

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 23, 2024

Meeting location:

METCO Headquarters, 11 Roxbury St., Boston & Telecast remotely via ZOOM

Call to Order

At 7:09 PM, Ms. Scoville called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Mehta-Green, Ms. Scoville, Mr. Morrison, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Pettitt, Ms. Williams, METCO Representative, Ms. Howell, Hanscom Representative and Student Representative Shreyes Shivappa

Student Presentation- Student Art Show

Jen Ferrari, Lane Art teacher showed a video, produced by Lindsay of her students to School Committee members that highlights the Choice Based Art Program at Lane. Lindsay also works with Bedford TV. During the video, some students spoke about the projects they have been able to create in art class and shared their enthusiasm for the program. During the presentation, it was revealed that Ms. Ferrari is a semi-finalist for Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

Student Report- By Shreyes Shivappa

Mr. Shivappa spoke briefly about the new pilot phone program at BHS that started on Monday and mentioned there is Soccer and Track meet happening tomorrow.

Public Comment

No comments

1. Approval of Minutes-Vote

Mr. Morrison made the following motion: The School Committee approves the minutes from April 9, 2024.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. McGinley	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes
Mr. Pettitt	Yes

2. Literacy Update

Dr. Cliff provided a literacy update to the committee. We have currently completed Round 1, which was a review of Into Reading, and Round 2, My View. We are currently involved in Round 3, which consists of reviewing Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). We reviewed the rubric, and how to

access resources. We used resources at Lane and Davis, along with online tools. The remaining DLLT Meetings are May 9th to debrief Round 3 information, May 14th, May 16th and May 21st will include Publisher Roundtables and User Panels, May 23rd will review processes and make recommendations for next steps. Remaining District Administrative Team (DAT) Meetings are April 22nd, May 29th and June 12th.

3. METCO Presentation

METCO President & CEO, Ms. Arbaje-Thomas along with Bedford METCO Director, Mr. Mondesir provided the School Committee with and end of the year wrap up of the progress the program has made, the things that they are working towards for next year and beyond. In addition, provided some news on upcoming events and outreach the program is doing to help grow and highlight Bedford in particular in hopes of getting families to make the choice to select Bedford as their school of choice.

4. Fiscal Update

Superintendent Chuang and Ms. Kirane provided the School Committee with an FY24 Fiscal update. They provided an update on FY24 operating budget as of the end quarter three and beginning of quarter four.

As of April 11, 2024, 82% of the operating budget expended or encumbered, has a significant projected deficit. Discussions with the town’s management and Finance Committee have begun. The cost overages will not be able to be absorbed by savings in other school operating budget accounts.

This deficit is attributed to, special education transportation, out of district tuition expense, special education contracted services, and substitute expenses. The first three categories are known to be volatile and unpredictable and were the basis for the request to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund. This year a number of unfortunate number of external trends are affecting districts statewide as well as internal trends related to the special education staffing, changes in student needs and transportation fiscal pressures.

Immediately following the transition of the teacher payroll in April, a full salary projection was performed. The forecast for all salary accounts is for a surplus of approximately \$200,000. However, there is still a significant deficit in the substitute accounts. As a result, that will consume any savings. A great deal of additional analysis was done in the review of the special education accounts. Overages in special education transportation, tuition, and contracted services account for the bottom-line deficit. Specific follow-up information will be shared as soon as possible.

5. Personnel Report

Appointments:

Maureen Dugan	Nurse	4/8/2024	District
Amber Loveless-Patterson	Admin Asst to Sped Dir	4/22/2024	District

Naia Springer	PD Sub	4/10/2024	District
Christine Bumann	PD Sub-Food Service	4/22/2024	District
Hilary Nicholas	EL Program Director	4/12/024	District
Bao Ling Huang	Food Service	4/8/2024	Davis
Lola Olatilu	TA/BT	4/9/2024	Davis
Alexandra Cebula	TA/BT .9	4/10/2024	Davis
Caroline Roscoe	LTS Teaching Assistant	3/18/224	JGMS
Hannah Gould	LTS Reading Teacher	4/16/2024	JGMS
Breena Daniell	LTS Sped Teacher	3/21/2024	BHS
Edward Allan	Custodian	4/8/2024	BHS
Kevin Hogan	Custodian	4/1/2024	BHS

Resignations:

Mary Mwaura	TA/BT	4/5/2024	Davis
April Dayron	Food Services	4/2/2024	Davis
Peter Laskaris	Teacher	4/9/2024	Davis
Thomas Greaney	5 day Substitute	3/21/2024	JGMS
Lynda McGraw	LTS Reading Teacher	4/12/2024	JGMS

6. Job Description

These positions are currently treated as shared positions with the Town of Bedford and are currently governed by Town Bylaws (rather than an individual or collectively bargained contract with the Bedford Public Schools).

- Assistant Director of Special Education
- Facilities Project Manager

Mr. Pettitt made the following motion: The School Committee approves the Facilities Project Manager and Assistant Director of Special Education job descriptions as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Mehta-Green

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. McGinley	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes
Mr. Pettitt	Yes

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chuang presented to the School Committee the following during his report. Mr. Chuang will be conducting Trail walks and making rounds to different Spring Sports events, Strategic Planning is underway. The families housed at Bedford Plaza have or will be relocated to Lowell and the shelter will officially be closed once all families have been relocated to the new shelter, which is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

8. Adjournment

Ms. McGinley made the following motion: To adjourn at 10:09 pm. Not to reopen to the public.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pettitt

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. McGinley	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes
Mr. Pettitt	Yes

Exhibits/Documents

Draft Minutes

Literacy Update

FY24 Fiscal Update

Student Art Presentation

Personnel Report

Student Art Show Presentation

Job Descriptions

- Assistant Director of Special Education
- Facilities Project Manager

School Committee Approved

Date: May 14, 2024