

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 14, 2020
Large Group Instruction Room, Bedford High School

1. Call to Order

At 7:02 p.m., Ms. Santiago called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Morrison and Ms. Scoville . Ms. Guay was delayed and arrived at 7:30 p.m. Student representative Mr. Alex Oleksinski was also present this evening.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills presented the Personnel Report to the School Committee which included an out of state field trip for approval:

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Resignations:

Retirements:

Appointments:

<i>Claudia Beltran</i>	<i>1.0 Replacement Spanish Teacher for LOA</i>	<i>Lane</i>
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<i>Education:</i>	<i>Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH</i>
	<i>Major: General Studies</i>
	<i>Bachelor of Arts 2017</i>

<i>Experience:</i>	<i>Jonas Clarke Middle School, Lexington, MA</i>
	<i>Foreign Language Instructional Assistant</i>
	<i>1 year</i>

<i>Placement Step:</i>	<i>BA – 0</i>
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<i>Erin Crowley</i>	<i>Executive Assistant to Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent</i>	<i>Central</i>
<i>Katherine Boebel</i>	<i>1.0 Kitchen Manager – Food Services</i>	<i>Davis</i>

Transfers:

<i>Matthew Brennan</i>	<i>1.0 ELL Teacher</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Robin Davidian</i>	<i>Human Resources Specialist</i>	<i>Central</i>
<i>Andrew Geotschius</i>	<i>1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Tara Kosinski</i>	<i>1.0 Replacement Science Teacher</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Antoinette Olivier</i>	<i>0.6 Preschool Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Kimberly Perotta</i>	<i>1.0 Interim Elementary Teacher</i>	<i>Lane</i>

Extracurricular:

Athletics:

<i>Justin McAfee</i>	<i>Basketball – Boys' Freshmen</i>	<i>Winter</i>
<i>Cory Jordan</i>	<i>Basketball – Boys' Freshmen</i>	<i>Winter</i>

Anthony Halls	Basketball – Boys' Junior Varsity	Winter
Ryan Kilian	Basketball – Boys' Varsity	Winter
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Basketball – Girls' Junior Varsity	Winter
Alvin Mayard	Basketball – Girls' Varsity	Winter
James Byrnes	Basketball – Middle School Boys	Winter
James Greenwood	Basketball – Middle Schools Girls	Winter
Brian Seabury	Hockey – Varsity	Winter
William Seabury	Hockey – Varsity Assistant	Winter
Kate O'Shea	Hockey – Assistant Girls	Winter
Sophia Grammenos	Indoor Track – Co-Assistant	Winter
Charles Humphrey	Indoor Track – Co-Assistant	Winter
Joseph Pike	Indoor Track – Varsity	Winter
Gerald Peters	Rifle Team	Winter
Eric Driscoll	Ski Team – Varsity	Winter
Michelle Pietrangelo	Swim – Assistant	Winter
Beth Billouin	Swim – Varsity	Winter
Kasie Costopulos	Cheerleading – Co-Varsity	Winter
Brianna Baptista	Cheerleading – Co-Varsity	Winter
Samuel Sprangel	Wrestling – Varsity	Winter

ACTION ITEMS:

Out-of-State / Overnight Field Trips:

Alicia Linsey Arlington, VA

BHS

*National Association for College Admissions Counseling
February 7th through February 8th, 2020*

Alicia Linsey, Director of Counseling and Guidance, is requesting School Committee's Approval to attend an out of state field trip in Arlington, VA, on February 7th through February 8th, 2020. Alicia will be travelling alone and no students will be attending.

Alicia serves as the New England Representative on the NACAC National College Fair Committee. It is composed of seven members and includes college admission representatives from across the country. Alicia is the only public school counselor on the committee. One of her commitments to her three-year term is to attend the annual board meeting.

There is no cost to the school.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee to approve an overnight out of state field trip for Ms. Alicia Linsey, Director of Counseling to the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, February 7th through February 8th, 2020 with no students in attendance and no cost to the school.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 4-0-0

4. Safe Routes to Schools

Ms. Carla Olson, Healthy Bedford Coordinator for Bedford Youth and Family Services, Ms. Heidi Porter, Director of Health and Human Services for the Bedford Board of Health and Ms. Judy Crocker, Senior Safe Routes Outreach Coordinator led a “Safe Routes to Schools” presentation.

Ms. Olson gave a narrative of the program which is an initiative that came out of the Youth and Family Task Force which includes School Committee, Recreation, Youth & Family Services as well as the Police Department. She said that the collaborative was originally formed due to the growing rate of obesity among children. Ms. Olson said that reports show that 32% of children in Massachusetts are obese or overweight according to the state and that 24% of students in Bedford are considered obese or overweight according to their BMI (body mass index). Ms. Olson said that the purpose of this program is to promote student health and transportation to school which involves students walking and biking as an alternative to taking the bus.

Ms. Crocker who serves on the Healthy Bedford Task Force has been a coordinator in Lexington for the past fifteen years. Ms. Crocker stated that the Safe Routes to School is a federally funded program through the Department of Transportation and that this is an international program which originated in Denmark. She emphasized that this program not only meets a need for physical activity but also promotes safety and independence, it can alleviate traffic congestion, reduce excessive idling and also help to curb tardiness and attendance issues.

