

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**October 2, 2018**  
**Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room**

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay. Ms. Santiago and Mr. McAllister were expected to arrive a little late. All three new Student Representatives - Mia Federico, Alex Oleksinski, Samantha Gallant – were also in attendance.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Personnel Report**

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve Guidance Director Alicia Linsey's attendance at the National Association for College Admission Counseling's Annual Conference on September 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ms. Linsey paid for her transportation and lodging and the schools will pay the \$285 conference fee.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Director of Guidance attendance at the National Association for College Admission Counseling's Annual Conference in Salt Lake City Utah on September 26-28, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$285 (for registration).**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay**

**MOTION APPROVED: 3-0**

Mr. Sills made the following personnel announcements:

*Resignations*

Brittany Hamel	Teaching Assistant/Behavioral Specialist	Pre-School
Marcia Mulcahy	Food Service	Lane
Andrea Koni	Educational Assistant/Recess Coordinator	Davis
Linda Milano	Educational Assistant	Lane
Kerri Diggins	Administrative Assistant to Principal	Davis

*Appointments*

Jaehee Kim	Food Service	Davis
Lauren Robillard	Teaching Assistant/Behavior Tech	Lane
Rachel Aldoriso	Educational Assistant	Lane
Kathryn Donovan	.4 Teaching Assistant	Pre-School
Gina Piantedosi	Administrative Assistant to Director Finance	Central

*Transfers*

Sheryl Poor	Food Service	Davis to Lane
Alexis Duffy Protentis	Teaching Assistant to Athletic Trainer	District

**4. Challenge Success**

Principal Heather Galante formally introduced to the School Committee, the Challenge Success Program which is being adopted at the high school this year. Several other members of the

Challenge Success team were on hand to support Mrs. Galante and the roll out of the program. Members in attendance included Ms. Sussman (teacher), Ms. Mortenson (parent), Ms. Myles (teacher), Ms. Tracy (teacher), and Jonathan Pierre (student).

Ms. Galante explained that about two years ago, the high school began to focus on understanding and reducing student stress. Today, it seems that students are “doing” school and are no longer joyful about learning. In high performing districts such as Bedford, it seems that students are doing things just to get into elite colleges. The Challenge Success Program provides kids with the academic, social and emotional skills needed to succeed now and in the future. Challenge Success – and Mrs. Galante - believe that high school students are out of balance. They are too focused on grades, test scores and performance.

Ms. Galante explained that this is a three year program. The Challenge Success team recently traveled to California to attend the introductory conference. Bedford was one of many national teams that attended. The Bedford team attended several sessions. Examples of the sessions they participated in are:

- The Well-Balanced Student
- Advocates for Change
- Cultivating Curiosity in the Classroom
- Engaging Parents
- Mind, Brain, Education Research
- Centering the Most Vulnerable

They also listened to several inspiring key note speakers.

As a result of the conference, the team defined the vision statement for the Challenge Success Program at BHS:

*“We aim to cultivate curiosity and resilience, build meaningful connections and promote balance so that students are empowered to live their best lives.”*

Ms. Galante said that this statement will be shared with faculty and may be tweaked.

Ms. Galante highlighted the next steps for this year:

- Administer the student survey – expects more than 90% participation
- Provide a faculty professional development day on November 6th
- Provide a community presentation on the Well Balanced Student – evening of Nov. 6th
- Hold a book study group (“Overloaded and Underprepared”)
- Determine BHS’s area of focus (based on survey)
- Develop an action plan with the community

Ms. Galante explained that implementation of changes will happen in Year 2. Year 3 will focus on assessing the impact of the changes.

Ms. Galante wrapped up her presentation by sharing photos and testimonials from the team members who participated in the Conference.

Mr. Brosgol said he was pleased that the group went to this conference.

Ms. Gallant, student representative, said that it is good that our school is looking into the roots of stress.

Mr. Oleksinski, student representative, said that helping kids establish “meaningful connections” is key.

Ms. Federico, student representative, said it is important to take a step back from stressful homework to evaluate why it is important to do.

Ms. Myles, one of the teachers who went to the conference, said that Challenge Success is all about the students. She is encouraged that the message will be that there are many different paths for students to find success.

