

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
May 22, 2018
Bedford High School – Large Group Instruction Room

1. Call to Order

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. McAllister called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay. Leslie Yan, Student Representative was also in attendance.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reported the following informational items:

Resignations

Kate Boynton	Assistant Principal High School
Lauren McCarthy	Gr 6 Science Teacher
Katherine Suduiko	Gr 6 Learning Strategies Teacher

Transfer

Fay Backert	Special Education Program Administrator	Bedford High School
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Appointments

Audrey Jackson	Director of Student Achievement K-5	Davis/Lane Schools
Sam Malcolm	French Teacher	JGMS

Extracurricular Appointment

Alvin Moyard	Girls Varsity Basketball Coach	Bedford High School
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Mr. Sills also thanked Leslie Yan, Student Representative, for her participation on the School Committee this past year. He also noted that he was honored to have Leslie at the Superintendent's award luncheon for top students, last week.

4. Energy Task Force Policy Approval

Mr. Sills reported that Mr. Alani and Mr. Deng, from the Energy Task Force, were here to answer any final questions on the proposed Energy Policy that the School Committee is considering approving.

Ms. Santiago asked if Mr. Alani was comfortable with the policy being implemented in the schools. Mr. Alani said yes and that he expects there will be some flexibility if needed.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee accept the Town of Bedford's Energy Policy as presented by the Energy Task Force.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Sills presented a revised job description for the Athletic Trainer position at the high school. Mr. Sills said that in order to have an Athletic Trainer available for students, he would like to change the position to a full time position. Right now it is a stipend position and makes for a very long day for the employee who is also working as a Teaching Assistant. This change will also ensure that this position is attractive to qualified people. The money to cover this change will come from changing the Athletic Administrative Assistant position from a full time position to a .5 position. Mr. Sills said that the current Athletic Administrative Assistant will have the opportunity to apply for a full time Administrative Assistant position open in the district.

Ms. Santiago asked if we needed to include having an Athletic Trainer attend football games written in the job description now that we have approved having an orthopedic doctor at football games. Mr. Sills agreed we did not need to be so restrictive in the job description.

Mr. Brosgol said he believes it is important to have a full time athletic trainer.

The School Committee agreed to vote on the job description at the next meeting since this was the first reading.

Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the health policies reviewed at the last meeting.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the policy “Administering of Prescription and Non-prescription Medications” as presented at the May 8, 2018 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve “Life Threatening Allergies” policy as presented at the May 8, 2018 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

5. 6th Grade Math Textbook Purchase

Mr. Morrissey, Math Program Administrator for grades 6-12, asked the School Committee to approve the adoption and purchase of a new text book for grade 6. Mr. Morrissey presented the reasons why he wants to purchase, “Big Ideas, Math, Modelling Real Life”.

Mr. Morrissey explained that 6th grade math teachers have been supplementing the current textbook in order to teach the standards. Also, the homework problems have proven to be inadequate. The process for looking for a replacement textbook started in September of this year.

After much review, reasons to adopt the “Big Ideas” book include:

- Better alignment to Mass Curriculum Frameworks
- Kid friendly language is used throughout, including use of “I can statements”
- Built in support for ELL students
- Lots of scaffolding suggestions – important since overall rigor of curriculum standards is much higher.

Mr. Morrissey is proposing to purchase 250 texts at a cost of \$22,260. This includes 200 texts for students and 50 for classroom and buffer.

Mr. Morrissey thanked Sara Dorer for her work on figuring out what new 6th grade students need to be successful. She also reviewed the first three chapters and made a document for 5th grade teachers to help with the students' transition to 6th grade.

Ms. Leslie Yan commented that families may want the option of choosing a textbook or an online option. Mr. Morrissey said he would consider this and discuss pros and cons with teachers. Teachers tend to want textbooks.

Ms. Yan also said it was a good to start challenging math classes at the 6th grade level thinking this would better prepare the students for Algebra.

Ms. Scoville commented that online texts may help students with executive functioning challenges.

Ms. Guay worried that not all families have computer and internet access at home.

Mr. McAllister said that this was really a bigger question for the district – how do we gauge family accessibility especially as we move to more one-to-one at the elementary levels.

Ms. Santiago said she was comfortable with this purchase if we are comfortable that the fifth graders can transition to it in 6th grade.

