

**Bedford School Committee
Minutes of
November 13, 2012**

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bedford School Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Bickford at 6:41 pm. Members present were, Ms. O’Gara, Ms. Seibert, Mr. Hafer and Mr. Pierce. Also present were Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools and two members of the ORASC committee, Jim Lespasio and Liz Cowles.

Comments from the Public:

There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Field Trips:

Ms. Seibert made the following motion.

Moved: That the School Committee approve the field trips to participate in the refueling exercises at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire for the 2012–2013 school year for the ROTC students at no cost to the school or the students.

Motion Seconded Ms. O’Gara

Motion Approved 5-0

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

Moved: That the School Committee approve four field trips for the ROTC Drill Team at a cost of \$1,500 for field trips to New Hampshire on November 17, 2012, December 1, 2012, February 16, 2013, and March 9, 2013.

Motion Seconded Ms. O’Gara

Motion Approved 5-0

Personnel Report:

Jon Sills reported on one appointment to the staff and 2 coaching appointments.

Review of the Special Town Meeting Warrant:

This agenda item is to consider whether the School Committee should have a position on Article 4 - High School Synthetic Turf, Article 6 - Amend Article FY13 Community Preservation Budget - Item 15 Athletic Fields Design 9 Mudge Way & 7 Liljegren Way and or Article 9 - Bond Authorization – Portions of School Way and Municipal Complex Access Roads and Parking Areas.

Ms. Seibert reported that the Capital Expenditures Committee voted to not approve Article 4 as it was out of context in that these large projects should be considered in the spring at the Annual Town Meeting when the entire financial plan for the Town is discussed. Ms. Seibert also mentioned that there are still some unanswered questions about the project. Ms. Seibert would like to see more vetting of the proposal, what else might be done. Whether there are other options that we would say were better.

Mr. Hafer said that we have a need to do the project. Mr. Hafer made the following motion.

Moved: That the School Committee recommended approval Article 4 on the warrant for synthetic turf to help meet the interscholastic and extracurricular sports needs.

Seconded by Ms. O’Gara

Mr. Pierce said that we have approved projects like this before at fall Town Meetings, one of which was the approval of the Davis School Building Project. The Turf project was discussed at the most recent Spring Town Meeting and at that time Town Meeting asked the study committee for additional information on the need and the long-term plan. The Study Committee has come back with a long-term plan and the additional information that shows a shortfall of approximately 600 hours of field need for the school sports program and that the schools need at least an additional 2 full size fields.

Ms. O’Gara stated that there has been a need to do this and she supports the project.

Ms. Bickford was interested in understanding whether we would get 2 artificial turf fields on the St. Michaels project and whether we would reach the limit of what we could do financially. Ms. Bickford said there is a compelling argument that we are in need of the fields. She is concerned that we may have rushed the process and not have vetted the options as fully as we should have.

Mr. Pierce said that he was struggling with the word approve in the motion by Mr. Hafer since the maintenance of the fields, under the Town Bylaws, is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works who ultimately report to the selectman.

Mr. Pierce then proposed an amendment to Mr. Hafer’s motion to change the word approve to support and add High School and Middle School after the words *help meet the*.

The motion as amended is:

That the School Committee support Article 4 on the warrant for synthetic turf to help meet the High School and Middle School interscholastic and extracurricular sports needs.

Seconded by Ms. O’Gara

Mr. Pierce made the following motion.

Moved: To approve the amendments to the Motion.

Seconded by Ms. O’Gara

Motion approved 5-0

The School Committee then considered Mr. Hafer’s motion as amended. The motion as amended is as follows.

Moved: That the School Committee support Article 4 on the warrant for synthetic turf to help meet the High School and Middle School interscholastic and extracurricular sports needs.

Motion approved by a 4-1 vote with Ms. Seibert in the minority.

On Article 9 there was a consensus to support this article as it appears to improve the safety of the school busses who use this area as a cut through instead of trying to make the sharp right hand turn from the Great Road to traverse onto South Road.

Adjourn:

Ms. O’Gara made the following motion

Moved: That the School Committee adjourn at 7:25 pm.

Motion seconded by Mr. Hafer

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Approved 5-0

School Committee Secretary

Date

