

DRAFT
BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 29, 2019
Large Group Instruction Room, Bedford High School

1. Call to Order

At p.m. 7:30, Ms. Santiago called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included, Mr. Brosgol, Ms. Guay and Ms. Scoville. There were no student representatives present this evening.

2. Comments from Public

Mr. Angelo Colasante, a Bedford resident who resides at 2 Old Stagecoach Road was present along with several other members of the community. Mr. Colasante stepped to the podium and stated that he came to the meeting to petition the School Committee for the formation of a Jr. Varsity or Sub Varsity ice hockey team. He stated that the student numbers of students in the past were low but this year there are roughly forty students eligible for such a program. Mr. Colasante said that he realizes that it is too late to start this for the 2019-2020 school year but he is hoping that a Jr. Varsity team can be created for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. He went on to say that the number of students will continue to increase as the years go on and that he would like the opportunity for any students that do not make the Varsity hockey team to have a chance to play on the Jr. Varsity team rather than not play at all. Mr. Colasante read some emails of support from other parents which were also emailed to Mr. Sills for the record.

The School Committee had the following comments and questions:

Mr. Brosgol thanked the parents for coming and said that he respected the work that it is to be a hockey parent and considers supporting this for next year.

Ms. Guay asked if there is a girls' hockey team at BHS and also if the surrounding towns have Jr. Varsity hockey teams.

Director of Athletics and Wellness, Mr. Keith Mangan said that there is not a girls' hockey team at BHS but the female students have the option to play in a combined program with Shawsheen Technical School in Billerica. He also said that that surrounding towns do have Jr. Varsity hockey teams.

3. Personnel Report

Information Items

Resignations:

Zachary Falls

1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant

JGMS

Retirements:

Transfers (with current positions):

Appointments:

Paul Khederian	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	BHS
Meredith Tobe	1.0 Replacement Administrative Assistant for LOA	BHS
Antoinette Oliveri	0.5 Teaching Assistant	Preschool
Cheryl Felix-Flender	1.0 Replacement Special Education Teaching Assistant	BHS
Lisa Fuller	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Behavior Tech	Davis

Extracurriculars:**Athletics:*****Action Items*****Field Trip Request - Out-of-State / Overnight Field Trips:**

Mr. Sills presented a request by Bedford High School teaching staff Ms. Lisa Taub and Mr. Osvaldo Mejia to take BHS students to attend an out of state field trip to Sevilla, Spain. The field trip will be available to eligible BHS students in grades 10-12 who are enrolled in a Spanish III Advanced class or higher. This opportunity will help improve Spanish language skills and give them the chance to learn about a new culture, adapt to new ideas and work to become global citizens. They will acclimate to life with their host families and make new friends. Students will broaden their horizons as they explore new activities and interests that are not available to them at home. The trip will be take place in a carefully structured environment under supervision and with the help of *Centro MundoLengua*.

- The trip will take place from June 20 to July 4, 2020
- There will be two chaperones and a total of a 20 student maximum
- Chaperones will be Ms. Taub and Mr. Mejia
- There is no cost to the school
- Cost to students will range between \$3,298.00 to \$4,016.00 as long as there are at least 10 students – includes all travel costs, three meals daily, transportation and activities
- Car pools will be arranged for transportation to the airport
- Depending on snow days, some school may be missed
- Parents are responsible for transportation home from the airport upon return

The School Committee members had the following questions:

Ms. Santiago asked how the school planned on accommodating final exams for the students that attend without undue stress.

Mr. Sills said that the high school has experience with this and the finals will be arranged so they may be completed before they leave.

Ms. Santiago asked how host families are screened.

Mr. Sills said that the families are screened through the Centro MundoLengua program.

Ms. Santiago was concerned about how the students would get to their classes, programs and evening activities once they are in Spain.

Mr. Sills believes that this is covered within the program but he will get more information for the School Committee.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve a request for an out of state field trip for Bedford High School student to go to Sevilla, Spain from June 20th to July 4th, 2020 at cost of between \$3,298.00 to \$3,416.00 per students that are participating in the volunteer program or at a cost of \$3,898 to \$4,016.00 for the students participating in classes, at no cost to the school.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-0

4. Athletics Program Presentation and Unified Sports

BHS Director of Athletics and Wellness Mr. Keith Mangan gave a presentation where he outlined his role has been over the past eighteen years with Bedford Public Schools. He highlighted a few other committees and organizations in which he also serves in some capacity such as the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association as part of the District "A" Committee, the Massachusetts Athletic Director's Association as 2nd Vice Principal, a member of Competency Testing for Adapted Physical Education (CTAPE) and the League Scheduler for the Dual County League.

Mr. Mangan's presentation also included his philosophy of Athletics where he spoke of helping student-athletes grow mentally, physically and emotionally while complementing the educational and academic experience. He went on to speak about what his expectations are for coaches as well as providing a link for coaching positions.