Mr. Brosgol asked if the fifth grade curriculum would have to be updated as a result of this adoption of new texts. Mr. Morrissey said no and explained that Ms. Dorer reviewed the new text and is comfortable students can make the transition.

Ms. McClung, a member of the Finance Committee and parent of a BHS student, was in the audience. She shared her thoughts to keep textbooks because online books may not work for all learning styles.

Mr. Sills said that although online texts will help students prepare for the new MCAS 2.0 tests, it is important to have textbooks too.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the purchase of “Big Ideas Math, Modelling Real Life” textbook at a cost not to exceed \$22,260.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APROVED: 5-0

6. Davis School's School Improvement Plan 2018-19

Ms. Beth Benoit, Principal, presented the goals of the 2018-19 School Improvement Plan. She explained that the goals are the same as they were for this year. Therefore, she presented what was accomplished this year and what will happen next year under each goal.

Coherent, Higher Order Thinking Curriculum/Student Centered Learning

Ms. Benoit reported that integrated studies with authentic assessments continues at Davis School. She described and showed some of this year's integrated projects at each grade level ("Build a Box", "Hideouts and Forts" and "Recycling, Re-using Materials"). She noted how engaging these projects are for the students and commented that students are able to make connections when excited about learning and will dive into deeper concepts.

Work will continue in this area in 2018-19. Reading selections will continue to be diverse and will reflect the new science standards and provide "windows and mirrors" for the students' – opportunities to see others (windows) and themselves (mirrors). Also grade level teams will continue to share and develop practices that align with science and social studies standards. Year-end expectations will be clarified and will include student reflections.

Instruction and differentiation of current curriculum will continue. The range of instructional practices will broaden and will meet the needs of all students. Coaching in differentiating instruction will be focused on math and ELA. Teachers will be supported on finding strategies to engage students especially those with behavioral and emotional regulation difficulties. Also, the Director of Student Achievement (new position) will help identify the obstacles in math and ELA.

Equity and Diversity: Teaching All Students and Building Community

This year, Davis focused on the "joy" of reading and added a selection of diverse books for the readers to share. All school assemblies were used to share success and strengthen the community.

In 2018-19, the focus will be on teaching tolerance and problem solving by developing consistent practice on helping kids problem solve on their own.

Also in 2018-19, the RTI/Child Study Process will be used to help teachers create action plans. The general education curriculum will also be aligned with specialized programming to help maximize inclusion.

Collaborative Professional Culture

The 2017-18 Ed Camp for faculty was a great success. Ms. Benoit said that in 2018-19, she would like staff in the building to be a learning community. She will help teachers be more comfortable participating and leading in grade level meetings and faculty meetings.

Strengthen Communication and Deepen Our Community Support

Ms. Benoit would like to shift from family involvement to family engagement. She will set building expectations on communications and engagements and will ensure teachers have the tools to do so. She will keep families up-to-date on the construction project and will begin to build a bridge with the Preschool staff so everyone is ready when they join Davis School.

Ms. Yan said she is pleased to hear that Davis is focused on finding more diverse books for kids to read/listen to.

Ms. Guay said she visited a second grade classroom and experienced first-hand how engaged the students are and how caring they can be. The class was discussing the book "Tight Times" and they brainstormed a project to help a charity in Lawrence.

Ms. Scoville said her children, grades K and 2, are very engaged at Davis School. She said she was initially concerned that the focus is on teaching the more rigorous standards but she is so pleased that it is being done in a fun and engaging way.

Ms. Santiago is pleased to learn that the books at Davis School reflect the many different backgrounds of our community.

Mr. Brosgol said he loves the “one book for the whole school” project. He also said it is impressive to see how diverse the students are at Davis School.

Mr. Sills said he affirms Ms. Benoit’s vision and it really does fit into the District vision. The Davis curriculum and projects are richer and it is good to see teachers teach the standards with engagement and inquiry.

Mr. Sills said that the School Committee does not have to vote on accepting the School Improvement plan until the fall since it may be refined in the summer.

7. Lane School

Mr. Rob Ackerman, Principal of Lane School, presented the 2018-19 School Improvement Plan. Mr. Ackerman reminded the School Committee that next year, enrollment is expected to be 620, the largest ever. He said the key to a successful year will be having a more cohesive staff.

