in writing documents, especially IEPs, in native languages. Technology helps a lot with this.

Mr. McAllister said that this presentation was a great preview and he thinks that every town in Massachusetts is faced with same challenges – ELL mandates, PARCC, SPED etc.

Ms. Seibert said that the budget request clearly demonstrates our responsibilities to provide high quality education and to meet mandates. The budget identifies pressures upon us as a district.

Mr. Hafer said he hopes that the town understands the pressures and can provide town-wide support.

Mr. Steele, a member of the Finance Committee in the audience, said the town is right now looking at a guideline of 3% increase in budgets.

Mr. Pierce said that society expects students to know more when they graduate high school, and the budget shows the costs to do so.

Mr. Pierce said that the next several meetings (Dec. 10th, Dec. 17th and January 8th) will be dedicated to the FY'15 budget.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported that the state education board voted today to approve the PARCC testing assessment and that it will replace MCAS. Every district will field test a portion of the new test. Mr. Sills said he is excited about the performance-based assessment. Bedford will test both the performance-based assessment, the end of year assessment and the MCAS this year.

The plan is that by 2014-2015, all districts in Massachusetts will choose MCAS or PARCC. The goal is that in 2016 all districts will do PARCC assessments in place of MCAS.

Mr. Sills said PARCC testing assesses a different type of learning. He thinks moving to PARCC testing will be a good thing for Bedford because it will assess the type of learning Bedford has been striving for. However, there will be serious roll-out issues especially as districts are just now rolling out the new common core curriculum.

Mr. Sills also gave an update on the Educator Evaluation System. He explained that we are in year 2 of the new system and that there will be a public report on how teachers fared in evaluations. Bedford created its own rubrics for each category. The school department and the faculty agreed that no teacher would rank the top "exemplary" for now. Mr. Sills said that he is concerned that the data reported will not be clearly accurate. He anticipates that the public reporting may be problematic.

Mr. Sills also reported that Mr. Mangan and Ms. Suprise gave him a proposal for upgrading the fitness room at the high school. The proposed budget to do this is \$61,000.

Mr. Sills said he will bring firm numbers to the next meeting.

6. Liaison Reports

Ms. Guay said that the BEF winter grant cycle is about to begin. She also reminded everyone of the December 7th BEF fundraiser at Waxy O'Connors.

Ms. Seibert said the CEC was pleased with the School Committee's capital budget presentation.

Mr. Hafer said he is the liaison to the Energy Task Force.

7. Minutes

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the June 11, 2013 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by MR. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Future Agenda

FY'15 Budget discussions will continue.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:30

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Pierce **Yes**

Mr. Hafer **Yes**

Ms. Seibert **Yes**

Mr. McAllister **Yes**

Ms. Guay **Yes**

School Committee Secretary

Date _____

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 19, 2013

Exhibits/Documents

- Presentation: Bedford Public Schools' Technology Infrastructure Implementation and Renewal Plan for FY'15 through FY'23
- Draft of minutes from the June 11, 2013 School Committee meeting.

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
November 19, 2013