

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
November 15, 2016
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Ms. Santiago and Student Representative Tracie Lewis. Mr. Pierce arrived late. Mr. Brosgol was absent.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills announced the following personnel appointments:

Keith Kinney	2016-17 Crisis Coordinator	System
Shawn Celentano	Food Serve	Lane
Beth Doyle	Food Service Sub	System
Samantha Davey	SAIL Teaching Assistant	Davis
Lauren Sobolewski	SAIL Teaching Assistant	Davis

Mr. Sills also shared a summary of approved field trips. He noted that the list is not definitive – that many are still open for signups. Mr. Pierce thanked Mr. Sills and said that having this list was helpful to the School Committee and for families so they can plan and fundraise as needed.

4. Presentation: K-12 Music, Theater, and Visual Art

Sean Hagan, Program Director of Art K-12 and Nicole O'Toole, Program Director K-12 Music, presented a “snap shot” of what was happening in the Music, Theater, and Visual Art departments in all of the Bedford schools.

They began by sharing the following mission statement:

The Bedford Public School Music, Theater Arts, and Visual Arts programs exist to foster cooperation, imagination, confidence, discipline, and self-motivation in students through creating, performing, connecting with and evaluating the Arts so that all students fully realize their individual potential and become lifelong patrons of the arts in a global community.

The presentation began with introducing some students from the 2nd grade at Davis School and they shared their thoughts about art and music classes. Both Mr. Hagan and Ms. O'Toole then showed examples of some of the projects underway at Davis. Ms. O'Toole explained that Davis School uses all school assemblies which are often developed by the music teacher and the school psychologist to share common themes and to create a sense of community. Mr. Hagan explained that the children begin to learn how to reflect on their own artwork and to talk about other student's artwork. This reflection and critique is also done in music classes. One video shared was the High School Honors choir singing with the second graders at the multicultural festival held last spring.

At Lane School, projects in both art and music focus on understanding cultural proficiency. Ensemble work begins as does composing and performing original music pieces. Students are taught to use musical and art tools responsibly, to share, and to reflect on their own work as well as work of others.

At JGMS, students begin to keep journals of songs from around the world. Music students also learn about the Star Spangled Banner and compare and contrast it to other national anthems. Art reflection becomes more formalized. Students begin maintaining a portfolio. Digital versions will soon be launched. Theater art focuses on storytelling traditions from different cultures and developing students' improv and acting skills. This work makes students think about what it is like to walk in others' shoes. The 8th graders participate in a collaborative, social commentary project and present their project to the school community.

At BHS, orchestra students share their talents with peers and with Bedford residents – five hours of music-related community service is expected. The World Drumming course is popular. Students compare drumming traditions with their own lives here in Bedford. Ipads help with the Performance Ensembles because they enable students to record and to reflect upon their own progress.

The BHS art program is robust. Art critique begins in 9th grade as a teacher driven activity. By senior year, the students solely drive the discussions. The senior art students have a capstone installation project which is entirely put together by the student. They decide what to display and how to display it and produce a very meaningful artist statement. Mr. Hagan also shared his experience with working with students at the Tenacity Challenge (creating murals).

Ms. O'Toole and Mr. Hagan were also very appreciative of the fact that they recently participated in the first K-12 Music and Art professional development day. Ms. O'Toole explained that it was a great opportunity to discuss national art and music standards. They both look forward to a future day to focus on capturing student reflection and to develop authentic connects between visual and performing arts curriculum.

Ms. Lewis said she enrolled in BHS last year and that the music department has been very inclusive and welcoming. She also enjoyed art for the first time during the Tenacity Challenge.

Ms. Santiago said she enjoyed seeing the big picture of the art and music departments.

Mr. Pierce said that the presentation made it clear that art and music “Brings good things to life.” He is pleased with the overlap. Music and arts really help students with their presentation skills and to becoming more independent.

Ms. Guay said it was great to see both departments present together – she really understands the collaboration, reflection and sharing.

Mr. McAllister agreed it was great to see the common threads in art and music. The presentation clearly showed the vertical alignment of both departments. “Once again, this presentation shows how lucky the students of Bedford are.”

Mr. Sills said that the presentation was an excellent example of how every discipline has elements of reflection and metacognition (deep thinking). This presentation really highlights how kids can do this in their own way.

Mr. Sills asked about “STEEM” efforts in art. Mr. Hagan said discussions with the Technology Group have begun. The hope is to create “maker spaces” or “innovation labs” for students to collaborate on creating, trying, or processing various challenges.

Ms. O'Toole mentioned that she recently met with Ms. Dorer, K-5 Math Coordinator, to develop a vocabulary list to use in both math and in the arts.

5. FY'18 Budget Overview

Mr. Sills gave a preview on what to expect for the FY'18 budget. He said that the following is a starting point for future FY'18 budget discussions:

- Maintenance of Effort for FY'18 is forecasted to be a 2.894% increase over FY'17
- The increase is \$1,091,416
- This number includes a placeholder of 2% for COLA – bargaining is to begin in January
- The total FY'18 Maintenance of Effort budget request is \$38,802,119

Mr. Sills also noted, that due to enrollment growth and projections, he expects to need the following for FY'18:

- An additional teacher at Lane School
- More staff for the SAIL Program at the Lane School (new next year)
- Outfitting a room at Lane for the SAIL program
- Additional teacher for Arts and Wellness at JGMS
- Additional staffing and an additional room for the Preschool

Mr. Sills does not expect to add to the technology or textbook budgets at this time.

Mr. McAllister thanked Mr. Sills for this snapshot of where we are right now in terms of our out-of-district student needs. He said that it is noteworthy to say that this could change in a moment's notice.

Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Coelho to provide an estimate of costs for adding potential staff/teachers. Mr. Coelho agreed to get this for the next meeting.

6. Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Sills said that the EDCO Board has agreed to reduce the cost of assessments. More information will follow.
- The Lane School hosted a very nice Veterans Day program (for the third year). It was a very special ceremony for both the community and the students.
- Election Day result reverberations have been felt throughout the district – both staff and students. Mr. Sills said staff did a great job managing emotions of themselves and the students.
- Mr. Sills said one of his goals for the district is to hire and sustain more diverse faculty. Today's Equity and Diversity Council meeting focused on finding ways to do this. One way is to reach out to colleges and universities to try to get more student teachers to come to Bedford. Mr. Hagan is also working on creating a video about Bedford's surprising diverse student body for this purpose.

7. Minutes

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the November 1, 2016 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0 (Mr. Brosgol was absent)

8. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 4-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McAllister **Yes**

Ms. Guay **Yes**

Mr. Brosgol **Absent**

Mr. Pierce **Yes**

Ms. Santiago **Yes**

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 15, 2016

Exhibits/Documents

- Summary of Approved Field Trips
- Presentation: K-12 Music, Theater, and Visual Art
- Draft of School Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 1, 2016