Mr. Pierre, student who attended the conference, said he really thought he was the only one feeling stressed. All of the speakers at the conference were very relatable and that it was comforting to realize that people are trying to help the students. He agrees that a key to this program is to broaden the definition of success.

Ms. Mortenson, parent who attended the conference, said she was impressed with the research that is behind the program.

Ms. Sussman, art teacher, said she hopes rolling out this program will help bring the entire school together as students and staff rally around this program.

Ms. Galante said she walked away from the conference feeling that Bedford is really and truly in a good place and that staff and students are well supported at BHS.

Mr. McAllister said that he is pleased that Bedford High School, a high performing high school, is focusing on student stress. He encourages continued development of the social-emotional well-being of Bedford kids.

Ms. Scoville said she hopes that the entire community are welcomed to be part of the program – not just the high school family. Mr. McAllister agreed that the entire community should be encouraged to come to the parent orientation. Mrs. Galante agreed that this is important. She acknowledge that paving away for all parents to participate all year will be the most difficult part of implementing the program.

Mr. Brosgol asked all to keep supporting balanced options for the students.

Mr. Sills said it is important to shift attitudes toward the joy of learning but it is also important to keep up the academic rigor as well. He also asked if social pressures were contributors toward students’ stress too. Ms. Galante said that the survey will help determine this.

##### **5. Mother’s Out Front Presentation**

Ms. Carolyn Weaver, Ms. Renae Nichols, and Ms. Christine Rabinowitz, representing the town-wide group “Mother’s Out Front” made a presentation to the School Committee asking them to support efforts to reduce food waste in the schools cafeterias. Mothers Out Front is an organization that advocates for a “livable climate for all children”.

The presentation highlighted the fact that globally, about 30% of food is wasted and that this waste directly contributes to global warming.

The presenters showed visuals of the amount of food waste that occurs at Lane School. They also spoke about a recent recycling day they organized at Lane School and reported that the students there were very enthusiastic about recycling and composting. "We do this at home, why not at school?"

The group is proposing to start a pilot recycling and food waste elimination program at one of the elementary schools. They would start with "diverting liquids". The school could see real cost savings if they set up a system to remove liquid from the trash. This could be done for example, by setting up tip buckets for kids to empty their unused milk, water, yogurt etc. The group shared information from a few successful diversion programs at neighboring schools.

Phase two of the program would then move to composting food waste. This could happen a few months after the liquid diversion program is established.

If this pilot is successful, the goal would be to implement programs at all of the schools.

Members of the Mothers Out Front group reported that they have met with the DPW and the town's Recycling Coordinator to gather data and costs on trash disposal at the schools. They were pleased to learn that the DPW and the Recycling Coordinator are interested in composting and compost pick up at homes.

The presenters also discussed how there are a variety of grants available to help with implementation, but they do require town commitment.

They asked School Committee members to encourage schools to support implanting a food waste reduction program on site.

Ms. Gallant, student representative, said she supports this program and efforts.

Mr. Oleksinski said he thinks elementary students are the biggest producers of food waste because they have to take all of the food offered in the lunch line, even if they do not like it.

Ms. Federico said it is important to recycle and this would be a good step forward.

Mr. McAllister said he works at a school that started this type of program about 4 years ago. He said it does take a lot of work to make it work. He is finding that it is difficult to sustain the program and it cannot rely on volunteers alone. The key is to find someone responsible for the program and then to figure out how to pay for it. He would support a stipend to pay someone to be responsible for a program at the Bedford schools. "It is important for Bedford to begin doing these types of programs."

Ms. Scoville said she is very supportive of the idea and agrees that families and students do it at home and therefore it makes sense to do it at school. However finding the time for students to do this during lunch will be difficult – young kids already have a very short lunch period.

Ms. Santiago said it would be beneficial to find grants to help us develop and staff the process.

Mr. Brosgol thanked the presenters for a very informative presentation.

Mr. Sills agreed to meet with the Mother's Out Front representatives to explore options.

