

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
November 21, 2017
Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Santiago and Ms. Guay. Leslie Yan, student representative was also in attendance. Mr. Brosgol and Ms. Scoville were absent.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reported that Tammy McGeoghan, Special Education Teacher at Lane School, is out on a leave-of-absence and Kimberly Limoli will be the long term substitute.

Mr. Sills also announced that Alison Wardwell has been appointed 1.0 Interim Special Education teacher at JGMS.

Mr. Sills asked for approval of a proposed field trip by Ms. Herman and Ms. Nolan at Lane School. They are proposing to take six METCO students in grade 5, along with six Lane School friends of their choosing, to Mt. Cardigan Lodge in Alexandria, NH. Mr. McClernon, Mr. Ackerman, Ms. Lerra, and Mr. Ferguson will also attend. The aim of this trip is to foster connections with Boston and Bedford students while learning outdoor and leadership skills. The teachers feel that this will be a good opportunity to support the student's transition to 6th grade. The cost will be \$50 per student and will be covered by the METCO grant.

Ms. Guay said she is concerned about social anxiety this trip may cause – who will get invited and who will not. Mr. Sills said he trusts that the teachers will help the students through the process. Ms. Santiago agreed that this was her concern too. Both members agree that the goal of the field trip is good. Mr. Sills agreed to bring this feedback to the teachers.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the field trip to bring 12 grade 5 students to the Mt. Cardigan Lodge in Alexandria, NH on May 31 – June 1, 2018 to foster connections between Boston and Bedford students as they get ready to transition to 6th grade. Costs will be covered by METCO.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0-0

Mr. McAllister asked Mr. Sills to report back on the experience.

4. Math Program Grades 6-12

Mr. Patrick Morrissey, Program Administrator for math in grades 6-12, presented to the School Committee. He began by highlighting the vision of the department at JGMS and BHS.

Vision:

- Standards based
- All students at all levels develop skills and conceptual understanding

- Productive struggle with rich tasks
- Meaningful classroom opportunities that promote reasoning and problem solving

Mr. Morrissey showed an open response problem from a 6th grade 2017 MCAS 2.0 exam. He noted that there were few numbers but a lot of areas where students need to show or explain their answer. He noted the amount of dense text which requires careful reading. Mr. Morrissey reported that Bedford students earned 80% of the points associated with this problem and the state average was 12% below. “The district focus on disciplinary literacy is well timed.”

Mr. Morrissey reviewed accomplishments and challenges of the department.

Accomplishments

- Explicit goals – objective-based learning expectations established
- Growing AP Calculus enrollment and strong scores
- Geometry High Honors course enrollment is growing.
 YOG 2020 47 students
 YOG 2021 33 students
 YOG 2022 is expected to enroll 70-80 students.
- Calculus Project is successful

Challenges

- Continue to make the Geometry High Honors more accessible to more students.

Mr. Morrissey reported that this class traditionally attracted only the few 8th graders who were in math pull-out classes in elementary and middle school. A lot has been done lately to make this class more accessible to more students. Review sheets have been updated, problems have been changed, regular checks for understanding have been added, extra review sessions are held, notes have been re-worked, and more challenging in-classroom work has been provided. The class continues to have high expectations. Teachers are working with the kids to meet the expectations. This is a change in focus. Also, 8th grade teachers are aligning the 8th grade Algebra curriculum to meet the high expectations of High Honors Geometry in the high school.

- Tutoring For Pay

Mr. Morrissey said our message to families is the teacher should be the first place for students to turn for help. However, many families turn to outside tutoring which can be problematic in the classroom. Mr. Morrissey has and will continue to recruit volunteer math tutors as a resource to our students. He will also work to get more students who need support to connect with our volunteers.

Mr. Morrissey also expressed the need for Bedford High School to offer more math support. The new flex block set up seems to help since teachers are now available to help the students and are not distracted by clubs.

- MCAS scores – dip or trend?

Mr. Morrissey reported that 91% of 10th grade students scored proficient or advance in the 2017 math MCAS. However, many of those that scored Need Improvement were very close to being proficient. To help strengthen scores, teachers in the college prep Algebra 1 or Geometry 1 are now focusing on MCAS open response questions. Mr. Morrissey believes this will be very beneficial. (It is done in the high level classes all the time). Mr. Morrissey reminded the School Committee that some kids who reach Needs Improvement is a big accomplishment – NI is passing MCAS.

Mr. Morrissey expects to see a drop in MCAS scores when the 2019 MCAS test assesses the new standards.

Mr. Morrissey said that the goal is that all learners meet or exceed expectations on MCAS 2.0 in 2019 by:

- Guaranteeing grades 6-10 are teaching the standards assessed on MCAS at a minimum.
- Having lessons that are rigorous and richer
- Classrooms offer regular checks for understanding
- Focus on authentic literacy

Leslie Yan, Student Representative, agreed that Geometry High Honors class has a reputation of being very difficult. She said the transition from middle school math to High Honors Geometry is hard. However, she thinks many students skip the High Honors level of geometry and still end up in high level math classes later on.

