

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 23, 2019
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. Santiago, Ms. Scoville, Ms. Guay, and Ms. Marquis. Student Representatives Samantha Gallant and Mia Federico were also in attendance.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reported the following:

Resignations:

Edwina Norquist	French Teaching Assistant (TA) at Bedford High School
Kristen Rennie	Academic Achievement TA at Bedford High School
Paige Clarke	SAIL Program TA at Davis School

Appointments:

Joseph McLaughlin	Academic Achievement TA Bedford High School
Christina Petropoulos	Special Ed Teacher covering for a leave of absence at Davis School

Transfer:

Katie Lulsdorf	Special Ed Teacher covering for a leave of absence at Lane School
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Mr. Sills asked the School Committee to approve the job descriptions reviewed at the last meeting.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the job description, “Elementary School Adjustment Counselor PK-2”.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Ms. Guay suggested finding a candidate who is familiar with Mass Health insurance benefits, as this would be very helpful experience.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the job description, “Physical Therapist”.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

4. School Choice

Mr. Sills explained that Massachusetts requires School Committees to take an annual vote on whether to participate or not in the state’s School Choice Program. This program allows school districts to accept students from other districts and accept funding for these students. Mr. Sills explained that districts can choose not to accept out of district students, but must pay for any resident who chooses to attend another district that does participate in school choice.

Mr. Brosgol asked if Bedford pays for any Bedford residents to attend another public school. Mr. Sills said yes, we pay for eleven students to attend the Massachusetts' public virtual online schools. (TECCA Connections Academy and Greenfield Commonwealth Academy.)

Ms. Santiago pointed out that the vote on School Choice must be published for 14 days so a vote to participate in this program needs to be taken at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Sills agreed to put this vote on the next meeting agenda.

5. Textbook Purchase Requests

Ms. Christine Butler, Program Administrator for Social Studies grades 6-12, asked the School Committee to approve the purchase of new Sociology textbooks for the high school. The current textbook was purchased 9 years ago and needs to be replaced because it is outdated. The textbook Committee reviewed several options and decided to move forward with the book, "You May Ask Yourself, An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist"

Mr. Walsh, the Sociology teacher, has been using the online resource free trial and has found the book to have the following strengths:

- Accessible narrative
- Current statistics
- The "Sociology on the Street" feature leads to broader questions for students to compare the concepts with the world today
- Strong online resources

Ms. Guay asked if any other nearby districts were using this textbook. Ms. Butler said she did not know. However, Middlesex Community College does use the book. Ms. Butler reminded the Committee that this class is a Dual Enrollment class with MCC.

Ms. Guay asked if students have been able to use the Dual Enrollment credits earned at High School towards their degree programs. Ms. Butler said she knew state schools accepted them and she has not heard about any issues from private schools accepting the credits.

Mr. Brosgol said he thought the book had a lot of engaging text.

Ms. Marquis made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the purchase of "You May Ask Yourself An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist" published by Dalton Conley W.W. Norton & Company, 6th Edition at a cost of \$8,365.50.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Patrick Morrissey, Program Administrator for Math grades 6-12, asked the School Committee to consider approving a purchase of new Grade 7 math textbooks. Mr. Morrissey explained that he would like to purchase, "Big Ideas MATH, Modelling Real Life, 2019 edition" for the 7th grade math classes. This purchase would replace the existing books (Math Course 2) and will align to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics. Currently teachers are supplementing the current textbook with teacher-created material and other resources. This math series is also used in 6th grade.

Mr. Morrissey said the textbook is well designed, has ample formative assessments, and will be familiar to students since the Larson series has been used in 6th grade for several years. He also likes the use of the “I can” statements.

Mr. Morrissey said that approximately 20-25% of the 7th grade students will use this book. Teachers will have to ensure that the text is not too challenging for some of the students. He shared a few examples of problems that could be difficult for the students who are not strong readers.

Mr. Morrissey said many nearby districts use the book – Acton, Belmont, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Medford, and Sudbury for example.

Ms. Gallant asked if the online resources were more than just the textbook online. Mr. Morrissey said yes – much more.

Ms. Scoville asked if the proposed purchase amount (50) was enough. Mr. Morrissey said yes because the majority of 7th graders are above grade level in math and will use a textbook that will move them towards Algebra.

Mr. Brosgol asked if the entire book will be completed in a year. Mr. Morrissey said yes.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the purchase of 50 Big Ideas MATH, Modelling Real Life, 2019 edition with the online component and 40 textbooks only (for classroom use) at a cost of \$11,183.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

Mr. Morrissey said that he is asking the School Committee to approve a new book for the high school business department. Next year, Ms. Justine Flora, Business teacher, will be teaching a new course – Hospitality and Tourism. Mr. Morrissey said that the business offerings are becoming very popular and appeal to all grades.

Ms. Flora has been planning for this new course all year and would like to have a textbook anchor rather than creating a piecemeal curriculum. She reviewed several Hospitality books and consulted with colleagues from DECA and nearby Business teachers. She would like to use the Hospitality Services, 2018 edition text. She chose this book because of the recent copyright, the online student learning suite that works with iPads, and its reading level (highly appropriate for a college prep level class). Also, it will nicely complete the DECA curriculum whose four areas of focus are marketing, business management, finance and hospitality and tourism.

Ms. Guay said she was surprised to learn that 25 students have already signed up for this course. Mr. Sills said that this is a growing industry right now – just think of the online services like Trip Advisor, Booking.com, etc.

Ms. Scoville asked if Mr. Morrissey was confident that this class would be of interest over the next five or six years. Mr. Morrissey said yes that Business electives are very popular.

Ms. Gallant concurred with Mr. Morrissey and thinks the course sounds interesting.

Mr. Brosgol said that the textbook presentation is old fashioned but the material seems interesting.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the purchase of 25 Hospitality Services, 2018 edition textbooks at a cost of \$3,170.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Coelho reported that during April break, a lot of work was accomplished on the Davis School building project (interior painting, flooring). The next step is to begin work on the parking lot. Inside work at the school will begin as soon as school is done on June 19th.

Mr. Sills reported that the pool for Mr. Coelho's replacement is very small. However, 2 strong candidates have emerged. Mr. Sills will meet with them this week.

Mr. Sills said that he is embarking on a Strategic Planning project where he hopes to have broad school and community participation. The goal of the committee will be to articulate the future for the Bedford graduate. They will look at citizenship, equity, multiculturalism, activism, economics, technology, deep thinking, creativity, and personal growth.

Mr. Sills said he has sent out a letter describing the process and inviting people to sign up to participate. He envisions having a committee of 30 to 50 people from all walks of life working together to define a "Portrait of a Bedford Graduate".

Ms. Guay said that she was apprehensive about this plan because it seems very time consuming especially for a new Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Sills agrees that it will be time consuming but he hopes that this strategic process will deepen the buy-in from all of Bedford's stakeholders. He believes that it is important for educators to "dream big" and that a strategic planning process is a good way to do this.

Mr. Brosgol agreed that it is important to define the big "why" ... why we do all that we do. He recognizes that it is a huge process and supports Mr. Sills' initiative.

Ms. Santiago was concerned that the time commitment for volunteers may be too much. Mr. Sills said he would modify it if necessary.

Mr. Sills said the Leadership team is on board and supportive of the plan.

7. Minutes

Ms. Marquis made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0

8. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:20 P.M. not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Marquis

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes
Ms. Scoville	YES
Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Marquis	Yes



School Committee



Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 23, 2019
Exhibits/Documents

- Draft of the minutes from the March 25, 2019 School Committee meeting.