

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 24, 2023

Meeting location:

**LGI Room
and Telecast remotely via ZOOM**

1. Call to Order

At 7:03 PM, Mr. Morrison called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Scoville, Mr. Brosgol, Ms. Guay, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Mehta-Green, and Hanscom Representative Sarah McGinley

2. Open Budget Hearing

Mr. Conrad presented the Superintendent's FY24 Proposed Budget to the School Committee. Some of the key features of the budget during the presentation were:

- Preserves strong support for district initiatives and best practices
- Strategically targets improved class sizes at BHS and JGMS
- Ensures class sizes within School Committee guidelines at Davis and Lane
- Adds elementary reserve teacher
- Restores a Librarian at the Lane School

Superintendent's FY24 Budget Proposal

- Increase of 3% is needed for Maintenance of Effort /Level Services with additional support of 1% requested
- Total request of 4% exceeds Finance Committee's 3.5% budget guideline by 0.5%
 - Covers an additional \$150,000 in MOE budget for out-of-district tuition to properly plan for the actual known costs of out-of-district tuition
 - Provides \$83,393 in funding for additional needs

3. Budget Hearing Public Comment

Christi Martin

11 Selfridge Road

Ms. Martin spoke against elimination of teaching positions at Davis and Lane. Ms. Martin expressed the need for the ongoing support students still need to get back on track after COVID warranted keeping the staff. Ms. Martin understood enrollment numbers may be down but suggested keeping one teacher per grade at both Davis and Lane to support those students in need that are currently in the district.

Erica Colbath

32 Pine Street

Ms. Colbath asked for clarification on the stipend budget item with regard to caseload. Ms. Colbath asked if the increased caseload meant we were at our top most limit for teaching staff.

Kevin Smaldone

Member of the BEA Executive Board

Mr. Smaldone, A Member of the BEA Executive Board, stated he was duly designated to speak on behalf of the BEA.

Mr. Smaldone thanked the members of the committee for providing him the opportunity to speak on behalf of the BEA. Mr. Smaldone went on to read the following statement. We are here as a collective unit, as teachers, parents, and stakeholders in the Bedford Public Schools, to stand in solidarity with each other but also you and the whole town of Bedford, as we always have and will.

First, we are here expressing concern about the reduction in teaching staff, at a time where students continue to work through the impacts of the past few years; there is a shortage of highly qualified teachers and personnel; and the eye of this committee is performance above and beyond that of pre-pandemic levels.

We are also here looking to protect the future of our schools and the relationship between the BEA and this committee. As well as to support the incoming superintendent, whomever they may be, by starting the negotiations process this spring so that they may spend their first year doing what we trust they will do best, lead this world class staff and school system.

4. FY24 BPS Budget Discussion & Vote

Mr. Conrad the FY24 Budget discussion amongst the School Committee members and clarified any outstanding items prior to a vote being taken by the committee to approve or deny the Budget as presented to them.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion: **The School Committee approves the FY24 budget of \$46,970,981.00 as presented.**

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

5. Public Comment

No comments

6. PR Report

Appointments:

Mark Staplin	LTS 6th Grade Reading Teacher	JGMS
Sam Lamothe	Custodian	District
Alan Wang	Per-Diem Sub	District
Inho Lee	Per Diem Sub	District
Shannon Young	Per Diem Sub	District
Michaela O'Brien	Per Diem Sub	District
George Major	Per Diem Sub	District
Maya Driscoll	Per Diem Sub	District
Caitlyn Stephan	Per Diem Sub	District
James Tierney	Per Diem Sub	District
Adam Driscoll	Per Diem Sub	District
Lynne Hickox	Per Diem Sub	District
Keith Miles	5 Day BB Sub	Lane
Vincent Recca	Project Adventure TA .3	Lane
Madison Belbute	5 Day BB Sub	BHS
Crystal Curran	5 Day BB Sub	BHS
Terri Decker-Kilmartin	Special Ed Teacher	BHS

Resignations/Terminations:

Wei Chen	TA/BT	Davis
Meghan Hughes	LTS TA/BT	Davis
Malinda Healey	Preschool TA/BT	Davis
Patricia Belanger	Special Education TA	JGMS
Stephanie Busa	Social Studies Teacher	JGMS
Kailey Sparks	Sail TA/BT	JGMS

7. Gun Violence Preventative Campaign- request for endorsement

Ms. Heidi Porter, Director, Health & Human Services, Ms. Maureen Richichi, Vice Chair, Bedford Board of Health and Mr. Scott Jones, Lieutenant, Bedford Police Department gave a presentation about the Bedford Safe campaign to the School Committee. They shared that this is a collaborative effort sponsored by each entity and other organization within the Town of Bedford. The main purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness and provide preventative measures to the community as concerns grow nationwide about gun violence. Some of the campaigns gun violence prevention initiatives include: an enhanced Gun Buyback program; distribution of free cable-style gun lock kits with safety instructions; a community-wide prevention awareness program including educational online articles and a mailing to all households; and a public educational presentation by the co-founders and Directors of the Massachusetts General Hospital's Center for Gun Violence Prevention: "Gun Violence in America: community-driven approaches to this local and national crisis".

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion: **The School Committee endorses the Bedford Safe Campaign for gun violence prevention.**

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

8. Superintendent Report

Mr. Conrad shared the following details during his Superintendent report to the School Committee. Mr. Conrad sent Condolences to Gretchen Dick's family on behalf of the School Committee. Ms. Dick was a 1968 graduate of the Bedford Public Schools and went on to teach in the district for many years. The Health Department will host a Flu/Vaccine Clinic this weekend. Please see the Health Department website for full details. A huge thank you to everyone during the snowstorm. Especially the Davis and METCO staff as the all clear from Bedford Charter did not come until 5pm for Davis and after 6PM for METCO. Superintendent Search update- finalist interviews will be happening soon. School Committee members will receive and review potential candidate questions from Mr. Morrison along with other documents regarding the finalist.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion: **8:31 PM to adjourn the meeting not to reopen to the public.**

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Mehta-Green

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

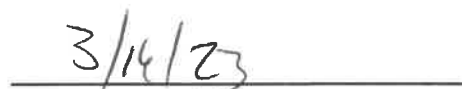
Exhibits/Documents

PR Report

BPS Superintendent's FY24 Budget Proposal

Gun Violence Prevention Campaign Letter


School Committee Secretary


Date