

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 18, 2016
Bedford High School - Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Santiago and Student Representative Tracie Lewis.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Invention Convention Presentation

Mr. Rob Ackerman, Principal of Lane School and Maggie Carluccio, a former Lane School student (and now a JGMS 6th grade student) presented a project from the 2015-16 Lane School “Invention Convention”.

Mr. Ackerman explained that this is an annual springtime event for 5th grade students at Lane. It is similar to a science fair but the majority of the work is done in school and by students themselves (not their parents). Mr. Ackerman thought this presentation would be a good example of the thinking that happens with 5th graders at Lane School.

Last year, the fifth graders were told to create an invention that solved a problem. Maggie and her friends concluded that doing laundry was a time consuming chore. So they thought of an invention that would help simplify and complete the chore in less time. Maggie demonstrated her folding mechanism and described the process of trial and error as the group created the clothing folder. The School Committee members were very impressed with her presentation and the invention and thanked Maggie and Mr. Ackerman for demonstrating the invention and describing the process used to come up with such a helpful household tool.

4. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the request for a Behavior Specialist Teaching Assistant at the Davis School because another student has joined the SAIL Program. The program now has 9 students enrolled.

Mr. Sills said that the program has doubled in size very quickly. He has looked at neighboring towns to see if they have a similar programs to the Davis School program and many do. He does not think that our growth is a result of a “build it and they will come” phenomenon. He thinks the increasing enrollment of young children with autism diagnosis is a societal issue and not solely a Bedford issue.

Ms. Guay agreed and said that this is not just a Bedford concern. More and more children are being identified with autism at a much younger age than in the past. The average age for diagnosis is now at 13 months.

Mr. Sills said that the cost effect of adding this new Teaching Assistant will be neutral on our budget due to the costs savings of not sending the student to an out-of-district program.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that this is an example of something the School Committee cannot anticipate during the budgeting planning process. “We are lucky that this addition does not have a budget impact.”

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the addition of a Behavior Specialist Teaching Assistant position for Davis School’s SAIL Program due to enrollment of a new student.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to appoint a Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee appoint MaryLou Sallee to be the Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer for the Bedford Public Schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the request for Vera Corbett, Kindergarten teacher at Davis School, to attend an out-of-state conference on November 17-20, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia. The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference theme is “Faces of Advocacy” which will inform Ms. Corbett on her work as a teacher, team leader and Equity & Diversity member. Ms. Corbett will pay her own transportation costs.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve Ms. Vera Corbett’s attendance to the NCTE Equity & Diversity Conference on November 17-20, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia at a cost of \$255 to the schools.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills reported the following personnel items:

Resignations:

Mary Bania	BCBA	Pre-School
Sandra Terranova	Food Service	Lane

Appointments:

Laurie LeBlanc	Permanent Building Sub	Davis
Shannon O’Haverty	Contracted OT	BHS/JGMS
Amanda Szidat	TA/Behaviorist	Davis
Kathryn Zolla	Contracted EA	Preschool
Leah Walton	.5 Title 1 Math Interventionist	BHS

5. Capital Budget Presentation

Mr. Taissir Alani, Director of Facilities, presented the FY’18 Capital budget request. He also handed out a comprehensive binder (FY’18-23) to members of the School Committee. This binder contained the six year capital request plan and all of the backup documentation.

Mr. Alani began the presentation with a quick summary of some of the projects that were completed over the summer. Some projects completed include:

- Installing the Davis School backup generator
- Building a shed at Davis School to store combustibles
- Replacement clocks at BHS
- Sail Classroom upgrades at BHS
- Security door installation at JGMS (ongoing but expected to finish by election day)
- Installing emergency power throughout JGMS
- New foreign language classrooms at Lane (and relocation of Tech Lab)

Mr. Alani then presented the following twelve capital projects in the request for FY'18:

