

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 9, 2014
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. McAllister, Ms. Guay, Ms. Seibert and Mr. Pierce.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

The School Committee considered a field trip request for the Cross Country Team to attend an invitational meet on October 4, 2014 in Hudson, NH. The cost will be \$350 to the school for the cost of participating in the meet and the bus.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: The School Committee approve the field trip for the BHS Cross Country team to travel to Hudson, NH on October 4, 2014 to participate in a meet at a cost not to exceed \$350 from the Athletic budget.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills announced the following informational items:

Retirements:

Bernadette McDonald	Educational Assistant from JGMS
Bev Marklis	Administrative Assistant Central Office

Resignations:

Stacy Mann	Teaching Assistant	Lane
Pam Brady	Teaching Assistant	Lane
Lexi Zhang	Teaching Assistant	Davis
Kelly Dillon	Teaching Assistant	Lane
Gerald Goolkasian	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Nadine Coletta	Gr. 6 Orange Team Leader	JGMS

Leave of Absences:

Marybeth Kilduff	Food Services	JGMS
Stacy Grillo	Special Ed director	System
Lynda Bailey	Educational Assistant	Davis
Jane Delgobbo	Special Ed teacher	Lane
Nicole Myles	Special Ed Teacher	BHS

Transfer:

Laurie Venuti	High School to Admin.Asst. System
Dawn Kelly	Secretary - JGMS to High School
Yvonne Cormier	Secretary - Business Office to JGMS

Appointments:

Brianne Mansfield	Elementary Teacher	Davis
Christine Shaw	Special Education Teacher	Lane
Cassandra Scott	Special Education Inclusion	Lane
April Carmichael	School Psychologist (LT Sub)	System
Nancy Powell	Registrar	BHS
Kristen Ferrari	Guidance Secretary .5	BHS
Kristina Kerwood	Business Office Secretary	System
Erica Lindstrom	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Justin Sheehan	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Laura Arno	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Kathleen Campbell	Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Ayesha Thomas	Educational Assistant	Davis
Kelly Anderson	.5 Secretary	Davis
Devon Hatch	Building sub	JGMS
Kristen Enneguess	Building sub	JGMS
Cedric Townes	Educational Assistant .2	Lane
Brittany Stanley	Teaching Assistant .7	Lane
Kimberly Kling	Teaching Assistant 1.0	Lane
Patricia Hazelton	Food Service	BHS
Derek Johnson	Long term sub PE	JGMS
Peter Carlson-Bancroft	IT Department	BHS
Kaleb Abebe	IT Department	BHS
Christine Regan	Preschool	BHS
Rebecca Ricci	Building Secretary	Lane
Taylor Waite	Teaching Assistant	BHS
Christina O'Donnell	Special Ed Sub	BHS
Jennifer Wolf	Assistant Special Ed Director	Sub System
Denise Breakall	Gr. 6 Orange Team Leader	JGMS

Coaching Appointments:**High School**

Jeff McGrath	Football Co-Assistant Coach
Vincent McGrath	Football Co-Assistant Coach
Jeff Covelluzzi	JV Football Co-Assistant Coach
Dan Hirsch	JF Football Co-Coach
Jack Belcher	Varsity Football Coach

Middle School

Jeff LoPresti	Football CoHead Coach
Derek Johnson	Football CoHead Coach
David Timperio	Football Assistant Coach
Devon Hatch	Girls Soccer Coach

4. Policy Changes

Dr. Turner, Principal of BHS, asked the School Committee to approve changes to the Alcobl原因 Policy currently in place. The policy currently allows using the Alcobl原因 tool on students suspected of being under the influence at school dances. Dr. Turner would like the policy to be more flexible. Dr. Turner said he is increasingly concerned with student safety at school functions. He is also concerned about pressures students face regarding alcohol and drug use.

