

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
March 12, 2013
Bedford High School - Large 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, Ms. Seibert and Mr. Ben Driscoll, student representative. Mr. Moonan also called the meeting of the Selectman to order. Bedford Selectmen, Margot Fleischman, William Moonan, Michael Rosenberg, Caroline Fedeale and Mark Siegenthaler were also present.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Interview for Open School Committee Position:

Ms. Ann Guay was present and interested in serving on the School Committee. She introduced herself to both the School Committee and Selectman, who were holding a joint meeting in order to interview candidates interested in filling the one year open position on the School Committee. (The open position was due to the resignation of Noreen O’Gara). Ms. Guay was the only candidate that applied and was present.

Ms. Guay explained that she has lived in Bedford since 1995 and is married with three children. One child has graduated Bedford High School, one is in the LABBB program at the high school and one is a sophomore at the high school. She is proud of the excellent school system and the highly motivated teachers that work here. She spoke about her collaboration with many people in the Bedford Public Schools. Her son has special needs and it is clear to her that Bedford wants to do well for all students.

Ms. Guay discussed her background – a lawyer, an Autism advocate, a participant of the Lane School Design Committee, a member of the Bedford Education Foundation, and her recent work raising funds for the Bedford Integrated Preschool Playzone.

Ms. Seibert began the interview by asking what Ms. Guay sees as the major issues facing the School Committee.

Ms. Guay answered that society looks to the schools to solve everyone’s problems, yet there is no funding or resources to do this well.

Mr. Seigenthaler said that it is obvious that she is well organized and he is pleased that Ms. Guay wants to get involved. He asked if she had any experience working on committees or with colleagues.

Ms. Guay said she worked on committees regarding child autism waivers with the state Autism Commission. She learned how to collaborate with people who did not agree with the program goals. She learned that it is important to listen to people with different perspectives. She has experience working with people who have different agendas.

Mr. Hafer thanked Ms. Guay for stepping forward. He asked if there were any constraints that would keep her from doing her best at the School Committee. Ms. Guay said she has thought about this and said that if her advocacy work becomes a conflict, she will recuse herself.

Mr. Rosenberg asked Ms. Guay to articulate balancing school needs with diminishing resources. Ms. Guay said she has a lot to learn about the town's perspective and the school's perspective. She does have experience with state-level budgets. She feels she can balance the needs with limited resources. Bedford, in her opinion, has never gone overboard. "It's a well managed town."

Mike McAllister asked why she was interested in serving on the School Committee right now. Ms. Guay said she is ready to learn. "I am a good advocate for children." She said it was easier for her now that her children are at the end of their school careers. Also, her daughter has said how well prepared she is for college. "It is time to give back."

Ms. Fleischman thanked Ms. Guay for stepping up to serve on the School Committee. She asked if Ms. Guay sees any ways that schools can help with town resource planning. Ms. Guay said by staying active in the community and by listening, this will help the School Committee and the town plan accordingly. Ms. Guay then gave an example of how she has met and helped many of the displaced families living in town. She has seen how supportive the schools have been to this group of people.

Mr. Pierce asked what Ms. Guay thinks the School Committee can do differently. Ms. Guay said that the schools are doing an excellent job educating the students. She said it would be great to build in-town capacity for special education needs. Also, how can we overcome the low income and ELL barriers?

Ms. Fedele noted that safety in schools is now a big priority. How does it look from a high school parent? Ms. Guay said that she thinks the School Committee is deliberate and thoughtful on this issue. She is glad Bedford has not made the schools a fortress. She is pleased that Bedford is utilizing experts to help them through this process.

Mr. Moonan thanked Ms. Guay for stepping forward. He asked, "At the end of your term, what would you tell parents and voters about being a one year School Committee member?" Ms. Guay said that she would tell them that she learned a lot, that she is more informed, and that the School Committee always listens. She hopes to gain a better perspective on the budget and collective bargaining. She hopes that she is right for the position and the people of Bedford will want her back.

In closing, Ms. Guay noted that today schools have a responsibility beyond providing an education. However, without additional funding to do this, it is a big challenge. If approved to serve on the School Committee, she will work hard on behalf of all the students in Bedford.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve Ann Guay to serve on the School Committee through March 8, 2014.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Fleischman

MOTION APPROVED: 9-0

Mr. Moonan reminded Ms. Guay that she now represents the Town of Bedford and that she must always treat people with respect. She also has to take the state mandated ethics test and familiarize herself with conflict of interest laws.

Mr. Moonan made the following motion:

MOVED: That the Selectmen adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Fleischman

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Guay joined the School Committee at the table (but was not able to vote as she was not sworn into office by the Town Clerk.)

4. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills welcomed the two new members of the School Committee – Mr. Mike McAllister and Ms. Ann Guay.

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to consider approving an out-of-state field trip request from Mr. Shawn Daley, from the High School. The request is for ten students in the RISE Program to travel to Franconia Notch, NH on May 8-10, 2013 for a hiking and camping trip. The trip is to promote resiliency and interpersonal relations.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the request for 10 BHS students from the RISE Program to travel to Franconia, New Hampshire on May 8-10, 2013 with Mr. Daley, Ms. Boynton, and Mr. Wardwell at no cost to the students and a \$1,777.50 cost to the schools (from the RISE budget).

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0

Mr. Sills announced the appointment of Yvonne Cormier, Secretary to Director of Finance.

Mr. Sills announced the following coaching appointments:

High School:

Joe Pike	Head Boys Outdoor Track
Al Dougherty	Assistant Outdoor Track
Joel Herbert	Head Girls Outdoor Track
Sophia Grammenos	Assistant Outdoor Track
Gunnar Olson	Varsity Baseball
Tim French	Assistant Varsity Baseball
TBD	JV Baseball
TBD	Freshmen Baseball
Dennis Walsh	Varsity Softball
Meagan Asp	Assistant Varsity Softball
Jim Nagle	JV Softball
Jeff LoPresti	Varsity Boys Lacrosse
Derek Johnson	JV Boys Lacrosse
TBD	Varsity Girls Lacrosse
Bev Baron	JV Girls Lacrosse
Matt Driscoll	Freshman Girls Lacrosse
John Geilfuss	Varsity Boys Tennis
TBD	JV Boys Tennis

Monika Drabkova	Varsity Girls Tennis
Roseanne Ham	JV Girls Tennis
Amanda Rabesa	Athletic Trainer

Middle School:

Justin Newton	Softball
Ken Norling	Outdoor Track
Tammy McGeoghegan	Assistant Outdoor Track

5. Security Update

Mr. Sills reminded the School Committee that they previously voted to fund entry security upgrades at all four schools. (Remote control locks, buzzers, communication). Windows are needed at Davis and JGMS and a camera is needed at the high school to ensure a direct line of sight to the front doors (from the office).

Since that time, costs to install windows at Davis and Lane have come in much more than expected. As a result, Mr. Sills suggested giving up on the window idea at the middle school and to add a camera there instead. The Security Task Force agrees. However, Mr. Sills does not want to use a camera at Davis School. He thinks it is very important to maintain the personal experience at Davis. He will use money saved at the middle school towards the Davis School window installation.

Mr. Sills noted that Mr. Jones confirmed that there will be \$10,000 available from the general maintenance/security fund to help pay for these projects.

Mr. Sills said that on April 9th, the Security Task Force will present its recommendations on longer term security measures.

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee move \$12,000 from Facilities Capital Maintenance article to be used for incremental expenses relative to security measures.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0

6. Mid-Year Goals

Mr. Sills presented on the progress made towards the district goals since September 2012. He reminded the School Committee that goals are mission driven and that all goals are geared to supporting student learning.

Highlights of the district's accomplishments under each goal follow:

Governance & Leadership

- The district is building comprehensive and collaborative Administrative Team with all new administrators.
- Davis School has a new Principal, Beth Benoit.
- Dr. Jackson will stay on another year as Assistant Superintendent and will continue to spearhead curriculum work and common core alignment.
- The implementation of the new teacher evaluation system is underway and all faculty is engaged and rated based on a rubric. Faculty is defining what proficient teaching behavior is and more importantly, what are students doing as a result.

- All grades and departments are developing common and equivalent assessment work. This is key to establishing district measures.
- This year, Bedford High School hosted the Tenacity Challenge. One hundred, forty students from twenty-one school districts participated.
- Davis School implemented a new schedule for 1st and 2nd graders each getting four, 50 minute blocks of common planning time. Kindergarten gets 40 minutes of common planning time.
- The high school determined that the iPad focus should be on collaboration, checking for understanding, critical thinking, and content development.
- A new technology plan was developed for the Technology Department.
- This year, new federal and state nutritional standards were implemented. Unfortunately, these have led to lower lunch sales. This has become a real fiscal challenge.

Curriculum and Instruction

- The main curriculum goal is for staff to share curricular goals. Teachers in all grades are working on common core alignment.
- Work is being done to establish a coherent curriculum through-out the district, particularly during the transition years (grades 2, 5 and 8).
- Regular PLC meetings have been established to review student work and share instruction.
- Math sequence is being reviewed K-12.
- It has been very challenging to implement a literacy block and the implementation has resulted in very rigid schedules. Teachers are uncomfortable with this. Administration is trying to support the teachers by reexamining this issue.
- Davis and Lane will have an iPad pilot program to help determine what teachers and students can do with new technology.