1. Acoustic System for Davis and Lane gymnasiums \$120,000
2. Davis School Addition feasibility Study \$98,000
3. Davis School Addition Schematic Design \$350,000
4. Flooring Replacement plans (happens every 12-15 years) \$50,000
5. Davis and Lane School Gymnasium floor stripping, sanding and refinishing \$40,500
6. Interior Auditorium Lighting upgrade at JGMS \$60,000
7. Interior painting cycle \$50,000
8. Lane School Parking Lot circulation improvements \$200,000
9. Demo and storage of Pressbox \$30,000 (if no funding available for wheel chair access)
10. Wheel Chair lift to Pressbox \$47,369
11. Space modifications at Davis \$30,000
12. School building sidewalk snow tractor purchase \$50,000

Mr. Alani showed an informational video on the new tractor proposal.

Mr. Justin Humphreys of TBA Architects, spoke in detail about the possible parking improvement options at Lane School. He described the three options that were discussed with the Building Committee. Two options had various improvements within the same footprint of the existing driveway, bus loop, drop off and parking lots. A third option was to build a new road that went out the back of the property to North Road.

The Lane School Building Committee discussed all options and ultimately decided that they like "Option 1" which would do the following:

- Increase total parking spaces to 155 (From 99)
- Widen the road from Sweetwater to three lanes. This way, all 14 busses could line up and still allow cars to enter and exit the school yard.
- Widen the bus loop to accommodate more busses
- Move the parent drop –off and pick up (in a place that still has a sight line to the front door of the school)
- Extend the "east" lot by adding 18 additional spaces (but it will be a dead end lot)

The project can be planned to do all of the above or to not move forward with the expanded roadway or the expanded east lot.

The cost of the project is \$560,000. Funding sources for \$350,000 has been identified leaving approximately \$200,000 needed from the FY'18 Capital Budget.

After viewing the option with the new road, Mr. McAllister was surprised to see how much land was part of the Lane School property. He asked why we could not just simply expand the parking lot into some of the unused land in order to add a lot more parking spaces. Mr. Humphreys said that we could do so if the goal was to simply add more spaces. However, the goal of the project is to improve circulation which limits renovations to the existing footprint of the driveway and parking lots.

Mr. Pierce said that the option of adding a new road was intriguing. He thought it may be worth presenting this option to a wider audience. He wondered if people living in the Sweetwater neighborhood would be interested in learning about this option in case they are interested in improving traffic on their streets.

Mr. McAllister said we should seek to understand why so many people pick up and drop off at school when bus transportation is free and determine how often the building is used in after school hours (when a lot of the parking issues spill out into the neighborhood).

Mr. Brosgol thinks that Option 1 will help with circulation but will not dramatically improve the pick-up/drop-off experience given the setup of the school on the lot.

Mr. Sills said he will reach out to the neighbors for input and learn more about the frequency of after school events, including any that the Recreation Dept. may have.

Mr. Alani asked the School Committee if they had any questions on the proposed FY'18 projects.

Mr. Brosgol asked if demo and storage of the pressbox was truly a capital project. Mr. Alani said yes, that the demo and storage of the modular classrooms falls under the capital budget.

Ms. Santiago pointed out that if we need to pay to demo and store the pressbox we will have to pay \$30,000 and we will also have to pay \$12,000 to set it up again and still pay to make it handicap accessible when we want to use it again.

Ms. Santiago also asked about the expected life of the proposed tractor. Mr. Alanis said 15 years. Ms. Santiago said that she sees an early payback with this purchase and savings associated with reduced overtime (when custodians have to snow blow and shovel sidewalks). She also sees possible fewer delayed school openings and a reduction in use of salt since the tractor clears snow down to the pavement.

Mr. Pierce asked whether we should make the tractor purchase in conjunction with DPW. Mr. Alani said it is really a school needed piece of equipment since the Facilities Department is responsible for clearing the sidewalks leading up to the school building.

Mr. Sills noted that neither the Technology Plan (\$445,200) nor the BHS Pole Vault/Mat upgrade (\$22,525) is in the binder Mr. Alani prepared.

School Committee members thanked Mr. Alani for a thorough presentation.