Therefore, he has proposed revising the policy to allow him to use the tool as a deterrent to students using alcohol at any school event. He would like to be able to use a breath alcohol-testing device as students enter and/or exit voluntary school events. He would like to use it randomly and even on every student if feasible. The current policy restricts use to cases where there is suspicion of alcohol or drug use and only at dances.

Dr. Turner explained that he has reached out to the students, teaching them about the dangers of alcohol abuse. He has also reached out to parents to get their opinions on how to make dances safer for students. Thirty-two parents (a majority) provided written comments supporting the use of this breath alcohol tool. Dr. Turner said he learned that most other Dual County league schools have a similar policy and practice. Dr. Turner said that our attorneys have said that use of this tool is a legal search (because dances are voluntary). Dr. Turner understands the legal issue and stressed that his intention is to keep students safe.

Mr. Hafer said he sees teen alcohol abuse as a problem that is not specific to Bedford and not a new problem. But he acknowledges that it is something that the high school needs to address and to find ways to keep students safe.

Dr. Turner explained that the plan will be to tell parents about the new policy via a letter. He will also hold a roundtable discussion next Friday. He will also have many conversations about it with the students.

The School Committee agreed to vote on this amended policy at the next meeting.

Mr. Pierce said he has heard complaints from a number of parents about the school applying inconsistent penalties. He cautions administration to use consistent enforcement and consequences.

Dr. Turner said that the philosophy at BHS is that different situations call for different decisions. He said that punishment is applied as a way for students to learn and that he always tries to balance flexibility with consistency.

Newspaper and Media Release Policy

Mr. Sills recommended that the policy for permission to publish in newspapers, on the internet, or on TV to be written so that the default is a “yes”, meaning parents automatically give permission for their child’s image, name and/or work to be published in the media. Right now, the default is “no”. Mr. Sills would like parents who do not want to give permission, to write a letter denying such permission.

Mr. McAllister said he was concerned that parents of younger students may be concerned about having a name and an image published together. He asked how many families of younger students do say no. Mr. Sills said he would look into this further and bring the policy back to the committee to review.

5. Approval of Student Account Maximums

David Coelho explained that every year, the School Committee votes on the maximum balances allowed in student accounts. He recommends that the School Committee approve the same balances as used last year.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the maximum student account balances as follows:

Bedford High School	\$50,000
John Glenn Middle School	\$15,000
Lane School	\$5,000
Davis School	\$5,000

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

6. Appointments

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to vote to approve the Superintendent as voting member of the collaboratives and appoint a School Committee member to the EDCO Advisory Board.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee appoint Mr. Sills to be a voting member of the CASE, LABBB, and EDCO Collaboratives.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee appoint Ms. Seibert to be the School Committee member to serve on the EDCO Advisory Board.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

7. EDCO Collaborative Agreement Approval

Mr. Sills explained that state governance demands a document of agreement amongst the members of EDCO. Mr. Sills shared a memo summarizing a proposed Article of Agreement. The document, he explained, must be approved by member School Committees and Member Charter School Boards as well as the Mass. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The School Committee reviewed the document prior to the meeting. No one had any questions.

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the EDCO Collaborative Articles of Agreement as presented tonight.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills also asked the School Committee to grant permission to allow EDCO to set up a Capital Reserve Fund to support costs associated with acquisition, maintenance, and improvements of fixed assets including real property, pursuant to a capital plan.

Ms. Seibert made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee grant permission to allow EDCO to set up a Capital Reserve Fund to support costs associated with acquisition, maintenance, and improvements of fixed assets including real property, pursuant to a capital plan.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Pierce

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. District Goal

Mr. Sills presented a draft of district goals for 2014-2015. He explained that the goals are a continuation of strategic objectives.

He reviewed the strategic objectives

- Coherent, Global, Higher Order Thinking, Curriculum/Student Centered Learning
- Equity, Teaching All Students
- Effective Communication with Parents and Community (the only new objective)
- Collaborative Professional Culture

Mr. Sills said there will be a deliberate effort in teaching global curriculum and to integrate authentic multicultural content and anti-bias.

