

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**February 9, 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, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hafer and Mr. Brosgol.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Personnel Report**

Mr. Sills announced the following retirements:

Maryellen Cantillon	Special Education	Middle School
Robin Talkowski	Reading Specialist	Middle School

**4. Program of Studies**

Henry Turner, Principal of the high school, presented the updated Program of Studies for the 2016-17 school year. He gave the School Committee a memo outlining all of the changes. He presented a few of the major ones for School Committee to be aware of. Dr. Turner noted that all of the non-clerical changes were done in support of the School Improvement Plan and the goal to make all class levels accessible to all students.

One change is that the English Department is going to pilot two “unleveled” classes for seniors. Asian American Literature and African American Literature will be offered as 5 credit classes but unleveled. The goal is to try to make these classes more attractive to seniors. These two courses will hopefully offer a heterogeneous learning environment for seniors. These two courses also support the district’s cultural proficiency goal. The classroom will strive to have structures and scaffolds that will ensure all students have equal access to the material.

Another change is that the Foreign Language Department will offer Advance Latin as an option. This will help both advanced and slower-paced students. It is an example of the philosophy of “I cannot do it yet” rather than the “I cannot do it.”

Math Applications will become a 6 day class and titled “STEM Applications”. It will be 5 credits in math and 2.5 science credits. It will be co-taught by a math teacher and a science teacher. The goal is to have students who take this option in 9<sup>th</sup> grade be ready to take Physics in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Also it will fit in nicely with the 2.5 credit Robotics class. Statistics will be offered again next year. A Math Lab course will also be offered for students with gaps in math knowledge.

The Music Department will offer a beginning band class in hopes of having students learn a new instrument either for the first time as a band student or adding a new instrument to their repertoire.

The History Department will offer AP Psychology. In general, the history department does not want to embrace AP history curriculum but Mr. Boschetto, the Psychology teacher, is certified to teach AP Psychology based on the existing curriculum. Therefore the course will be called Advanced Placement Psychology.

Mr. McAllister thanked Dr. Turner for an informative presentation. He asked School Committee members for comments or questions.

Mr. Hafer said that it seems that a lot of the Calculus course is dedicated to a review of Trigonometry. He is concerned that some key Calculus topics will be missed. Dr. Turner agreed to take this concern back to the math department. He said the department has been trying to encourage more students to take Calculus so the pace has been purposely slowed down. Maybe it is time to review. Mr. Hafer said he was pleased to see that there is an AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC option now.

Mr. Hafer also asked about the Computer Science track. Dr. Turner said that students who want to learn about computers start with Intro to Computer Science. Many students however come to the high school with a strong interest and background in computer technology. These students will start in Intro to Programming. Dr. Turner said he wants computer programming courses to be attractive to any student who has an interest in learning programming.

Mr. Pierce said he was pleased to see Statistics being offered again since he feels that it is a very practical course.

Mr. Pierce asked where we stand with the ROTC program. Dr. Turner said that the program is in probation because of the low numbers of students enrolled in the class. However, he feels positive that the two new teachers will foster growth. Dr. Turner said that not all of the students who take the class have military aspirations. Many are interested in the community service aspect of the program.

Mr. Brosgol said that the high school offers an amazing array of options.

Ms. Guay said she wants to hear about the enrollment results of the new unlevleed English class offerings. She is also pleased to learn about the new Latin offering.

Mr. Sills took a minute to wish Dr. Turner good luck in his new endeavor as future Principal of Newton North High School. Mr. Sills noted that Bedford schools will certainly miss Dr. Turner's leadership.

#### **4. School Calendar for 2016-2017 School Year**

Mr. Sills presented the 2016-2017 school calendar to the School Committee for review. He presented only one option to the School Committee – students starting after Labor Day, teachers having one professional development day before Labor Day, and no school on the Friday before the Labor Day weekend. His administrative team and the teacher's association felt this calendar option was the best. The calendar also has a professional day scheduled in on Voting day in November, since the middle school is the one and only polling place for the entire town.

Mr. Hafer said that he thinks the calendar looks reasonable. He said that voting day should be November 8<sup>th</sup> not November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Pierce said he was pleased to see that students start after Labor Day because he likes this tradition. He did ask if graduation on June 1<sup>st</sup> meets all DOE requirements. (Mr. Coelho checked on this during the meeting and confirmed this date was OK.)

Mr. Pierce asked why there was an early release day on April 14<sup>th</sup> before the spring vacation week. Mr. Sills said that this was for Good Friday and has always been an early release day. Mr. Sills said he would like to review this early release day in context of a review of all holidays.

Mr. Brosgol said that he missed the discussion last year on starting before or after Labor Day. He does want to move forward with this calendar since the Administrative team and Teachers Association agree with it. However, he would like to be part of a discussion on this topic for next year.

Ms. Guay is pleased to see that no students will be in school on Election Day since the middle school is so busy with voters.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the 2016-17 School Calendar as amended tonight.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

### **5. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sills reported the following:

- The Bedford Education Foundation fundraiser was a great success. A lot of people came out to support and a lot money was raised (\$21,000)
- Both the middle and high schools had a very successful and fun visit with students from China.
- There will be an ALICE drill at the high and middle schools on Friday.
- The Solar Energy Project is not moving forward because there is no state tax incentive available.
- The Lane School project is moving forward. Three potential firms were interviewed for the Feasibility Study. The School Committee can expect a presentation on this at the March 1, 2016 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Sills also discussed some townwide financial information which he believes may affect the way the town proposes to finance the Lane School project. More information to come on this.

### **6. Liaison Reports**

Mr. Hafer reported that the Fields Partnership reported that the CPC recently discussed field projects and approved funding a new field at the St. Michael's area. The CPC also looked at putting artificial turf on the Wilson Field but ended up voting not to do this. Mr. Hafer was concerned because there has not been any School Committee discussions on these projects. Mr. Hafer said he will try to make sure all committees involved in new fields are aware of what is going on in the future.

### **7. School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 School Committee meeting.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

## **8. Future Agenda**

A public hearing on the FY'17 budget will be held at the February 23rd School Committee meeting.

Also, the School Committee can expect to hear Department presentations and a Special Education update on new programs and team teaching.

## **9. Adjournment**

Ms. Guay made the following motion.

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. to Executive Session to discuss non-union contract issues, not to reopen.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. McAllister</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Guay</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Brosgol</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pierce</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Hafer</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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School Committee Secretary

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Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Feb. 9, 2016**

**Exhibits/Document**

- Memo from Henry Turner to Jon Sills dated Feb. 5, 2016 regarding proposed changes for the Program of Studies for 2016-17 school year.
- Draft of 2016-2017 School Calendar
- Draft of meeting minutes from the January 5, 2016 School Committee meeting.