2018-19 School Improvement Plan Goals

Coherent, Higher Order Thinking Curriculum/Student Centered Learning

Mr. Ackerman said that the new standards to read and comprehend complex text is more demanding of the students. He also showed a slide showing the evolution of MCAS questions and how more complex they are now.

In 2018-19, there will be a systematic and common approach to strengthen literacy development. Goals to achieve this include:

- Implementing Lucy Calkins Reading units of study in grade 3 and 4 and pilot a program in several grade 5 rooms.
- Continuing training all staff in Fountas & Pinnell benchmark assessments - a tool for teachers to assess and determine next steps for instruction.
- Clarifying literacy interventions.

Efforts in 2018-19 will also be made to help students become leaders of their own learning:

- Digital portfolios will be expanded.
- The student-led conference pilot will be refined.

Equity and Diversity: Teaching all Children

Personalize learning, closing the achievement gap, and carrying out cultural proficiency will continue in 2018-19.

Goals include:

- Ensuring that the two new SAIL programs are well-supported and function as an integral part of the school.
- Adopt Responsive Classroom program to create a safe and strong learning community.
- Rework the RTI process to focus on strategies rather than support.
- Continue the inclusion/co-teaching SPED model to designated classrooms in all grades.

- Use assessment data to improve teaching and learning.

Collaborative Professional Culture

- Develop and support new Director of Achievement
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff in strategies for working with challenging student behaviors.
- Coach teacher teams in analyzing data

Ms. Yan, student representative, said she was very surprised to see the big change in the MCAS questions. Ms. Guay agreed.

Ms. Scoville said she worries that some students may slip through the cracks. She is happy to hear that the teachers will be using a one-on-one reading assessment program as a tool to help prevent this and to get to know each individual student. She is also pleased to hear that the new Data Specialist will help both Davis and Lane teachers access data.

Ms. Santiago asked Mr. Ackerman if he was pleased with the results of the building renovation. Mr. Ackerman said yes, he is very pleased and feels that it was a very successful project. He said that there was very little disruption to the school day during the construction period. The new building is very comfortable and has room to welcome the bigger classes coming up.

Mr. Brosgol asked if the students missed having a playground. Mr. Ackerman said yes, some students were disappointed and he imagines that it was a loss for the neighborhood too.

Mr. Sills commented that although the MCAS questions are much harder and complex today, he believes that this is a good thing. The downside of the testing though, is that it can take a full day for students to complete and causes too much anxiety for many students.

Mr. Sills thanked Mr. Ackerman for his focus on Professional Development.

Mr. Sills thanked Mr. Ackerman and Ms. Benoit for their thoughtful presentations of the 2018-19 plans.

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sills said he believes that the State will soon finalize the budget for next year. Mr. Coelho shared:

- Chapter 70 funds will come in around \$260-270,000
- Assessments in School Choice is Up for Bedford due to four students in the district choosing an online option.
- State Impact Aid will be approximately \$1.3 million. Bedford will likely receive approximately \$560,000 of this amount.

Mr. Sills announced that WBZ's "Eyes on Education" will feature Bedford's METCO program.

Author Jonathan Kozol will be spending a day in Bedford schools to learn more about our METCO program.

9. Minutes

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes of the April 24, 2018 School Committee Meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

10. Adjournment

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:15 pm to Executive Session for purposes of contract negotiations, not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

Roll Call Vote:

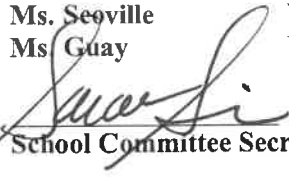
Mr. McAllister Yes

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Ms. Guay Yes



School Committee Secretary

Date

1.22.19

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 22, 2018

Exhibits/Documents

- Job Description for Athletic Trainer
- Town of Bedford Energy Policies and Guidelines
- Health Policy “The Administration of Prescription and Non-prescription Medications”
- Health Policy “Life Threatening Allergies Policy”
- Memo/Presentation from Mr. Patrick Morrissey “6th grade Textbook Adoption”
- 2018-19 Davis School Improvement Plan
- 2018-19 Lane School Improvement Plan
- Draft of April 24, 2018 School Committee meeting minutes