

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
January 22 2013
Bedford High School - Large Instruction Room**

1. Call to Order

At 7:33 p.m., Ms Bickford called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Hafer, Ms. O’Gara, Mr. Pierce, and Ms. Seibert.

2. Comments From Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills announced the following resignation:
Susan Lusk - Accounts Coordinator

4. League All-Stars – Keith Mangan

Mr. Mangan proudly announced several league all stars from BHS:

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|------------------------|---------------|
| Victoria Albert | Volleyball |
| John Dickson Meltz | Golf |
| Kevin Leskouski | Golf |
| Laura Coughlin | Field Hockey |
| Marissa Citrano | Field Hockey |
| Sam Bradford | Cross Country |
| Erin Dietz | Cross Country |
| Sarah Cowles | Girls Soccer |
| Bethany Rennich | Girls Soccer |
| Craig Kelly | Boys Soccer |
| Peter Whallon | Boys Soccer |
| Stephen Frazier | Boys Soccer |
| Mike Dushman | Boys Soccer |
| Kaera Spencer Peterson | Cheerleading |
| Bobby MacDonald | Football |
| Mike Hayes | Football |
| Billy Eliason | Football |
| Olan Abner | Football |

5. 2013-2014 School Calendar

Mr. Sills presented the calendar for the 2013 and 2014 school year. The calendar basically follows the same pattern as this year’s calendar. However, Mr. Sills has asked that Monday, December 23rd be part of winter vacation. He said he cannot imagine that it would a productive day and the calendar has a day at the end of the year to adjust for that. Mr. Sills noted that the calendar does not yet reflect workshop days or teacher conference days. He will present these to the School Committee at a later date. The two full day teacher workshop days are noted.

Mr. Pierce suggested that the start of fall sports be determined as soon as possible because it impacts families’ summer plans.

Ms. O’Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar as presented and amended this evening.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

6. Update Security Task Force

Mr. Sills noted that Mr. Jones identified a capital maintenance line item for \$51,038 from 2012 that was written for general projects at all four schools. Mr. Sills recommends using a portion of these funds for the security projects identified for each school.

Other available funds were identified including:

BHS Renovation Funds \$82,000 (some available)

Davis building account \$4,141

JGMS building account \$1,747

AC Compressor (Davis) \$ 5,500 (project completed)

JGMS Gym/hardware project \$19,242

JGMS door hardware \$12,600

JGMS Space renovations \$12,903

Lane Room renovations \$ 13,000

The School Committee and Mr. Sills discussed the above pending projects and balances. They decided to save some for the original purposes. Ultimately, the School Committee set aside \$7,200 for security costs.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee authorize up to \$12,000 for specified security measures for doors using BHS renovation funds.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. O’Gara

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills agreed to come back with the costs of upgrading the monitor-access system at the high school for next week’s meeting.

Mr. Sills summarized that the need for identified security measures at JGMS is \$18,750 and funds to pay for this will come from some painting line items. Ms. Bickford said she would like to know more specific information as to what will not get painted.

After further discussions, the School Committee identified funds to use to pay \$25,824 for security plans at JGMS, Lane and Davis schools. To accommodate this, there will be a change in the line item for interior painting allocation, School Committee reserve and possibly request from the Finance Committee a reserve fund transfer, if necessary.

The School Committee asked for clarification from Mr. Jones on the impact of delaying the interior painting.

Ms. Bickford suggested allocating all remaining building funds to get the security projects rolling.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve allocating \$2,000 out the Davis School Building Fund for design services at Davis School for security measures.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve allocating \$1,747 out of the JGMS School Building Fund for design services at JGMS for security measures.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. O’Gara

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills noted that the Security Task Force will meet again on January 28, 2013.

7. FY’14 Operating Budget Discussion

Ms. Bickford explained that the mission tonight for the School Committee is to vote on a FY’14 budget number to move forward to discussions with the Finance Committee.

The School Committee then reviewed the reductions they discussed at last week’s School Committee meeting. These reductions (from the original budget proposal) brought the budget request down to \$34,436,839. All members were still in agreement with the proposed reductions.

The School Committee then discussed the items on hold from last week’s meeting. The first item discussed was the need for iPads in the elementary schools.

Ms. Bickford asked Mr. Sills to explain the plan for iPad use in the elementary schools. Mr. Sills said that he does not really know what technology is ideal in the elementary environment. Is it Smartboards? Tablets? iPods? Therefore, he would like to pilot iPad use in Davis and Lane schools. He does not want to use this device as a one-to-one environment, like it is at the high school. He would like to see them used as a technology resource that provides an interactive environment. JGMS meanwhile, would like to use any available laptops and Senteos from the High School supply.