Ms. Crocker talked about the program being based on the “Six E’s”:

Evaluation:

- Parent Travel Surveys which are available in nine languages
- Used to compile data and takes a few minutes to complete

Education

- Peer to Peer education which older students can help teach younger students the rules of the road
- Bike Rodeos and Assemblies to teach bike safety
- Webinars to educate adults on safety
- Partnership with local Police Department
- Most information found on the Safe Routes website
- Sponsored by taxpayer dollars

Encouragement

- Walk/Bike/Roll Events
- Walking School Buses – Park and Walk

Engineering

- Non Infrastructure
 - Taskforce Formation
- Infrastructure
 - Mapping
 - No Idling
 - Safety Enhancements and Circulation Plans
 - Regulatory Signage which is enforced by police

Enforcement

- Crossing Guards
- Police/School Resource Officer
- Arrival/Dismissal Plans

- Communication

Equity

Ms. Crocker told the School Committee that the Safe Routes Application Program awarded \$15 million dollars in 2019 to fourteen different projects around the state as well as other grant funds to purchase and install regulatory signage and pavement markings.

The School Committee had some questions and comments:

Mr. Brosgol pointed out that the schools in Bedford no longer have safe walking routes noting that in his observation, some of the streets around the Lane School have become busier and some motorists tend to speed. Mr. Brosgol thinks that the streets around the schools need to become safer and asked Ms. Crocker how the program would go about that.

Ms. Crocker said that an evaluation would have to be done to determine the best solution. She mentioned that in some cases, regulatory signage can be used which is enforceable.

Mr. Brosgol asked if Ms. Crocker thinks that Bedford should pave the bike path extension out to Route 62.

Ms. Crocker said that all trails in Massachusetts fall under Mass Trails. She said that if it was a route that students were taking to a school, there could be an overlap but they generally stay away from trails.

Mr. Morrison asked if there was any kind of a metric to show how much the Safe Routes are being used.

Ms. Crocker said that they often do tallies on bikes, cars and walkers and they provide that information to the community.

Ms. Guay asked if parents in communities that have to pay for school bus transportation are more likely to have their child use the buses.

Ms. Crocker said that some parents do not want to pay for the buses which would mean less ridership.

Ms. Scoville mentioned that in her neighborhood, there is a daily “walking school bus” which she thinks is great. She also said that she noticed that there are more bicycle racks at the JGMS and Lane and that they are always full to capacity. Ms. Scoville asked Ms. Crocker how signage would qualify in certain areas where students are walking to school.

Ms. Crocker said that the DPW or Healthy Bedford would have to be contacted so that they could survey the area and determine what signage may be needed.

Ms. Porter also spoke and she said that she looks forward to a partnership between the Town and School for this program. She said that she would like to see some participation in a parent survey in order to obtain real data for the program moving forward. Ms. Porter mentioned that she had applied for a grant for Davis School infrastructure improvements but was turned down. She said that she looks forward to moving the program forward and that partnering with the School may help with future grant funding.

Mr. Sills said that he would be glad to help out with the promotion of the use of parent surveys and asked Ms. Porter to reach out to him with more information.

Ms. Crocker suggested that it would be helpful to have the arrival and dismissal times on website and in the handbooks for each school.

5. Wellness Policy – First Reading

Mr. Keith Mangan, Director of Athletics and Wellness reviewed the first reading of the BPS Wellness Policy. He mentioned that Wellness Policy has only been updated once since he had been with Bedford and he plans on having a regular review of the policy going forward.

Mr. Mangan talked about some of his newer goals which have been added:

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Education
- Social and Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Health Services
- Goals for Active Transportation

Mr. Mangan said that there is also one change in the nutrition guidelines which came about as a result of a recent Foodservice review by the state but other than those changes, the rest of the policy will remain the same.

The School Committee Members had some questions and comments:

Mr. Brosgol asked how much time was spent each week for all students K-12 participating in physical activities.

Mr. Mangan responded that this can vary and he is willing to add that information to the Wellness Policy. He mentioned that the state does not specify an exact amount of time that should be spent doing physical activity.

Mr. Brosgol said that he is very supportive of more bicycle racks for the students to include racks covered with awnings and mentioned how full the current racks get in the warmer weather.

Mr. Mangan agreed.

Mr. Morrison mentioned gender equality and asked if there are any resource allocations that are gender specific in the policy.

Mr. Mangan doesn't think there is anything in the policy that does not support gender equality. He also said that he conducts a survey each year for the students and he hoped that this would address any questions or needs students may have. Mr. Mangan said that he tries to make Physical Education classes different than Athletics.

Ms. Guay said that she is happy about the new goals of Social and Emotional Health and Wellbeing. She said that it would be nice to offer an adaptive version of the Safe Routes to School Program and Goals for Active Transportation for students with disabilities so that they can take part in this curriculum as well.

Ms. Scoville asked if the new Town of Bedford social worker could perhaps be referred to in the Wellness Policy.

Mr. Mangan said that he will be glad to look into this.

