

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**November 28, 2023**

**Meeting location:**

**Select Board Room-10 Mudge Way and Telecast remotely via ZOOM**

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:06 PM, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Morrison, Ms. Mehta-Green, Ms. Scoville, Ms. McGinley, METCO Representative Ms. Williams, Hanscom Representative Ms. Howell, and Student Representative Shreyes Shivappa

**2. Student Presentation: BHS Art Club with Dhara Kaushik, BHS Art Club President**

Mr. Hagan and BHS Art Club President, Ms. Kaushik spoke to the School Committee about the current projects that the Art Club is working on in and around BHS. The students in the Art Club are currently working on author murals and signage for the Social Studies Department. The students are utilizing repurposed materials whenever possible. Mini gallery has been put together to display the students work from Art classes not Art Club. Mr. Hagan complimented Ms. Kaushik on her ability to promote the Art Club to students.

**3. Public Comment**

Emily Mitchell  
4 Heritage Drive

Ms. Mitchell addressed the committee about her concerns with the planned camera use at Bedford High School. Ms. Mitchell asked if more staff could be utilized. She feels that the use of camera could give students a feeling of being constantly under surveillance and not worthy of being trusted. Ms. Mitchell asked for data from other towns that have implemented the use of camera as we are proposing. Ms. Mitchell also stated she felt that the use of cameras would make students feel as though a fortress was being built around them which is not welcoming or giving the feeling of a safe space.

**4. Minutes**

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee votes to approve the draft minutes with suggested edits on November 14, 2023

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Brosgol</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**5. Personnel Report ( will be provided every other month)**

**Appointments:**

Emily Martin	TA/BT	11/1/23	Davis
Elizabeth Brosgol	LTS Teacher	10/26/23	Davis
Maryellen Schissler	Per Diem Sub	10/30/23	Davis
Mairead St. Clair	BT	1/1/24	Lane
Assiya Karaltayeva	TA/BT	11/13/23	Lane
Lydia Ortiz	METCO Bus Monitor	10/16/23	Lane
Jaclyn Ruble	Food Service Worker	11/27/23	Lane
Julina Franklin	Title One Math Teacher	11/14/23	Lane
Gabriel Alper	Per Diem Sub	10/30/23	District
Patricia Hazelton	Food Service Worker Float	11/27/23	District

**Resignations:**

Britni Butler	TA/BT	10/27/23	Lane
Amanda Lipsey	TA/BT	11/22/23	Lane
Alejandro Mango	BT	10/20/23	JGMS

**Retirements:**

Carol Wait	Teacher	6/30/24	Davis
Susan Nocera	Teacher	11/4/23	Davis

**6. Planning Board & MBTA Law/Compliance Presentation**

Planning Board Member, Ms. Barbehenn gave a presentation on the overview of the State’s new MBTA Multifamily Housing Choice Law. This law requires 177 communities in the Boston metropolitan region to zone for the possibility of 15% more housing units than the community currently has. The law states that the zoning for these units must be “as-of-right” and suitable for families. Ms. Barbehenn stated that there is a severe housing shortage in the region. This law is designed to promote building more homes to support our workforces in the region.

**7. Update on Literacy Plan**

Dr. Clifford presented an update on the Literacy Plan with significant changes and updates to the plans that are happening now and that will continue throughout the summer with teachers and administrators. The following are some areas of focus that will be taking place or that have begun to take place.

Dr. Clifford shared the following. The Bedford Public Schools Literacy Plan was created in the spring of 2020 and the plan had five specific goals: Goal 1: Vision/Leadership/Communication, Goal 2: Assessment, Goal 3: Intervention Process, Goal 4: Core Curriculum and Instruction

Goal 5: Professional Development/Coaching.

Goal 4: Core Curriculum and Instruction had outstanding actions to be completed.

Action Step 1: Consistency in core, Tier I literacy instruction will be created at all grade

levels. Action Step 2: Core, Tier I literacy instruction will be differentiated at all grade levels.

Action Step 5: A clear scope and sequence for reading and writing in the content areas will be created, using a common template for curriculum mapping.

In order to address the action steps under this goal several meetings were had with consultants, the district has contracted with HILL for Literacy (HILL) to address the outstanding action steps outlined above. In collaboration with HILL, the district will focus on the following objectives for the remainder of this school year:

1. To create a District Literacy Leadership Team (DLLT) to conduct a core literacy program review leading to the selection of new literacy curriculum
2. Provide teachers and administrators with a 10-module Science of Reading course provided by HILL and endorsed by MA DESE.

#### **8. Update on Capital Budget Request- Security Cameras**

Superintendent Chuang shared with the School Committee his presentation to the Capital Expenditure Committee at their November 29, 2023 meeting. Additional information about the FY25 school safety capital request of \$925,000 and clarification about plans related to allocated FY24 capital funds for this project are included.

Some highlights of the request follow:

- Additional clarification about the specifics of the March 2023 Town Meeting warrant language related to the FY24 school safety capital request
  - we are no longer proposing to use FY24 capital funds on security cameras.
  - the pricing is subject to fluctuations due to timing and supply chain issues.
  - The projects are prioritized based on risks/threat levels
  - The absence of security cameras in our schools was identified as the top vulnerability to safety by EDC at each one of our schools.
  - The Town Manager is proposing to fund this FY25 request using available free cash, which will allow the Facilities Department to begin implementation of the cameras in March 2024 if Town Meeting approves request.

#### **9. Preliminary FY25 Budget Preview**

Superintendent Chuang provided an overview and objectives of the FY25 Budget with School Committee members. Allocate resources that are responsive to student needs and ongoing district priorities. Create a fiscally responsible budget plan. Stabilize funding for rising costs, allow for flexibility for initial implementation of priorities identified in the new district improvement plan following the collaborative planning process in spring/summer 2024. A budget increase of 3.5% is available, as communicated by the Finance Committee, in the amount of \$1,635,816. We commit to adhering class size guidelines and maintaining fully inclusive participation in all educational opportunities. Enrollment decline is expected. Eighteen fewer elementary students expected with eleven more students at JGMS and BHS. 1.0 FTE elementary teacher may shift from Lane to Davis if necessary.

**10. Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Chuang provided the following during his report to the School Committee. Update on Phase I of the entry- Instructional observation are ongoing, no socials during the next two months. Research team is analyzing the data received thus far Data will be shared after the budget period has concluded in January. Phase II has begun at this time.

**11.**

Mr. Morrison made the following motion: **To adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Unit A Contract Negotiations with the Bedford Education Association. Not to reopen to the public.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Mehta-Green**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

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

**Exhibits/Documents**

Draft Minutes-October 24, 2023  
SC Memo- Irene Parker Vote  
SC Memo FY25 Budget Update

**School Committee Approved**

**Date: December 19, 2023**