Other information included:

New Programs

- Girls Ice Hockey
- Unified Basketball/Other Unified Teams
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Potentials (JV Ice Hockey, Gymnastics, Boys Volleyball)
- Survey to Students and Parents

Facility Maintenance

- Fields Partnership
- Field Use and Locations
- Capital Projects (Turf Replacement, Track Resurfacing, Bathrooms, Benches/Score Tables
- Scoreboards

Wellness

- What has been accomplished
 - K-12 Learning Expectations
 - Fitness/Health at BHS
 - Wellness Policy
 - Peer Leadership – Signs of Suicide (SOS)
 - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for 8th grade Freshmen

- Current and Future projects
 - Health K-12 Curriculum Map
 - "I Can" Statements
 - PE K-12 Curriculum Map

The School Committee had some questions and comments on the overall presentation:

Mr. Brosgol thanked Mr. Mangan for all of his hard work. He also mentioned that was very proud that Bedford does not charge fees for sports. He went on to ask what the average participation is for sports for Bedford students.

Mr. Mangan replied that roughly 68% of high school students play sports while 55-60% of students at the middle school play sports.

Mr. Brosgol asked what the thoughts were on Club sports vs. Town sports.

Mr. Mangan said that he originally favored Town sports over Club sports but he is feels both have their advantages.

Mr. Brosgol asked why some teams have to purchase uniforms where others do not.

Mr. Mangan explained some sports such as track have uniforms that are fairly inexpensive while other sports with more expensive uniforms can be passed down from Varsity to Jr. Varsity upon replacement. He also mentioned that teams do fundraisers to help with these expenses and there is a budget line that also helps with these expenses.

Ms. Guay mentioned that there has been discussion about some communities moving to Flag Football and wondered if Bedford would ever move in that direction.

Mr. Mangan said that he doesn't believe at this time there would be a lot of support for that but there are proper safety techniques taught for tackling as well as other programs for avoidance and recovery in all sports offered.

Ms. Guay expressed how pleased she is that Bedford offers unified sports. Mr. Mangan said that it is not only important for the students with disabilities but equally as important for all students involved.

Ms. Guay also went on to applaud the Miller family for the Ethan Miller Scholarship.

Ms. Scoville asked what the typical tenure is for coaches.

Mr. Mangan said that a tenure can vary.

Ms. Scoville asked if there were feeder programs that helped students get involved in sports such as camps.

Mr. Mangan said that camps for several sports are still offered each season run by Recreation as some of the coaches

Ms. Santiago asked what the schools were doing to help prevent concussions in sports other than football.

Mr. Mangan said that techniques are taught in all sports to help avoid these injuries.

Ms. Santiago asked if other high schools allowed eighth graders on their high school Junior Varsity teams.

Mr. Mangan said yes, if a principal by MIAA rule oversees grades 7-12 or if the school applies for a co-op based on numbers.

Mr. Sills gave credit to Mr. Mangan for the success of the sports programs and also stated that Bedford pays careful attention to Title IX to assure compliance for gender equity in school sports.

Mr. Mangan agreed and said that he too is careful to be sure that Bedford is fair and equitable to students across genders in all sports offered.

5. 10,000 Ft. Budget View- Bedford Public Schools FY21 Budget Preview

Mr. Sills started by thanking Ms. Kirrane for their first budget collaboration. He then presented the FY21 Budget Preview. He mentioned that this report is being presented a month earlier than usual. Mr. Sills went on to say that the Maintenance of Effort for FY21 shows a \$1,740,448.00 increase over the FY20 budget due to inflation, step increases and contractual obligations. Mr. Sills also said that the primary changes of the Maintenance of Effort is in the transportation cost of special education as well as the out-of-district student costs. Mr. Sills stated that Bedford has earned credits from both LABBB and CASE Collaborative which can be used toward both tuition and transportation costs, which are now higher than ever. These credits are a result of surplus funds from these Collaboratives in which they then issue back as credits to Bedford.

Mr. Sills talked about our enrollment trends mentioning that our enrollment projections have been accurate. He talked about class size, enrollment projections and the specific need for an additional third grade class because we are already at 24 students per class which is at the higher end of the guidelines.

Mr. Sills then presented the budget drivers and the identified needs under consideration:

- Enrollment and Space Needs at each school and within the district with a budget impact of \$379,789.0
- Special Education at Davis, JGMS and BHS with a budget impact of \$130,752.00
- Counseling/Social and Emotional at BHS and within the district with a budget impact of \$130,752.00
- Other Instruction and Support at Davis, Lane and JGMs with budget impact of \$147,601.00
- Supplies and Contracted Services for the district (Chromebooks, PE, Transportation and Textbooks) with a budget impact of \$120,000.

The overall estimated Maintenance of Effort and Additions FY21 budget request is a total of \$44,834,386.00 which is an increase of 7.2% from the FY20 budget.

The School Committee had some questions and comments.

Mr. Brosgol suggested an addition of a teacher at Lane instead of Davis because of the enrollment numbers. He also expressed his enthusiasm.

