

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
April 1, 2014
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Pierce called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Hafer, Mr. McAllister and Ms. Guay

2. Comments

None

3. Personnel Report

The sixth grade teachers would like to offer Nature's Classroom for a second year on October 22 –24, 2014. The cost will be \$225 per student and no cost to the school department. There will be fundraising in order to provide scholarships to those who need it.

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip to Freedom, New Hampshire with Nature's Classroom on October 22 –24, 2014 for sixth grade students at a cost of \$225 per student and no cost to the school department.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1

Mr. Sills announced the following informational items:

Resignations

Jake Sullivan Teaching Assistant at BHS

Chris Willey Teaching Assistant at BHS

Extra Curricular Appointments

Joe Pike Head Boys Outdoor Track

Al Dougherty Assistant Outdoor Track

Joel Hebert Head Girls Outdoor Track

Edwin James Assistant Outdoor Track

Gunnar Olson Head Varsity Baseball

Tim French Assistant Varsity Baseball

Angelo Colucci JV Baseball

Sean Waldron Freshman Baseball

Dennis Walsh Varsity Softball

Meagan Asp Assistant Varsity Softball

Lisa Predaina JV Softball

Jeff LoPresti Varsity Boys Lacrosse

Derek Johnson JV Boys Lacrosse

Meghan Harris Varsity Girls Lacrosse

Bev Barton JV Girls Lacrosse

Matt Driscoll Freshman Girls Lacrosse

John Geilfuss Varsity Boys Tennis

Marjorie Marino JV Boys Tennis

Monika Drabkova Varsity Girls Tennis

Roseanne Ham JV Girls Tennis

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amanda Rabesa | Athletic Trainer |
| Justin Brooks | Baseball Coach – Middle |
| Justin Newton | Softball Coach –Middle |
| Ken Norling | Outdoor Track Coach - Middle |
| Tammy McGeoghegan | Outdoor Assistant Track – Middle |

4. School Choice Vote

The School Committee took the annual vote on School Choice.

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee not participate in School Choice for the 2014=2015 school year.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1

Members of the School Committee said that they believe School Choice reinforces inequities between wealthier and poorer school systems.

5. Update: Superintendent's Goals

Mr. Sills presented a draft of an update of his goals. He reviewed some of the key action items under these goals.

Goal 1: Develop FY'15 Budget to support BPS mission and negotiate a fair and affordable BEA contract.

- Mr. Sills feels he met this goal

Goal 2: Build Leadership Team's collaborative culture building capacities

- Mr. Sills acknowledged that although he has visited the schools regularly, he has not been able to do so on a weekly basis.
- He had also hoped to review collaboratively work plans with the principals but has not been able to do so. He will put this item back on his agenda now that the budget season has past.
- District Determined Measures are now being developed.
- Close to hiring a new Assistant Superintendent.
- Hired a new director of facilities
- There is positive professional morale in all four schools.

Goal 3: Implement Phase Two of the Educator Evaluator System

- Three instructional objectives were the focus for all teachers in all buildings, grades and subjects.
- Rubrics were explained and discussed district-wide. Everyone got through rigorous standard-based limit design. Still working on the other two.
- Beginning to review goal-setting documents with the leadership team.
- District-wide equity and diversity committee has been implemented.

Goal 4: Student Learning Goal – Improve math skills for all subgroups in grades 4,6,7,8 and reading comprehension skills in grades 2,3, and 4.

- Foundations, a phonics program, has been implemented K-2
- Running records will continue in grade 3

- Envision Math will be rolled out in grades 3-5 and 2nd grade teachers will be using Envision vocabulary to help with the transition to third grade.
- It is not possible to set benchmarks this year since learning objectives are still being developed.
- All in all, Mr. Sills said he would like to see an increase of 10-20% in MCAS math scores for subgroups in grades four, six, seven and eight.

Mr. McAllister asked how Mr. Sills can keep track of so many goals. He likes the fact that the evaluation system encourages fewer goals.

Mr. McAllister also wondered whether a Superintendent can really impact MCAS scores. Mr. Sills responded that Bedford needs to do a better job in MCAS. He feels comfortable with this goal because he is asking his educators to take on similar goals. He is aware of the risk. He wants the district to focus energies on moving students forward.

Mr. Hafer is pleased to see that Mr. Sills has boiled down the district goals to four. He advises that Mr. Sills (and the School Committee) keep an eye on the key drivers to help with budget planning in the future.

Mr. Pierce suggested looking for other measures, besides MCAS, to show improvement.

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reported that the Tenacity Challenge was held at the high school this past weekend. This year, sixteen schools participated. It is the second year that this African American/Latino academic challenge was held. Mr. Sills noted that the students who participated are engaged in deep academic thinking and risk taking. "It is emblematic of how Bedford pays attention to diversity."

Mr. Sills also reported that hate incidences have continued all week. There are several suspects. He believes very few of these suspects are acting out in hatred but more likely are acting out as copycats, seeking attention. The district is looking at curriculum to help students in all grades grapple with identity.

7. Liaison Reports

None

8. Minutes

None

9. Future Agenda

Meetings are scheduled for April 15, May 6, 20, 27 and June 10th.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion.

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:45.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 4-01

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Pierce **Yes**

Mr. Hafer **Yes**

Ms. Seibert **Absent**

Mr. McAllister **Yes**

Ms. Guay **Yes**

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 1, 2014
Exhibits/Documents

None