Also, the elementary schools will make an extra effort in communicating not only curriculum initiatives to parents but also on social emotional issues.

Mr. Sills also gave a couple of examples of collaborative professional culture at the different schools.

Mr. Sills said he would share measurements at a later date.

The School Committee members were satisfied with the goals outlined by Mr. Sills.

9. Capital Plan Discussion

Mr. Sills explained that the Town has asked all departments and committees to produce a six-year capital plan. According to Mr. Sills, the town recognizes that it owns a lot of valuable assets (buildings) that have to be maintained on a regular basis. Therefore, the town wants the School Committee to identify capital needs in a plan that extends six years. Mr. Sills will start this process and will include space needs at the Davis, Lane and middle schools. Mr. Sills will also address the schools' technology needs in this process. Mr. Sills said he will present his plan to the School Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Pierce said that this type of planning is long overdue. He suggested that Mr. Sills and Mr. Coelho review some of the town's depreciation expenses for property and equipment to compare it to the requested maintenance capital budget.

10. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills said that the Press box vendor is ready to install the new structure on October 13, 2014. The total cost is \$66,680. Funding sources include:

Mudge Fund	\$30,000
Recreation	\$35,000
BAA	\$1,680

Mr. Sills said the FY'16 Capital Plan includes \$30,000 towards this project (Bleachers) as well.

Mr. Sills said that Davis School is in the process of installing 2 modular classrooms. He explained that at the end of last year, the School department decided to use modulars rather than space modifications to accommodate the increased enrollment at Davis School. This decision would allow art and music to remain in their own classrooms and to give us flexibility in the future in case the large enrollments continue.

Mr. Sills said that many issues have cropped up unexpectedly while installing the modular buildings. Therefore, they will not be ready for use until next week. He noted that Mr. Alani, the new Facilities Director, has done an excellent job getting this project completed. He also thanked the teachers who are temporarily displaced to the library and gym for working so hard to keep the kids on track.

Mr. Sills also noted that he will be updating the media on how Bedford will be implementing Facing History Curriculum as a result of last year's anti-Semitic incidents. He thanked the Bedford Education Foundation for donating \$5,000 towards the purchase of new curriculum.

11. Future Agenda

Dr. Jackson will report on MCAS results. Also, the School Committee needs to discuss the importance of privacy now that the schools and the DESE are collecting so much student data.

12. Review of Minutes

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 1, 2013 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Pierce made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Seibert

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

13. Liaison Reports

Ms. Guay reported:

- Middlesex Community College now has a fulltime police officer at the Bedford campus.
- The Health Department has prepared an Emergency Preparedness Brochure and it will be available to all at Bedford Day
- Flu shots will be available at Bedford Day
- A speaker will be presenting "Raising a Resilient Child" to interested community members
- The COA will have a Middle East focused series of speakers

Mr. Pierce discussed some of the proposed changes being discussed at the recent Charter Review Committee meeting. One item of discussion was whether it made sense for a member of the Finance Committee to be part of the Finance Committee Appointing Board. The Charter Review Committee was discussing a variety of appointing authority models. One model proposed was that the Town Moderator have sole authority to appoint Finance Committee members.

Ms. Seibert and Mr. Hafer asked Mr. Pierce to let the Charter Review committee know that they had reservations about one person having sole appointing authority. Mr. Pierce agreed to pass on concerns to the Charter Review Committee.

School Committee members also asked for the opportunity to review other changes to the Charter and the opportunity to offer positions and concerns. Mr. Pierce agreed to get the changes and circulate them with the School Committee.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Pierce made the following motion.

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

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

September 9, 2014

Exhibits/Document

- Memo regarding EDCO Collaborative Article of Agreement and Capital Reserve Fund dated July 17, 2014
- Draft of District Goals for the 2014-2015 School Year
- Draft of minutes from the April 1, 2014 School Committee meeting
- Draft of minutes from the February 25, 2014 School Committee meeting

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Executive Session
September 9, 2014