

## **BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**February 28, 2023**

**Meeting location:**

**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. Public Comment**

No comment

### **3. PR Report**

#### **Appointments:**

Carrie Raho	LTS Teaching Assistant	Lane
Britni Butler	Behavior Technician	Lane
Tristan Proulx	Per Diem Sub	District
James Worrell	Per Diem Sub	District
James Dunlea	Per Diem Sub	District
Dana Brett	LTS ELL Teacher	BHS
Meghan Sementelli	Spec Ed TA	JGMS

#### **Resignations/Terminations:**

Jackson Stuzynski	Custodian	JGMS
Kristina Irvine-Santos	Food Service	Lane

### **4. Gift & Donations: Leuders Donation Update**

Mr. Conrad took a few moments to correct an error made at the January 17, 2023 School Committee meeting. At that meeting, an old donation from 2021 from Leuders Landscaping was included in the new gifts and donations erroneously but was not listed on the Gifts & Donations memo. It was included in the vote to accept the new gifts/donations and recorded in the minutes. This is to update that it was an error.

### **5. FY23 Midyear Fiscal Update**

Ms. Kirrane provided a brief presentation on the FY23 Midyear Fiscal Update to the School Committee. During Ms. Kirrane's presentation, she spoke of the following.

As of January 31, with 57% of the operating budget expended or encumbered, the operating budget has a projected deficit of -\$239,927. The bottom line deficit is attributed to out-of-district tuition expense to be covered by a town reserve approved for this purpose up to \$200,000 and spending

authorized for a school district security and safety assessment (up to \$75,000). The actual cost of the security study is 49,950.

Assuming a reserve fund transfer for the full amount of the out-of-district tuition overage and the cost for the school safety study, the year-end balance is projected at \$8,474. Any surpluses that may accumulate by year-end will reduce the amount of reserve fund transfer request to be made in June. The school is expected to end the year with a \$0 balance.

**Operating Expenses** – All expense accounts through the end of the year are projected to end with a net negative balance of -\$326,662. This is the result of higher than anticipated contracted services to cover staff vacancies in special education paraprofessional positions. These specialized temporary staff provide specific services to students, as defined by their IEPs.

The operating budget does not include Covid-19 related expenses this year. However, the district is still incurring additional costs for school nursing and for testing, adjusting and maintaining HVAC systems (including advanced filtration) that the district is continuing to operate at maximum capacity. These costs are being covered by ARPA funds, as planned in the Town's multi-year budget for the grant (\$289,701 in FY23). This is the third and final year the schools are supported by the Town ARPA grant. All direct school Covid-19 relief grants have been fully expended.

## **6. Superintendent Update**

Mr. Conrad shared the following during his Superintendent's report to the School Committee. On March 14, 2023, the School Committee meeting will be held at the METCO offices in Boston. Saturday night at 7PM, the BEF Birthday Bash will be held. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Chicago Teen will have performances on March 15-18. More information will go out in the Friday memo. BHS 27<sup>th</sup> Art Show will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in March. METCO's Black History Event prior to vacation was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that came out in support of METCO and this event. Scholars for Dollars is once again taking place.

## **7. Superintendent Search Update**

Mr. Morrison began the discussion by thanking everyone involved in the process for their tireless work and efforts. Mr. Morrison also stated that each School Committee member would give their finding on the background/reference checks that were conducted on each of the four candidates. Then the committee members' would discussion in more detail the candidate or candidates that they felt were a stand out and then vote on their choice. Mr. Morrison made it clear that this was the first time that School Committee members where hearing full details about findings of each candidates background/reference check as a whole body.

Each School Committee member presented their finding on candidates and then a group discussion was held before the next candidate's reference/background check was shared. At the end of four round rounds of questions, the committee made their selection of Dr. Cliff Chuang and a vote to approve this choice was taken. Then a ten-minute break was taken to inform the candidate of the School Committees decision.

Ms. Guay made the following motion: **The school committee votes to approve Dr. Cliff Chuang as the next Superintendent subject to a successful contract negotiation.**

**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. Open Meeting Law Change (March 31, 2023)**

Mr. Morrison read the following statement and began the discussion amongst the other members as to which direction they want to go with all future meetings for the remainder of the 2022-2023 calendar. As of the date of this meeting, no extension to the current open meeting law is expected. School Committee members had a lengthy discussion and had some clarifying questions they needed answered before a vote will be taken.

#### **Current Open Meeting Law language:**

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The Act does not make any new changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from July 15, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

#### **9. Minutes**

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: **The school committee votes to approve the minutes with noted edits for February 6, 2023**

**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

Ms. Scoville made the following motion: **The school committee votes to approve the minutes with noted edits for February 7, 2023**

**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

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: **The school committee votes to approve the minutes with noted edits for February 14, 2023**

**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

#### **10. Adjournment**

Prior to the adjournment vote, all School Committee members thanked Ms. Guay for her service and commitment to the School Committee.

Ms. Guay made the following motion: **9:36 PM to adjourn not to reopen to the public.**

**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

#### **Exhibits/Documents**

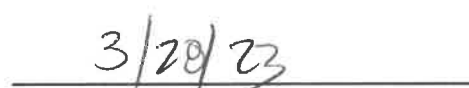
**Draft Minutes**

**PR Report**

**Fiscal 2023 Midyear Update**



**School Committee Secretary**



**Date**