Mr. Sills said that faculty at the elementary schools envision using tablets to make literacy applications and numeracy applications more robust. He also sees tablets as being useful in ELL classes. Mr. Sills would like to budget for Davis and Lane to acquire some iPad tablets. He will reduce money for JGMS iPad purchasing.

Mr. Pierce asked if there was a way to cut back on the PC replacement budget at JGMS and BHS, in order to accommodate the iPad pilot at Davis and Lane. Mr. Sills said he would ask the Technology Department to look at doing this.

The School Committee proposed reducing summer professional development by a lesser amount proposed by Mr. Sills.

Ms. Bickford said she did not want to reduce the elementary school science and social studies stipends. She also did not want to remove the extra time for art, P.E, and music Program Directors because these teachers also need time to evaluate and set goals for their stall, which may be more complicated since the staff is spread out among the four schools.

The School Committee agreed with the proposal to reduce the Crossroads teacher position. Mr. Sills explained that this would not involve cutting a teaching position but would likely increase teaching load. The School Committee agreed.

After further discussion, the School Committee agreed to present the following FY' 14 budget request number to the Finance Committee:

- \$34,331,451, a 4.71% increase over FY' 13.

Mr. Sills reminded the School Committee that the proposal to extend the kindergarten program to five days is still on the table and open for discussion.

Ms. Seibert asked Mr. Sills how the kindergarten teachers feel about this proposal. Mr. Sills said the teachers are supportive because they believe it will be less stressful on the students to work on meeting the new kindergarten standards over five days rather than four. Mr. Sills said that Nancy Peterson, the principal, also feels that it will benefit all the students but it will be especially beneficial to the twenty percent of students who are struggling.

Ms. Bickford said she thinks the first step for the School Committee to do is to acknowledge that Bedford needs a five-day kindergarten program in order to meet the demands of the Common Core standards.

Mr. Sills noted that research states that success is based on strong early childhood basics and that kids need more time. He believes that more time will lessen the remediation burden in later years.

Mr. Pierce said, "We have been fighting moving to five days for many years and now is the time we move forward."

The School Committee agreed that they did not want to charge fees for kindergarten or for the fifth day.

Mr. Hafer said he is not sure how the parents feel about the change to a five-day program.

Mr. Sills said that the public needs to understand about the Common Core and the stresses on our education system. The public needs to be educated as to why this change is necessary.

The School Committee decided to continue to keep the budget proposal to increase the kindergarten program to five days.

The School Committee noted that at this time, the budget request for FY' 14 is \$838,074 higher than the Finance Committee guideline.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve a FY'14 budget request of \$34,331,451.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported that the Davis School Principal search has resulted in three candidates moving forward to meet with him. Site visits will be set up for next week for the top two finalists. Parent meetings will also be established.

Mr. Sills noted that the annual METCO Soul Food Dinner will be held on February 8th.

Mr. Sills also applauded a teacher grassroots effort that is underway to help students afford overseas trips.

Mrs. Dorer has a group of third grade students who are one of the finalists in the "We Can Change the World" competition.

9. Liaison Reports

Ms. Seibert reported that the CEC shared the final capital project list last night. The Selectmen are now reviewing it and trying to determine what can be bonded separately.

Ms. Seibert also reminded everyone about the EDCO legislative forum to be held on Feb. 1st.

Ms. Bickford asked the School Committee for their thoughts on addressing Town Meeting regarding the school's \$167,000 building renovation request currently on the Capital budget. Members agreed that it would be a good idea to address Town Meeting during the capital budget discussion.

10. Minutes for Review

Ms. O'Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the September 18, 200c12 Executive Session meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the October 23, 2012 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. O'Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the November 13, 2012 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. O'Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the November 27, 2012 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. O’Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the November 27, 2012 Executive Session meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. O’Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the November 27, 2012 Open Session II.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Seibert made the following motion :

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the December 17, 2012 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. O’Gara

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-2

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|---------------------|---------------|
| Ms. Bickford | Yes |
| Mr. Hafer | absent |
| Mr. Pierce | Yes |
| Ms. Seibert | absent |
| Ms. O’Gara | Yes |

10. Future Agenda

Mr. Hafer would like to hear from the Planning Board regarding the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Sills said he will have Mr. Tracy discuss curriculum changes planned for JGMS.

11. Adjournment

Ms. O’Gara made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. to Executive Session to discuss personnel contract matters, not to re-open.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Ms. Bickford | Yes |
| Mr. Hafer | Yes |
| Mr. Pierce | Yes |
| Ms. Seibert | Yes |
| Ms. O’Gara | Yes |

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 22, 2013

Exhibits/Documents

- Bedford Public Schools School Calendar 2013-2014
- Drafts of minutes from School Committee meetings dated September 18, 2012 Executive Session, October 23, 2012, November 13, 2012, November 27, 2012, Executive Session November 27, 2012, November 27, 2012 Open Session II, and December 17, 2012.

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
January 22, 2013