

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
November 5, 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. Emily Moss, student representative was also in attendance.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Appointments:

Paula Gearan	Teaching Assistant at High School
Julie Phyllis	Food Service Worker at Lane

Extracurricular Appointments at Lane School

Jean Mickel	Student Council Co-Advisor
Cheryl Johnstone	Student Council Co-Advisor
Gloria DeRocco	Talent Show Co-Director
Gretchen Dick	Talent Show Co-Director

4. PE/Health/FAMCO Action Plan

Ms. Jackie Supprise reported on the department(s) action plan as a result of the key areas of concern that were identified during the recent self-study.

Fitness Facilities

The maintenance and safety of equipment at BHS and JGMS are concerning. Ms. Supprise has met with the Athletic Director and building Principals and will request additional funding for equipment maintenance and to develop a rotating replacement schedule.

PE at Davis

Recently, PE classes at Davis School were reduced to once a week as a result of curriculum changes in the classroom. Ms. Supprise will meet with the new Principal to see if there is a possibility of reinstating the twice a week schedule for PE for grades one and two.

Articulation of Assessments at Lane School

Ms. Supprise said she will be developing and utilizing authentic assessments at Lane School as suggested by the self-study team. Then, the assessment tools will be communicated to the parents.

Time for Collaboration

Ms. Supprise will work to increase curriculum review time and will incorporate national standards into PE, Health and FAMCO classes.

Ms. Supprise also described several other initiatives that she would like to work on:

- Reinstatement of adaptive PE

- Have PE teachers become more involved in the IEP process (or train or hire specialists to do this)
- PE staff will act as experts in the area of neuroscience, physical education and academic achievement. (Ms. Suprise will continue to explore professional development offerings in this area.)
- The JGMS health program needs a homebase. The schedule also needs to be adjusted to be able to have the classes meet more often in the cycle.
- The middle school scope and sequence of curriculum will be updated.
- BHS is offering a new wellness/fitness course, "Healthy Behaviors".
- Explore offering a wellness program for families and staff. Ms. Suprise would like to see students come up with ways to get everyone in the schools involved in health and wellness activities.
- Working on posting objectives and essential questions for all areas in PE.
- Would like professional development in assessments, motivating students, best practices and neuroscience and the benefits of movement on well being and academic performance.

Mr. McAllister asked if Ms. Suprise thought parents know that PE is goal and assessment driven. Ms. Suprise said not likely.

Mr. McAllister said that it was clear that there is a need for more funding (for equipment maintenance and replacement). He asked if she needed more staff too. Ms. Suprise said not really but if Davis School increased the meeting time of PE, there would be a need for more staff there and there is a need for an adaptive PE specialist.

Ms. Seibert asked if anything was going on with the district's Wellness Council. Ms. Suprise said that the council has not done anything recently but she would like the group to get together this year to regroup.

Mr. Hafer suggested Ms. Suprise put together some numbers for equipment maintenance and/or replacement for the capital budget process. Mr. Sills said he expects to see a proposal for new fitness equipment to come forth from Athletics and PE since these students share the equipment.

Emily Moss said that the new Health Behaviors course is very popular and that in general the students like the variety of options for all wellness classes.

5. FY'15 Capital Budget Plan

Mr. Sills discussed the \$160,000 proposal for technology upgrades at JGMS. He explained that we are unable to use the old access points from the high school because we are unable to secure a service contract on the equipment. He also learned that we cannot have two different types of access points and that we were wrong to assume we could reuse this equipment. He said that this proposed investment is important to make a one-to-one environment possible and it is also needed to use laptops and other current technology. Mr. Sills will have Donna Clements and Max Turkewitz come to a future School Committee meeting to further discuss this project and answer any questions.

Mr. Sills then proposed a priority list of capital projects.

Mr. McAllister said that all the projects seem necessary. He said that it is critical that everyone involved in the capital budget process understand that technology is now a consumable despite

its high cost. It does run out and fail. He said it will be helpful to hear from Ms. Clements and Mr. Turkewitz about industry standards on technology replacements and reinvestments. Also, as a rule of thumb, he thinks any capital project about health and safety should go to the top of the priority list.