Mr. Sills suggested holding off on the School Committee approval vote for the Wellness Policy until some of the changes discussed were updated.

Ms. Santiago asked if the policy incorporates the elements of the policy template that MASC is working on or will we need to go back again once that is released and think about how we may want to change this further.

Mr. Mangan said that he looked at a lot of others school's Wellness policies and they are all very similar with the exception of the Social and Emotional which is somewhat rare to see at this time and the Active Transportation, which is brand new.

Ms. Santiago wondered if the policy should specify human powered scooters.

Ms. Crocker said that motorize scooters cannot be ridden on the sidewalk and must only be ridden on a bike path and also that the riders must be at least 16 years of age to ride one.

Ms. Crocker also addressed Ms. Guay's earlier question by saying that the Safe Routes program curriculum is written for student of all abilities and disabilities.

6. 2020-2021 District School Calendar

Mr. Sills reviewed the 2020-2021 School calendar which includes a first day of school start date before the Labor Day holiday. This is due to a later Labor Day of September 7th.

The School Committee had some comments and suggested some edits.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the 2020-2021 Bedford Public Schools Calendar as amended

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

7. FY21 District Budget Discussion

Mr. Sills and Ms. Kirrane asked the School Committee to continue their review of the FY21 budget request by reviewing updated information and detail as outlined by Ms. Kirrane.

This process started at the last meeting on December 17th. They started their discussion with some information pertaining Circuit Breaker, Special Ed Tuition increases and the use of Impact Aid to help cover some of these costs.

Some of the highlights of this discussion included:

- Future discussion of implementation of fees
- FY20 and FY21 Tuition Changes (Increases/Credits)
- Circuit Breaker Audit Review – Bedford will have to claim \$175K less in FY20 than anticipated

- Circuit Breaker for FY21 will increase (+\$275K)
- Impact Aid reserved from prior years and Circuit Breaker will be used in FY20
- Will go into FY21 with no deficit due to the saved Impact Aid

Mr. Sills explained the planned usage of the Impact Aid reserve which will be used to cover FY20 increased tuition costs.

Ms. Kirrane further reviewed the Impact Aid usage in detail for FY20 in order to retain a balance in Circuit Breaker to cover tuition costs that will occur in FY21. She also stated that her goal is to further increase the Circuit Breaker account.

Mr. Morrison asked if the \$1.8M FY21 revenue projection was reliable.

Ms. Kirrane said that this is a conservative projection based on our FY20 costs and that it is subject to change.

Ms. Guay asked if the tuition cost increases from October to November were due to new students moving to Bedford.

Ms. Kirrane said that this is predominantly due to tuition changes and not an increase of students.

Mr. Sills mentioned that there is a \$179K offset built into the FY21 budget based on the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) which will now give reimbursements for Special Education transportation for only the out of district students and that the costs for Special Ed in district transportation can no longer be claimed leaving us to look for an additional \$40K in the FY21 budget to add to the bottom line.

Ms. Kirrane added that this is a snapshot of the tuition budget and she continues to work very hard with Ms. Marianne Vines, Director of Special Education, and her team.

Ms. Guay talked about the out of district schools and that she is surprised that they invoice by the day for students and create their bills manually which makes it hard to track for Circuit Breaker purposes.

Mr. Sills asked if the School Committee would like to go through the budget book line by line or if they would prefer to just see the overall proposal.

Ms. Santiago said that she would prefer to go through the budget line by line.

Mr. Brosgol asked Mr. Sills if he had had a chance to speak to the Finance Committee about the reserve.

Mr. Sills said that he had spoken to them but he thinks that it is premature at this time.

Ms. Guay talked about the possibility of moving the Out of District piece out of the budget and wondered how many other communities do this. She said that she would like to hear more information about that.

Mr. Sills said that he would do some research on this.

Mr. Sills and Ms. Kirrane then went over the FY21 Budget Request book line by line with the School Committee.

8. Superintendent's Search Update

Ms. Santiago started by saying that the surveys are underway and we are starting to get some good responses which are being tracked by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees). She said that the Focus Groups have been scheduled and reminders are being sent to parents about the survey.

Ms. Santiago said that she and Mr. Brosgol had a very enthusiastic response from parents, students, leadership and faculty to their call for volunteers to assist with the screening process.

She said that they have already started interviews and the goal is to have a balanced committee. Ms. Santiago said that the plan is to have the members chosen and to have letters sent out to them by the weekend.

9. Superintendent's Report

None

10. Minutes

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2019 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Brosgol

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED: 5-0-0

11. Adjournment

Adjourn to Executive Session for Purposes of Preparing for Contract Negotiations – not to reopen

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:51 p.m. not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Ms. Guay Yes
Mr. Morrison Yes



School Committee Secretary

Date 3 | 17 | 20

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 14, 2020
Exhibits/Documents

- Personnel Report – Out of State Field Trip Request
- Safe Routes to School
- Wellness Policy
- 2020-2021 District School Calendar Draft
- FY21 District Budget
- School Committee Minutes Draft – November 26, 2019
- School Committee Minutes Draft – December 3, 2019
- School Committee Minutes Draft – December 10, 2019