

# **BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF**

**July 8, 2009**

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Pierce called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:35 am. Members present were Mr. Pierce, Ms. Bickford, Mr. Hafer, Ms. O’Gara, and Ms. Seibert. Also present were Mr. Coelho, Director of Finance, Dr. LaCroix, Superintendent, and Ms. McCulloch, Bedford Finance Committee liaison.

### **2. Personnel Report**

Out of State Field and Overnight field trip request for approximately 10 JROTC students to attend a Summer Leadership School at the New Hampshire National Guard Training Site in Center Strafford, NH August 17-21, 2009.

**Moved: To approve field trip for 10 JROTC students attending Summer Leadership School at the New Hampshire National Guard Training Site in Center Strafford, NH, August 17-21, 2009** (Ms. Bickford).

Motion seconded (Ms. O’Gara).

Motion approved: 5-0

### **3. 2008 Annual Report**

Edits discussed to draft 2008 Annual Report to clarify statistics reported and wording.

**Moved: To Approve 2008 Annual Report as amended** (Ms. Bickford).

Motion seconded (Ms. O’Gara).

Motion approved: 5-0

### **4. FY 10 Budget**

Discussed potential FY10 budget reductions to meet recommendation by Town Finance Committee to cut \$204,000 from the approved School Department budget. Dr. LaCroix and Mr. Coelho presented several options and resulting effects.

- To date, discretionary expenses are being held, pending final budget decisions.
- Staff reductions at this point in the contract would have disruptive effects on several levels for staff and students, including scheduling and class size.
- The new staff to accommodate the large kindergarten enrollment of 185 students may be absorbed in the personnel budget after all district hiring is complete.
- Utility rates have been identified as lower than expected by approximately \$100,000. Fewer computers may be replaced, potentially creating a situation of outdated equipment in future years.
- Certain reductions may be possible in libraries, to the extent that they do not jeopardize accreditation.
- Textbook replacements may be adjusted.

- A vacant part-time custodial position can remain unfilled without compromising maintenance at this point.

Questions from members were discussed regarding these areas and special education costs projections.

A total of \$152,100 was identified in the following areas for potential reduction:

\$100,000	Utilities
18,500	Custodial
8,600	Textbook replacement
25,000	Supplies (computer, library, text repair)

Any remaining budget reductions will be identified at a later date, as necessary, pending recommendations from the Fiscal Planning and Coordinating Committee (FPCC). No vote was taken on this matter

The next FPCC meeting is scheduled for July 8.

## 5. Adjournment

**Moved: to adjourn at 8:40 am** (Mr. Hafer).

**Motion seconded** (Ms. O’Gara)

**Motion approved:** 5-0

### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ms. Bickford	yes
Mr. Hafer	yes
Ms. O’Gara	yes
Mr. Pierce	yes
Ms. Seibert	yes

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School Committee Secretary

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Date