

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 26, 2022

Meeting location:

BHS LGI Room

and Telecast remotely via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

At 7:09 PM, Ms. Scoville called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Ms. Mehta-Green, Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Morrison, Student Representative Prakar Guta, METCO Representative Madeline Sanabria and Hanscom Representative Sara McGinley

2. Public Comment

No Comments

3. PR Report

Appointments:

Kelsey McCarthy	English Program Administrator	District
Nicole Prince	ELA Program Administrator	District
Matthew Clark	1.0 TA LTS	BHS
Viana Mendes	LTS French Teacher	JGMS

Internal Transfers:

Jennifer Gonzalez	1.0 TA/BT (Bridge)	Davis
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Resignation:

Sarah Berejik	Adjustment Counselor	BHS
Erin Eggers	Science Teacher	BHS
Nuri Barlas	Skill Center Teacher	JGMS
Lisa Lodi	Food Service Worker	JGMS

4. Field trip Review:

- **Nature's Classroom: November 2-4, 2022**
- **Costa Rica: April 13-21, 2023**
- **JROTC: Washington DC, June 24-28, 2022**

Mr. Conrad gave a brief overview of the request by the 6th grade team to move the Nature's Classroom Trip back to the November from the current spring date. Due to COVID-19, the trip date had been changed to the spring this year.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the field trip to Nature's Classroom, November 2-4, 2022 at no cost to school/district.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

Ms. Grammenos make a presentation to the School Committee regarding the proposed Costa Rica Field Trip for 8th and 9th grade students. During Ms. Grammenos presentation, the following items were talking points for the benefits of all students that would travel on the trip.

- Students will be select to participate in the trip through an application process
- Meals and transportation are included in the price
- Students from BPS will be their own group and will not be mixed with any other groups
- Opportunity for students to learn and experience other cultures
 - Practice Spanish and engage with international culture
 - Enjoy Costa Rican food and history
- Fundraising and other financial support will be available
- All COVID safety protocols will be followed

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the field trip to Costa Rica, April 13-21, 2023 at no cost to the district

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

Lt. Col. Kenneth Mierz gave a brief presentation on the BPS Air Force JROTC learning today, it had been selected to participate in the JLAB Competition in Washington, DC on June 24-28, 2022. The JLAB is a JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl comprised of 2,000 teams and only the top 16 teams can advance to Washington, DC in June. Four Cadets and two alternates have been selected to participate in the competition.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the JROTC Field Trip to Washington, DC, June 24-28, 2022 at no cost to the district.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

5. JGMS Schedule Review

Mr. Hartunian and other staff members from JGMS presented the following during their presentation about the proposed changes to the JGMS schedule. The proposed schedule would be a one-year pilot program beginning in the Fall of 2022-2023 school year.

- Core academic classes -English/Math/ Social Studies/Science/World language- would meet everyday
- Arts/Wellness- Would increase offerings to all students and allow more students access to ensembles
- Special Education Students- Would be able to increase access to Arts/Wellness
 - Currently students receiving general education support services or those in Special Education have decreased access to Arts/Wellness
- 6th grade students currently have one block of Art- with the proposed schedule Art would increase to 2 blocks. World Language is currently 3 blocks and it would increase to 4 blocks
- 7th & 8th graders currently have 2 blocks of PE and this offering would increase to 3 blocks with the proposed schedule.
- 7th & 8th grade students could also choose a 2nd Ensemble (Band/Chorus/Orchestra) would potentially increase from zero to 2 blocks for some students.
 - Students that do not choose a 2nd ensemble may have directed study or Arts/Wellness exploratory course depending on schedule
- Team meetings
 - 30 Current team meetings at 55 minute meeting totaling 1,650 minutes
 - Proposed schedule would be 45 team meeting at 48 minutes, totaling 2,160 minutes
- Special Education Students
 - Currently have 10 blocks of Arts/Wellness/Core courses- would increase to 12 blocks
 - Currently have no 2nd ensemble or exploratory courses- would have 2 with proposed schedule
 - Currently have no space for service delivery blocks- would have 2 blocks with proposed schedule

6. 403 B Retirement Design Changes – 1st Read

Ms. Kirrane presented the following to School Committee members regarding the 403B Retirement change request. The Town of Bedford sponsors and funds employee benefits for school employees with the exception of a school sponsored 403b Retirement Savings Plan offered to school

employees. The 403b plan is administered by a third party - TSA Consulting Group – and employees may choose from numerous financial providers for additional retirement savings.

