

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
March 10, 2015
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Hafer called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Pierce, Ms. Seibert, Mr. McAllister and Ms. Guay. Miss Sophia Kyrou, student representative, was absent.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills presented a few field trips for consideration by the School Committee.

The first trip was for ten students to attend the Model United Nations Conference in Boston. Attendance requires an overnight stay at the Westin hotel on Friday March 27 through Sunday March 29, 2015 at a cost of \$205 per student. Teachers participating are Mrs. Goetschius and Mrs. Margolis. Parents will be responsible for transporting students to and from the event.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip request for 10 students to attend the Model United Nations Conference in Boston at the Westin Hotel on March 27-29, 2015 at no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

The next field trip request was from Mr. Griffin. He is requesting permission for students to travel to Merck Forest and Farmland in Rupert, Vermont on May 8-10, 2015. Approximately 22 students will attend. The students will hike and participate in workshops and community service projects focusing on sustainability and energy conservation on the farm. Ms. Supprisse will also be a chaperone.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip request for 22 students to travel to Merck Forest and Farmland in Rupert, Vermont on May 8-10, 2015 at no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills shared a letter he received from two former teachers from a different district who ran into BHS students while in Belize this past February vacation. The teachers were very complimentary about the BHS students' behavior while in Belize.

Mr. Sills then presented a proposed trip to Cuba for consideration. Mr. Hebert is planning a trip to Cuba during February 2016 (break) for approximately 30 students. Mr. Hebert will be using the tour company, Explorica, which has taken students to Cuba for the last four years. It is a government approved trip and has been for several years. Mr. Sills said he believes that this will be a fascinating, authentic experience for our students to learn and respect a different culture. The estimated cost is \$3,336 per student.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the request to travel to Cuba with approximately 30 BHS students, in grades 10,11, and 12, during February vacation 2016 at a cost of approximately \$3,300 per student at and no cost to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Pierce said that he supports the trip but parents will be the ones who will need to think long and hard about the risks of traveling to a newly opened country.

Mr. McAllister said he was at first cautious about this proposed trip but now feels more comfortable about it.

Ms. Guay said that it is too bad that it is so expensive.

Ms. Seibert said she is satisfied to learn that there will be no opportunity for students to explore on their own.

Mr. Hafer thinks it is a great language immersion opportunity too.

Mr. Sills said that Cuba is likely a safe place to go. He reminded everyone that many other countries have been traveling safely to Cuba for years. He agrees that these trips are expensive. He reminded everyone that there are scholarships available for students who want to attend but have a financial need to do so.

Mr. Sills presented the following personnel related items:

Retirement

Maryellen Cantillon	Special Education Teacher	Middle School
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Leave of Absence (2015-16)

Jenna Shaughnessy	1.0 Elementary Teacher	Lane School
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Extracurricular Appointments

High School

Lisa Taub	AFS Advisor
Brian DeChellis	Atmosphere Committee Advisor
Sean McGowan	Chess Club Advisor
Katrina Faulstich	Dramatic Advisor
Erik Smallenberger	Drama Scenery Advisor
Michael Griffin	Environmental Club Advisor
Sarah Kane	Grade 9 Co-Advisor
Susan Muisse	Grade 10 Co-Advisor
Tami Toomey	Grade 10 Co-Advisor
Justine Flora	Grade 11 Co-Advisor
Lisa Predaina	Grade 11 Co-Advisor
Cassie Dresser	Grade 12 Co-Advisor
Beth Billouin	Grade 12 Co-Advisor
James Sunderland	History Day Advisor
Richard Donnelly	Inquiry Advisor
Janel Halupowski	Interact Club Advisor

Lisa Flannery	French Language Club Advisor
Kim Alexander	Latin Club Advisor
Barbara Barnett	Spanish Club Co-Advisor
Kimberly Kinnecom	Spanish Club Co-Advisor
Larry Sheinfeld	Literary Magazine Advisor
Megan Asp	Marching Band Flag Squad Director
James Ham	Marching Band Assistant Director
James Felker	Marching Band Director
Ryan Ruiz	Marching Band Percussion Instructor
Sara Pelczar	Marching Band Drill Instructor
Kristen Milano	Gay Straight Alliance Co-Advisor
Lisa Flannery	Gay Straight Alliance Co-Advisor
Joseph Pike	Head Coach – Boys Outdoor Track
Sophia Grammenos	Assistant Coach - Boys Outdoor Track
Joel Hebert	Head Coach – Girls Outdoor Track
Edwin James	Assistant Coach – Girls Outdoor Track
Gunnar Olson	Head Varsity Baseball Coach
Tim French	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach
Joseph Johnson	JV Coach – Boys Basketball
Dennis Walsh	Head Varsity Coach – Softball
Megan Asp	Assistant Varsity Coach – Softball
Lisa Predaina	JV Coach – Softball
Jeff LoPresti	Head Varsity Coach – Boys Lacrosse
Derek Johnson	Head Coach JV – Boys Lacrosse
Devon Hatch	.7 Head Varsity Coach – Girls Lacrosse
Marcy Beniart	.3 Head Varsity Coach – Girls Lacrosse
Bev Barton	JV Coach – Girls Lacrosse
John Geilfuss	Head Coach Varsity Boys Tennis
Marjorie Marino	JV Coach – Boys Tennis
Alyssa Lapane	Head Coach – Varsity Girls Tennis
Roseanne Ham	JV Coach – Girls' Tennis
Amanda Rebesa	Athletic Trainer

Middle School

Sean Waldron	Head Coach – Baseball
Jennifer Naylor	Head Coach – Softball
Ken Norling	Head Coach – Outdoor track
Al Dougherty	Assistant Coach – Outdoor track

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to vote on the job description for the Program Director for Student Achievement that was presented at an earlier meeting.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the job description for the Program Director for Student Achievement and Data Analysis for grades 6-12 as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

4. FY'16 Budget Vote

Mr. Sills reported that the Finance Committee voted to increase the FY'16 guideline for the schools by \$129,000. In turn, he proposed to reduce the school's FY'16 budget request by a similar amount. Mr. Sills presented a list of reductions totaling \$121,787.