#### **6. Capital Expenditures Presentation**

Mr. Coelho reviewed the Capital Expenditure process with the School Committee. Any item or project expenditure of more than \$5,000 is part of the Capital Expenditures Process. He noted that the School Department would be meeting with the Capital Expense Committee tomorrow October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>. In December, the CEC ultimately develops a list of projects to move forward to Annual Town Meeting for approval.

Mr. Coelho explained that at the Special Town Meeting in November, the schools will ask for money for construction documents for the JGMS and BHS building renovations. The cost for this is:

JGMS	\$374,843
BHS	\$130,158

Requests for other capital projects and for the building renovation projects will be made at Annual Town Meeting in March 2019.

Mr. Coelho reviewed the school's capital projects under consideration for FY 2020 at this point:

• JGMS addition	\$3,598,042
• BHS addition	\$1,212,742
• JGMS & BHS acoustic PA system upgrade	\$128,175
• Cafeteria lighting at BHS	\$96,026
• Gym Floor refinishing BHS & JGMS	\$53,673
• Flooring Cycle 3 – all	\$53,406
• Painting Cycle 3 – all	\$53,406
• Program Space Modifications – all	\$41,320
• Modular Classroom removal	\$26,703
• JGMS Floor Scrubber	\$15,495
• Information Technology	\$524,750 (details to be discussed)

Several non-facility capital projects were also presented. Examples include:

BHS Athletic field scoreboard	\$17,000
FY20 Lane Project Adventure Course	\$27,070
School Gym Athletic scoreboard replacements	\$12,771

Mr. Coelho also presented a look at the long term capital request plan – 2012-2015. School Committee members received detail information in their packets.

Ms. Guay asked if teachers use the SMART boards. Student Representatives all said yes, every day.

Mr. McAllister said that scoreboard replacements are not an important priority to him, personally.

Ms. Scoville supports keeping the Project Adventure Course up-to-date.

Ms. Santiago would like to understand more about why the Project Adventure Course needs to be updated – is it a safety concern or an equipment upgrade? She also said that if the scoreboards are replaced, the Committee will likely get questions about sponsorships and we should be prepared to answer. Mr. Coelho agreed to get more information on both.

Ms. Santiago also would like more information on the JGMS roof. Ms. Alani said he is discussing with the architects and will report back.

Mr. Brosgol asked why there was no roof maintenance item on the list. Mr. Alani said that this is an operating budget item.

Ms. Santiago also asked for more information on the use of Chromebooks v. Ipads.

#### **7. Annual Report**

Mr. Sills shared a draft of the Bedford Public Schools Annual Report for FY18. School Committee members did not have any questions or concerns.

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Bedford Public Schools Annual Report for 2018-19 as submitted.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

#### **8. School Improvement Plans**

Mr. Sills reminded the Committee that the Principals presented the 2018-19 School Improvement Plans, but a vote to approve them was deferred, since summer work often results in changes to the plans.

Mr. Sills presented the minor changes that each Principal made to their School Improvement Plans. School Committee members did not have any questions about these changes.

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Davis School Improvement Plan for the 2018-2019 school year as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Lane School Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the John Glenn Middle School Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the Bedford High School Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year as presented.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. McAllister**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0**

### **9. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sills reported that the remaining Lane contingency funds will be used to build an enclosed vestibule for visitors who wait to be buzzed in. The school is also looking into having an ID Reader too. Mr. Sills he may request a reserve fund transfer of approximately \$78,000 if overall costs exceeds the balance.

The Youth Risk Survey results are in and will be shared with the School Committee. A few points:

- Student perception of adult support has increased
- There is a decrease in the number of students who see themselves as overweight
- There is an uptick in vaping and alcohol use
- There is an uptick in marijuana use and driving under the influence of marijuana

There will be an MCAS report to the School Committee at the next meeting.

### **10. Minutes**

Mr. McAllister made the following motion:

**MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 School Committee meeting.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay**

**MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-1 (Ms. Guay abstained)**

### **11. Adjournment**

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. not to reopen.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Brosgol** Yes

**Ms. Santiago** Yes

**Ms. Scoville** Yes

**Ms. Guay** Yes

**Mr. McAllister** Yes

  
School Committee Secretary

  
Date