

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 31, 2016
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Guay and Ms. Santiago.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve an out-of-state field trip for five juniors to attend and compete in the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. The competition is on June 12-16, 2016. Plans have been made for the students to take finals while away.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the out-of-state field trip for five juniors to attend the National History Day competition on June 12-16, 2016 at no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

4. Lane School Construction Project – Contract Amendment

Mr. Alani, Facilities Director, is recommending that TBA Architects be retained for the complete Design and Construction/Contract Administration for the Lane School project. The contract with TBA for the Feasibility Study and Schematic Design provides for the Town and School Committee to negotiate a new Design and Construction Administrative Phase contract. TBA provided a proposal. Facilities has reviewed and finds it reasonable and acceptable.

The contract amendment was presented to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the amendment to the contract with TBA Architects, Inc. to complete the process of design services at an increase cost of \$313,640.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

5. District Goals Review

Mr. Sills presented a review of the 2015-2016 District-wide Strategy and Goals. He explained that the goals flow out of the School's vision and theory of action. Examples of some initiatives completed towards meeting these goals were presented under the three major objectives of Coherent Higher Order Thinking, Equity and Diversity, and Collaborative Professional Culture.

Coherent Higher Order Thinking – Curriculum/Student Centered Learning

- Prioritized curriculum with depth rather than breadth
- Student centered instruction-engaged learning
- Coherence – especially in the 2nd to 3rd and 5th to 6th grade transitions
- Common assessments were reviewed to ensure they measure learning expectations. (Lots of progress at Davis with benchmarks measuring comprehension and fluency. Lane

school is reviewing social studies and science measurements. Lane did roll out standards based report card.)

- JGMS did deliberate audit of student assessments
- Systemically integrated authentic global anti-bias and questioning skills. (Davis used all school assemblies to share identity and diversity and friendships. Lane integrated 3 books per grade that addressed diversity issues. JGMS is refining social studies curriculum. BHS Peer Leaders used community days to discuss race.)
- Engage students in selecting, collecting and reflecting on their own work. Striving for developing independent learners in all grade levels and classes.
- Continue to integrate technology to support instructional priorities and further develop K-12 coding/engineering curriculum. (Davis and Lane have made tremendous inroads in the library curriculum with Legos and robotics. Lane has a nice relationship with iRobot. JGMS's instructional coach is helping teachers develop lessons using technology. Robotics is expanding at the high school.)

Equity & Diversity; Teaching All Students

Developing instructional strategies with in the classroom

- At Davis School, teachers are using Child Study groups to help regular practice.
- Lane School uses a systematic approach to help students with academic and/or behavior challenges in the classroom.
- JGMS examined the leveling structure. They created a new math/algebra pathway. Learning groups no longer exist in 6th grades. A student support team has been created.
- At the high school, a new intervention was developed – a 5 minute meeting in the mornings to discuss students with their teachers.

Antibias Curriculum

- Davis School – all classrooms read the same book
- BHS – Social Justice League has been established – 15 teachers will transform the 9th grade X Block experience and will use curriculum to help create a culture of respect.
- Need assessments and measurements of this work.

Analyze data/student work to make curricular adjustments

- Lane systematically does this four times a year.
- Davis does this in the cluster teams – more conversational. Will roll out in grade level, beyond the cluster teams. A deeper level of sharing is needed.
- BHS knows that this has to move to “what did you do that worked better?”
- Special Education programs continues to move towards inclusion. Team teaching pilots were successful overall and will be expanded.

Professional Development in differentiation

- The challenge is finding time and to be the focus at each school.

Formative Assessments

- Use evaluation process to promote increased use of formative assessments. Evaluators have 10 minutes which can be hit or miss. Evaluators tend to look for engagement but need to move to identifying higher order thinking.

Grow/Nurture Collaborative Professional Culture *and effectively manage mandates.*

- Need to ensure time for meeting is effectively used.
- Instructional rounds by District Admin Team were done at each school in classrooms. Need to improve communications to make these visits more informative.
- Manage state and federal mandates. (PARRC year 2 was all paper since the technology piece last year was extremely time consuming)
- Have all teachers develop evaluations team goals regarding student achievement goals. Teachers need to look at what is “meaningful” progress.

Mr. Sills also noted he delivered a budget that was agreeable to town and its residents. He also hired a new Principal for the high school.

Ms. Santiago asked what an “Authentic” assessment means. Mr. Sills explained that it is an assessment that looks at real life connections and one that uses engaging thinking processes and skills.

Ms. Santiago asked if anything different happened this year than expected. Mr. Sills said that the development and use of evaluations on just in time assessments are still behind.

Ms. Santiago asked if Mr. Sills thinks that all students are attracted to and engaged in Engineering. Mr. Sills said that engineering is being integrated in lots of different ways and it attracts many different types of students. He thinks we should gather data on this to truly see if it’s engaging to all.

Mr. Pierce said that given the shift in the education focus, the district needs to figure out a way to tell people not in the education field what is going on – how the focus is on higher order thinking. We should also do a better job with developing key performance indicators. Mr. Sills agreed and thought this might be a good goal for the future.

Mr. Brosgol asked if there is a way the district can reduce the number of different platforms in use. Mr. Sills agrees that we need to figure this out and find just a few that work for everybody. He agrees that we need platforms that help kids and not confuse them by introducing new ones.

Mr. Brosgol said he hears that a lot of great things are going on with discussing and embracing different cultures. He would like to see confirmation that this is going well.

Ms. Guay said she was pleased to hear about all the accomplishments in learning. She would like to find more strategies to deal with the distractibility of iPads. She also would like to forge new relationships with corporations like we have done with iRobot.

Mr. McAllister said that listening tonight to all that is happening in the schoolhouse is a reminder of how lucky Bedford Schools are to have the support of the town. He also thanked our teachers and the school leadership team for their hard work. “There is a lot of exceptional work happening in Bedford schools”.

6. Liaison Reports

None

7 Minutes for Approval

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported:

- The 7th and 8th grade Science Team came in the top three in the competition!
- The Religious Holiday Task Force had its first meeting. Great turn out.
- BEF sponsored a performance at Lane School on the topic of Immigration.

It was very well received by the students and teachers – all were engaged.

9. Future Agenda

Next week, there will be the evaluation of the Superintendent, a discussion or vote on the roles in School Committee for next year, and a presentation by the high school on the Handbook and School Improvement Plan.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion.

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McAllister	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 31, 2016

Exhibits/Documents

- Lane School construction and addition contract amendment
- Presentation; District Goals Review May 27, 2016
- Draft of minutes of the April 12, 2016 School Committee meeting