Ms. Guay commented that the early elementary math pull out groups are needed for some but those that are not selected may feel badly about themselves and lose confidence in their math abilities in the future.

Mr. Morrissey said he agrees that pull out math is controversial. However the message now is that taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade will prepare the kids for High Honors Geometry in 9th grade.

Ms. Guay suggested surveying parents to learn why they pay for math tutoring.

Ms. Guay asked Mr. Morrissey what math support model is desirable. He said that having experienced math Teaching Assistants in the classrooms is desirable and building in a student support period in math teachers' schedules would be best.

Ms. Guay asked how Mr. Morrissey recruited the math tutors. Mr. Morrissey said it was from word of mouth and then each individual went through a comprehensive interview and CORI process.

Ms. Santiago said it is important to ensure that the average math student feels valued, especially as more kids go into High Honors Geometry.

Mr. Sills noted that Mr. Morrissey is focusing on the High Honors Geometry course tonight because the course has been revamped to make it more accessible to students. The course has had a reputation of being available to only a few. However, this is not the focus of the math department.

Mr. McAllister congratulated Mr. Morrissey on doing a good job leading the math department. He said for many years, Bedford families have had an opinion about the math program (maybe because so many engineers live in Bedford). Mr. McAllister applauds Mr. Morrissey's approach to running the department and responding to parents' needs.

5. Capital and Operating FY'19 Budget Discussion

Mr. Sills gave an update on the FY'19 capital request. He reported that the FY'19 plan will now include an audio upgrade for the high school auditorium (along with lighting and rigging). This is added because of the poor quality of audio experienced during the recent Special Town

Meeting. He is moving the \$40,000 request for audio upgrade from the FY'20 capital plan to the FY'19 capital plan request. The total request for auditorium upgrades for FY'19 is now \$75,000.

Mr. Sills also noted that the POMS Snack Shack is in need of a new roof (\$20,000 estimate). There is also a need to have a bathroom nearby since the only available bathroom for those using the field or attending events at the field are located inside the high school. The total cost for this project is estimated to be around \$900,000.

Mr. Sills said that there has been some discussions about splitting the cost to repair the roof with POMS. However, he feels that the cost to add bathrooms is a major capital improvement and should be covered by the town.

Ms. Santiago said if we were looking to split costs, then we should see what other groups use the fields.

Mr. McAllister said he does not think that POMS should pay for the roof replacement. He said people donate to POMS to support music support. He believes that a new roof fits in with maintenance of a facility and it should be school's responsibility. However, he thinks the estimate of \$20,000 to do this replacement is very high given the size of the shack.

School Committee members agreed that POMS should not be asked to split the costs for roof repair of the shack.

Operating Budget Discussion

Mr. Sills then presented an overview of the FY'19 operating budget request. He explained that he would break down the request to a "maintenance of budget" number and an "Expansion - desired needs number". Mr. Sills explained that the maintenance of budget means that the schools will have the same program as it does this year. However, he noted that this year, we are adding staff for the Bridge/Special Ed in-house programs. (The funding to add these position this year comes from savings incurred due to fewer out-of-district placements this year due to changing student needs).

FY'19 Operating Budget Request at this time is:

Maintenance of Effort:	\$40,109,920 (2.68% increase over FY'18)
Total Expansion:	\$ 594,000*
Grand Total:	\$40,703,920 (4.2% increase)

* Drivers for this expansion budget is based on enrollment projections for FY'19 (615 for Davis, 635 for Lane, 595 JGMS, and 836 BHS). As a result new staff is needed at Lane School (1 classroom teacher) and JGMS (1 foreign language teacher). Also, Mr. Sills proposes making the Kindergarten assistants full time. Another need is for more extended special education services in the summer.

The new space created in our facilities also requires an additional full time custodian, and full time HVAC licensed technician, and a custodial foreperson.

Mr. Sills estimates that technology and classroom supports will be approximately \$135,000.

School Committee members did not have any questions about the proposed budget at this point.

Mr. Coelho commented that the budget is evolving and that there are lots of assumptions made at this point.

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Coelho said that the high school received from Ms. Lorelei Ngooi, a donation of a ping pong table for the students to use.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee accept the donation of a ping pong table, estimated value of \$500, to be used at BHS.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0

School Committee members thanked Ms. Ngooi for her generous donation.

Mr. Sills reported that last Monday was a Professional Learning Day for the teachers. All four schools had a professional development day focused on literacy and on community building. Each session was very creative and very successful.

7. School Committee Minutes

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0

8. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion.

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:25 P.M.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED: 3-0

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McAllister	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	absent
Ms. Santiago	Yes
Ms. Scoville	absent
Ms. Guay	Yes


School Committee Secretary


Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
November 21, 2017
Exhibits/Documents

- Math Department Update November 21,2017
- Draft of minutes from the October 10, 2017 School Committee meeting
- Draft of minutes from the October 17, 2017 School Committee meeting