Bedford Public Schools and TSACG executed a Plan Adoption Agreement in 2019 following the transition to TSACG from a previous third party administrator (Mid America). In 2009, employers made significant updates to their retirement plans to comply with legal changes.

The current plan includes: Pre-Tax Elective deferrals, Rollovers, Post-Tax elective deferrals (Roth), Plan-to-Plan transfers, Age 50 Catch-up provisions. All employees are eligible to participate and the district contributes \$200 per participant annually. The distribution options in the plan include:

- Financial Hardship distributions, distributed at age 59
- 12 Distribution of rollover contributions at any time
- The plan formerly included an option for employee loans until 2019 – (this option was eliminated and has not been part of the TSACG plan since that time).

The Bedford Educators Association is requesting, on behalf of their members, that the loan provision be reinstated. The district also is requesting that the School committee approve this plan change and the reinstatement of loans as an option for employees. The district is not involved in any loan distributions or loan repayment. Revised plan documents would need to be signed by the School Committee in the near future. All employees receive notice of the 403b plan that is available through TSACG, as required by IRS guidelines.

7. Cap Ex Update

Mr. Alani & Ms. Kirrane gave an update to the School Committee on Capital Improvement projects currently in process and others in the planning stages, as this is a six-year plan for FY24-FY29. The planning process begins with a School Committee discussion in the Spring, followed a plan development with the Town, and followed by a Capital Budget review process in the Fall. School Capital Maintenance items include IT Replacement, Copiers and FFE Replacement. Schools and Facilities Capital Maintenance include Custodial equipment, floor replacement, and interior painting. Some of the energy net zero projects include- boiler replacement, energy system recommissioning and solar systems. Other school projects would include- interior security systems, intrusion detection system, solar screening or window blinds.

8. FY 22 Superintendent Mid-Year Goals

Mr. Conrad presented to the School Committee with an overview of his FY22 Mid-Year Goals. During Mr. Conrad's presentation he spoke about the meetings, and groups he participates in and all the books that he has enjoyed reading thus far. Mr. Conrad also spoke about visiting all the schools and how he enjoys getting to meet and see the students and staff. He enjoys hearing the students speak about all they are learning and making good connection with them. Some of the students have even started to come by and visit him in his office. Mr. Conrad spoke about working closely with the Leadership Team and about the work being done around Diversity and Inclusion. A Diversity and

Inclusion statement is currently being drafted and Mr. Conrad will share it with the committee shortly.

9. Superintendent Updates

Mr. Conrad presented the following during his Superintendents report. The following events will be taking place during the month of May: Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Teacher Appreciation week. The students returning from the Ecuador trip arrived safely after many delays on the return home. Pool testing will continue, Tenacity Challenge happens this weekend. BEST & MSPA will be host speaker Sara Ward. Ms. Ward will speak about how to manage time, space and emotion.

10. Draft Minutes

Mr. Morrison made the following motion: To approve the minutes of April 12, 2022

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

11. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion: **10:10 PM to adjourn not to re-open in Open Session.**

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Mehta-Green	Yes

Exhibits/Documents

Field Trips: Nature's Classroom: November 2-4, 2022,

Costa Rica: April 13-21, 2023, JROTC Washington, DC: June 24-28

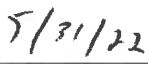
Draft Minutes for 4-12-2022

JGMS Schedule Review

Cap Ex Update presentation



School Committee Secretary



Date