6. MCAS-PARCC Presentation

Ms. MaryLou Sallee presented the 2016 MCAS-PARCC results and accountability report. She began by reminding the Committee that this past testing year was the second year of transition from MCAS to PARCC testing. Students in grades 3-8 had to take the PARCC written exams.

Ms. Sallee explained that the next round of testing (2017) would be MCAS 2.0 – a hybrid of MCAS and PARCC. However grade 4 and 8 must be taken online.

Overall, Bedford's accountability level is Level 2. Although the high school made Level 1 status in its annual, cumulative PPI (progress and performance indices), the middle and Lane schools did not. Therefore, the District is deemed a Level 2 district.

Bedford High School

- 98% scored advanced or proficient in Gr. 10 ELA
- 91% scored advanced or proficient in Gr. 10 Math
- The school is at or above target for reducing proficiency gaps measured by PPI.

The math department has identified the support required by every struggling learner and offers co-taught classes in STEM, Algebra 1, and Geometry CP. Also, the department will devote 6-12 days to look at student work in order to continue to strengthen the program. The focus will continue to be on open response questions.

The English department is conducting baseline assessments. There are lots of support classes – writing lab, scaffolding for complex reading and writing, and more coordination of vertical work in grades 6-12 in order to fine-tune curriculum to the Common Core.

In Science, there is recently updated curriculum in place. However, the MCAS test is still based on older curriculum so there may be a dip in scores in grades 5-8. The 2018 tests will be a mix of old and new standards. MCAS results have held steady at the high school as the department transitions to the new standards.

JGMS

- In grade 6 - 79% scored above level 3 in the ELA PARCC tests
- In grade 7 – 69% scored above level 3 in the ELA PARCC tests
- In grade 8 – 93% scored above level 3 in the ELA PARCC test

Progress was made from last year to this year except in Grade 7. Subgroups also scored below targets. Staff at JGMS will focus on identifying students in the levels 3 and below and get the right supports in place.

All grades scored in Level 4 on the PARCC tests in Math.

LANE

ELA PARCC scores were on target

- Grade 3 -80 % scored in level 4 or 5
- Grade 4 – 71% scored in level 4 or 5
- Grade 5 – 82% scored in level 4 or 5

Overall on target CPI except in some subgroups.

Math PARCC also had strong performance:

- Grade 3 - 87% scored in level 4 or 5
- Grade 4 - 72% scored in level 4 or 5
- Grade 5 – 74% scored in level 4 or 5

Overall, at or above CPI target. Some subgroups were not – fewer need improvement than in the past.

Ms. Sallee concluded:

- State standardized testing will be in transition for the next several years.
- There is a need for reliable district measures
- Need to strengthen vertical alignment K-12 in math and ELA
- More inclusion and co-teaching is needed through-out the district.

Mr. McAlister suggested that Bedford should determine what we want our numbers to be and ignore state averages and the really high scoring towns. “As a district, let’s define our targets.”

7. Vote to Amend the TBA Architect Contract

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to consider amending the contract with TBA Architects for additional services for the Lane parking and drop off loop. The proposal fee for TBA to investigate, study and recommend three options is \$5,500. The fee will be paid from the original feasibility study and will have no financial impact on the current construction project.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve TBA Architects’ request for the additional study and recommendation of the Lane parking lot and bus circulation in the amount of \$5,500 to be paid from the original feasibility study account.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Sills reported that Governor Baker is looking at some cuts in education but verbally agreed to exclude cutting impact aid.

The 50th anniversary of METCO is this year. More information will be forthcoming.

9. School Committee Minutes

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

10. Future Agenda

Look at significantly changing the start time of the high school.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McAllister	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Pierce	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

School Committee Secretary

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 18, 2016

Exhibits/Documents

- Presentation: Capital Budget Requests FY'18
- Bedford Public Schools MCAS-PARCC Accountability Report and Next Steps dated October 18, 2016
- TBA Architects Presentation on Lane School Parking/Circulation Options dated October 13, 2016
- Draft of minutes from the October 4, 2016 School Committee meeting