Mr. Sills reminded the School Committee that on February 19, 2015, the voted budget amount for FY'16 was \$36,466,818. Given the increased guideline, the School Committee and Finance Committee agree that the new budget number for FY'16 should now be \$36,596,579.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the FY'16 School budget of \$36,596,579.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Members of the School Committee thanked Mr. Sills and the Finance Committee for their hard work on creating and coming to agreement on the FY'16 budget.

Mr. Sills said that the next piece of business is to deal with the State's decision to not fund the Hanscom student reimbursement. Mr. Sills said he is working diligently to get this reinstated. However, he cannot be sure that this will happen. As a result of this shortfall and the large increase in snow removal expenses, the Finance Committee has asked all departments to reduce the Capital Expenditures for FY'16. Mr. Sills said that all departments met together earlier today to try to come up with \$345,000 in capital reductions/postponements.

As a result, Mr. Sills has proposed delaying the following capital projects:

- Video surveillance cameras at the high school (\$122,000)
- Davis School Recommissioning (\$61,000)

Mr. Sills also noted that there is also some significant savings with the bleachers.

Mr. Sills said that if Hanscom reimbursement funding is reinstated, then there is the possibility that these projects could get back on track.

Mr. Pierce clarified that these projects are not being stopped, just delayed.

Mr. Hafer said that the Finance Committee is a little concerned about pushing these projects out to the future because there could be future financing implications.

Mr. Pierce said that we will not know the total state aid until July.

Mr. Hafer said that it seems like a good strategy to have a few projects that can be pulled and put back on the warrant in time for fall special town meeting – after we know how much state aid comes are way.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee move from FY'16 to FY'17 the following items from the School Capital Expenditure list, with the understanding that if finances allow, the following projects will be reinstated for FY'16 in the fall Special Town Meeting:

- external surveillance cameras at the high school \$122,783
- Davis School Recommissioning \$60,853

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

5. Superintendent's Goals – Midyear Report

Mr. Sills presented a 2014-2015 District Goal update to the School Committee. This report highlighted the progress made to date on initiatives under the following strategic objectives:

- Coherent, global, higher order thinking curriculum/student centered learning
- Equity: teaching all students
- Effective communication with parents and community
- Collaborative professional culture

Mr. Sills gave examples of initiatives from across the district. He graded his work in terms of effort and achievement. The goal update will be posted on the website.

Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Sills to consider soliciting input from the seniors since they are the first class to graduate with use of the Ipad for all four years of high school.

Mr. Pierce also suggested establishing a link to the new district brochure on our website. Mr. Sills agreed and thanked Dr. Jackson for her hard work putting together this brochure.

Mr. McAllister said he enjoyed Mr. Sills's presentation this evening. He was happy to be done with budget discussions and to focus on teaching and learning again.

Mr. Hafer said he likes Mr. Sills summary format but suggested using terms such as "complete", "on track", "at risk" since he finds them to be more informative than letter grades.

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills said he has been discussing with town officials the possibility of having the nursing staff fall under the school department. Meanwhile, the Department of Health has requested FY'16 funding for a Head Nurse stipend, converting the part time nurse to full time and purchase of new school health records software. Mr. Sills has a meeting scheduled with the Department of Health to see if moving the nurses to the school department makes sense. Mr. Sills will report back to the School Committee after this meeting.

Mr. Sills said that PARCC pilot testing is happening at Lane and the middle school. Lane School is using paper tests and the middle school is using online. Last week at the middle school, they learned that there is a lot of set up time required for the online exams. During the pilot, the PARCC server kept crashing while Bedford's technology held up well. Mr. Sills said that he has written a letter to the Commissioner and the Superintendent's Association who in turn will notify the Governor about the experience. Mr. Sills said that PARCC represents a new era of testing. He applauds some aspects of the new test but he said it is important to work out the kinks and that this should be done before district test results are published.

Mr. Sills also reported on the following:

- Last Friday's teacher day was as a success.
- Homeless numbers in Bedford are rising again. He said there are new children in Bedford and many do not speak English and some are refugees.
- He is working with Mr. Coelho and Mr. Alani on the MSBA statement of interest for potential school building projects.
- The enrollment study is due in a few weeks.

7. Liaison Reports

None

8. Minutes for Review

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

School Committee decided to review the minutes of January 28, 2015 at the next meeting.

9. Future Agenda

Mr. Sills said there is a School Department Budget Newsletter and it will be handed out at Town Meeting and posted online.

There are six more School Committee meetings left for the rest of the year. Tonight was Ms. Seibert's last meeting. Mr. Sills and the School Committee thanked Ms. Seibert for her 12 years of service on the School Committee. Each member thanked Ms. Seibert for her hard work and dedication to the schools. They all commented on how Ms Seibert always had a concern about the social-emotional well being of Bedford students and how important this perspective is.

Ms. Seibert thanked the School Committee and said she has learned so much from each person on the School Committee and all of the other town committees that she has worked with. She will miss participating in the graduation ceremony the most.

10 Adjournment

Ms. Seibert made the following motion.

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

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

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
February 10,2015
Exhibits/Documents

- 2014-2015 District Goal Update dated March 7, 2015
- Draft of School Committee meeting minutes dated February 10, 2015