Assessments and Evaluations

- Lots of professional development is underway on increasing the use of formative assessments. It is important for student understanding and engagement.
- Continuing work on developing common and equivalent and benchmark assessments.
- The review of midterm/final policy is on hold.

Student Support

- The same thing is supposed to happen for ALL learners and it is difficult for teachers to get to this level of differentiation.
- Implementing assistance for chronic homework avoidance.
- BHS Special Education team is joining in department meetings to be able to support students better.
- There will be a Skills Center for JGMS next year.
- The JGMS learning strategies course (SOS) has been updated.
- The high school will have a new college/career counselor for FY'14 due to the increase in students at the high school.

Human Resources and Professional Development

- This is year 2 of the early release Wednesdays. There has been lots of creative and collaborative work.

Finance and Asset Management

- The School Committee approved the FY'14 budget that was also approved by the Finance Committee. The budget addresses mandates, increasing enrollment, cost avoidance for in-house special education programs, a fifth day of kindergarten and school building security recommendations.
- No additional space is needed at Davis and Lane Schools, so the MSBA proposal was revoked.
- The Hanscom Strategic Task Force will continue.
- State Rep. Ken Gordon has proposed legislation to make funding for Hanscom students permanent.

School Committee members had some questions for Mr. Sills.

Ms. Guay asked if the Federal sequestration has any affects. Mr. Coelho said it will likely impact future years but nothing immediate. Mr. Sills said he knows that many Bedford families will be hurt and that HAFB is trying to mitigate this negative effect.

Mr. McAllister said that the presentation was a great overview and that Mr. Sills focus seems right on target. He is pleased to hear that some items have been postponed and some new initiatives have been added.

Mr. McAllister asked which goal Mr. Sills has spent the most time on. Mr. Sills said that the new teacher evaluation system has taken a lot of time and effort. However, the new teacher evaluation system is an attempt to further work that we truly believe in.

Mr. McAllister asked how Mr. Sills maintains teacher morale. Mr. Sills said he listens to people and he tries to be proactive. He often has to slow things down in order to be respectful of teacher's time. He feels that the Administrative team is energized and optimistic and emphasizes true collaboration. This all boosts morale.

Ms. Seibert said that it is obvious and positive that the goals are overlapping. She believes it is important to have integrated goals.

Ms. Seibert asked if Mr. Sills anticipates any curriculum changes at the transitional years. Mr. Sills said not right away. Dr. Jackson said that some changes, like implementing the Foundations Program, have been made.

Mr. Hafer said that obviously, Bedford schools are very busy. He wondered whether it may be helpful to let the School Committee know what percentage of each initiative is completed and then to have Mr. Sills grade himself. Mr. Sills said that this would be interesting challenge and he will try to address this in the spring.

Mr. Pierce asked for an iPad update from Mr. Turner.

Ben Driscoll said that Peer Leaders suggest starting a compost bin in the cafeteria to help deal with the wasted food.

7. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills reminded everyone that the JGMS musical is this week. He noted that the high school musical was very successful last week.

Mr. Sills also noted that the high school is piloting embedded textbooks (on the iPad) in two algebra classes. "The problems self correct for the students." Also, work is scored automatically and sent to the teacher. Tutorials are also available for students and parents.

8. Liaison Reports

Ms. Seibert reported that EDCO's guest speaker at the next meeting is Dr. LaCroix.

Mr. Hafer noted that BEF is meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Seibert asked the School Committee to vote to have Ms. Bickford continue serving on the Strategic Communications Task Force as a school representative. As a result, she made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve of having Anne Bickford continue to serve on the Strategic Communications Task Force as a school representative.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0

9. Minutes for Review

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the December 18, 2012 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the January 15, 2013 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the Executive Session of the January 15, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained

Ms. Guay not able to vote

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the Executive Session of the January 22, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the January 29, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the Executive Session of the January 29, 2013 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

Mr. Hafer made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the February 12, 2013 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-1

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	abstained
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

10. Future Agenda

Mr. Sills will have a Security Task Force presentation. There will be three meetings in May and one in June.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm, not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Hafer

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Hafer	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Seibert	Yes
Mr. McAllister	Yes
Ms. Guay	not able to vote

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 12, 2014

Exhibits/Documents

- **2012-2013 District Goals presentation dated March 12, 2013**

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
March 12, 2013