Ms. Guay said that she thinks that it would be more helpful to hire teachers to work with students with Autism versus more teaching assistants because children with Autism are more complex and do not always require one on one. She also mentioned that she noticed the increase of non-verbal students in Bedford and suggested that we look into hiring staff that can meet the needs of these children as well.

Ms. Scoville said that she is looking forward to the process.

Ms. Santiago asked if the Lane School addition would be big enough, looking at the current enrollment. Mr. Sills assured her that it will for the additional classroom but said that beyond that it could be a real challenge.

Mr. Sills said that he wanted to remind everyone that we have started out with higher initial needs in the past and that we have been able to meet some of these needs without the additional cost and thinks this can happen again.

6. MCAS 2.0 and Accountability Presentation

Ms. Tricia Clifford, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools lead a presentation on MCAS data and the FY19 MCAS results. She explained the accountability categories which outlined schools that would require assistance or intervention (15%) and schools that do not require assistance or intervention (85%). Ms. Clifford explained the importance of understanding the criterion-referenced components and went on to say that Bedford is not in need of assistance or intervention and that the Lane School is rated at "Meeting or Exceeding Targets" and JGMS and BHS are currently rated as "Substantial Progress Towards Targets". She said that districts are measured on the performance of all students and the lowest performing students, as if it were a school. She also explained that calculations are made separately for high school and non-high school grade spans.

Ms. Clifford showed the following Accountability Percentiles:

- Lane School 93%
- JGMS 76%
- BHS 78%

She went on to say that Bedford did well in earning overall points at all three schools but we are not satisfied with our schools and that we will strive to analyze the data and make improvements to increase student achievement and student growth.

Ms. Clifford finished by reviewing the FY19 MCAS results followed by questions and comments by the School Committee.

Mr. Brosgol congratulated Lane School for their achievements. He went on to ask if there was a way that Bedford tracks students who move to Bedford during the year such as Hanscom students and what impact this has on their growth and testing results.

Ms. Clifford said that Mr. Brosgol brought up a good point because she has already started looking into having a data team at BHS to look into this type of information.

Ms. Guay thanked Ms. Clifford for her detailed presentation. Ms. Guay thought that the MCAS scores in Bedford were a bit disappointing compared to neighboring communities. She went on to say that she has noticed that Bedford has added administrators and curricular leaders yet she is not seeing noticeable results and wondered if it took more time to see results.

Ms. Clifford said that she has found is that the data really must be examined well and that she is currently working with the Program Administrators and Program Directors to be sure that this process becomes consistent so that changes can be made.

Ms. Guay said that she struggles with why reading is such a challenge for our students. She said that she thought that we would do better with this due to our demographic and that there is more work that still needs to be done.

Ms. Scoville agreed with Ms. Guay, she too is interested to see whether the investment into curricular leadership will pay off and she is eager to see the results.

Ms. Scoville then went on to ask about the test and whether students had access to refer back to the reading passages once they moved to the next screen.

Ms. Clifford said that the students can go back and forth but there are also some areas where they need to be aware of and where they can add comments or make notes to themselves. She also said that there is a focus on test taking strategies.

Ms. Santiago mentioned that she is concerned with the three days of tests and how it impacts not only the tenth graders taking the tests but also for the students who are not taking the tests because there seems that there is not a lot of work going on during that time for them.

Ms. Santiago also went on to say that given our diverse student body to include the Hanscom students who often come from different schools, is this the performance what would be expected?

Ms. Clifford said yes, that this is a concern but there are ways to ensure that kids will get what they need.

Ms. Santiago commented that in the future presentations perhaps the percentages of changes inside and outside the margin of error can be shown so that it will be easier to see which areas we should be most concerned with.

Mr. Sills made a summarizing statement about Bedford's results being disappointing and that he is optimistic about improvements. He mentioned that the focus on non-fiction text came a little bit late and went on to say that the Lane School started that earlier than the others and the results show. He said that we've come to recognize that the next generation MCAS test assesses things we believe in and we still need to do some more targeted work.

7. School Committee Member Departure and Vacancy

Ms. Santiago gave a brief recap of events and an update on the 10/23/19 immediate resignation of Ms. Jill Marquis. She mentioned that there is a need for an appointment until Town Elections in March of 2020. Ms. Santiago asked that interested candidates send letters of interest to the Town Manager. School Committee will then have a joint meeting with the Town Selectmen in December to appoint a qualified applicant.

Ms. Santiago went on to thank Ms. Marquis for her service and insight.

8. Superintendent's Report

None

9. Minutes

None

**11. Adjourn to Executive Session for Purposes of Discussing Non-Union Personnel Contract
– not to reopen**

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. not to reopen.

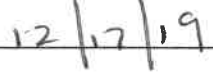
MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0

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



School Committee Secretary



Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 29, 2019
Exhibits/Documents**

- Personnel Report for October 29, 2019
- Educational Out of State Field Trip Request for a trip to Sevilla, Spain June 20 – July 4, 2020
- Athletics Program Presentation and Unified Sports
- Bedford Public Schools FY21 Budget Preview
- MCAS 2.0 and Accountability Presentation