Ms. Seibert wondered if it would be a better strategy to try to do JGMS, Davis and Lane all at once? Mr. Sills said he is comfortable having Lane and Davis stagger their upgrades. He also said that the bigger question is how does the town want to fund technology upgrades going forward.

School Committee members went through Mr. Sills suggestions and determined the priority list should be as follows:

1. Space Modifications at Davis and Lane
2. Access control at Lane and Davis
3. Technology Infrastructure – Server room upgrade
4. JGMS wireless expansion
5. First phase of wireless infrastructure work at Davis and Lane
6. Shatterproof window film on front doors of all school buildings
7. Lane School interactive white boards purchase and implementation
8. Davis Smart tables purchase and implementation
9. Press Box construction
10. JGMS music storage
11. Recommissioning at Lane
12. Upgrade stage equipment at JGMS
13. Acoustic treatment for Lane cafeteria
14. Walk-in freezer upgrade at Lane
15. Custodial equipment renewal at Lane
16. Copier replacements
17. Painting and flooring maintenance
18. Flooring tile replacement at Lane
19. Exhaust Fan at BHS science wing

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the FY'15 capital budget priority request as discussed this evening.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

6. Superintendent's Evaluation Goals

As part of the new Evaluation System, Mr. Sills presented his professional practice and student learning goals to the School Committee.

The following goals were put forward:

1. Develop FY'15 budget to support the Bedford Public School mission while negotiating a fair and affordable contract with the BEA.
2. Continue to build the leadership team's instructional leadership and collaborative culture.
3. Implement Phase 2 of Educator Evaluation System in ways that advance mission and learning goals.
4. Improve math skills for all subgroups in grades 4, 6,7,8 and reading comprehension skills in grades 2,3 and 4.

Mr. McAllister thanked Mr. Sills for using mandates to meet the school's mission.

Ms. Seibert said that it is risky to use MCAS scores as a measure but she recognizes that this goal shows Mr. Sills' commitment to equity.

Ms. Guay agreed with Ms. Seibert and suggested having the MCAS goal to be 10% improvement rather than 20%.

Mr. Hafer suggests that the MCAS goal should be, "no one in the warning category". He thinks MCAS is not a good measurement.

Mr. Sills thanked the School Committee and will consider their feedback and take another look at his goals.

7. Acceptance of Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. Tedeschi donated \$20,000 grant to JGMS for the Principal to use at his discretion. They did this because they are so thankful for the school helping their child.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee accept the generous gift of \$20,000 from the Alexander Tedeschi fund for use as needed by the Principal of JGMS.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

The School Committee thanked the Tedeschi family for this generous gift.

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills gave the School Committee an updated Demographic Report which showed how different Bedford students are today compared to previous years. The difference is not only in numbers (more) but also in complex diversity.

For example:

	Total	Low Income	ELL	SPED	African Amer./Latino	Non White
FY'04	2249	2.4%	1.1%	13%		17.5%
FY'14	2541	13.2%	5.1%	14%	13.8%	28.8%

Mr. Sills said these changes are evident in all classrooms.

The Demographic Report also analyzed the size of each grade. This information helped Mr. Sills predict that at Davis School, 10 first grades will be needed next year and 8 or 9 Kindergarten classrooms next year. (And 2nd grade will remain the same at 8). As a result, Mr. Sills said more FTEs will be needed in art and ELL.

Also, Mr. Sills expects that next year, BHS will have 35 major classes over class size guidelines. As a result he will be asking to add the following to the high school staffing:

1.0 FTE in science

1.0 FTE in English

1.0 FTE in Math

1.0 FTE in World Language

.6 FTE in PE
.2 FTE in ELL
1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant for Directed Studies.

9. Future Agenda

FY'15 Budget discussions

10. Adjournment

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:10

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

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 5, 2013

Exhibits/Documents

- Presentation: Action Plan Health and PE
- Changing Demographics and Class Size FTE Projections November 5, 2013

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
November 5, 2013