

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**April 9, 2024**

**Meeting location:**

**Select Board Room, Town Hall, 10 Mudge Way & Telecast remotely via ZOOM**

**Call to Order**

At 7:02 PM, Ms. Mehta-Green called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Mehta-Green, Ms. Scoville, Mr. Morrison, Ms. McGinley, Mr. Pettitt, Ms. Williams, METCO Representative, Ms. Howell, Hanscom Representative and Student Representative Shreyes Shivappa

**Student Presentation- BUCS Robotics VEX recap**

Students from the robotics team presented a recap of a recent competition. During the presentation the students mentioned that they do all their own fund raising and utilize everyone’s skill set to gather materials, create ideas, troubleshoot issues and do research. VEX provides the students with the parameters for robot designs/builds. They have two teams and all students grade 9-12 are welcome into the group. The team also works with a Girl Scout troop to assist them in completing a badge hopefully to get them to join a robotics team when they are able.

**Student Report- By Shreyes Shivappa**

Mr. Shivappa spoke about the new pilot phone program at BHS. The program will begin after the vacation break. Students’ phones will go into caddies provided by teachers as they enter the classroom. Ms. Galante, counselors and teachers also spoke about the positive effects they hope this program will bring. Students, staff and a psychologist were involved in the development of this program. Essentially students will not have a phone from bell to bell are will still be able to use a phone during, lunch passing from class to class. Mr. Shivappa also mentioned that some of the students that presented a history project a t the last meeting have advanced to another competition.

**Public Comment**

No comments

**1. Approval of Minutes-Vote**

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approves the minutes from March 27, 2024.

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley**

**MOTION APPROVED -0-0**

<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pettitt</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**2. International Field Trip Request-Vote**

- Panama & Costa Rica, February 2026

Ms. Leshay answered a few brief questions from the committee before that vote was taken. It was noted that this is an extra-curricular trip that is open to 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Thirty-two students in total will participate, and scholarships will be made available to those that may need it.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approves the International field trip to Panama & Costa Rica in February 2026. At no cost to the district.

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pettitt</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**3. EL Presentation: ACCESS data & update on EL/Newcomers**

Ms. Powers, EL Director along with other members of the EL staff presented some of the following information during their presentation. Ms. Powers remarked on the wonderful Bedford Community of Volunteers. The presentation ended with a heartfelt video from some of the students Ms. Powers has worked with as a thank you and a sendoff as she embarks on a new journey next year.

- WIDA ACCESS
- Information on Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE).
- Outline of the programs at Davis, Lane, JGMS and BHS.
  - Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) programs at individual schools
  - Dual Language Newcomer Program and Newcomer Program at Davis, and SLIFE programs at Lane, JGMS and BHS.
- Adult ESL programs where held at both the Bedford Plaza Hotel and BHS.
- SLIFE Program professional development course (PDC) for Bedford faculty members. The SLIFE Program is a professional development course taught by Ms. Powers and Ms. White. The purpose of is to provide teachers with information use when planning lessons for SLIFE students.
- Upcoming EL Events, including the Annual EL Award Night, and EL Summer School information.

**4. Gifts/Donations Acceptance-Vote**

Bruins Bfit Community Foundation made a generous donation to BPS Athletics Department. The donation included 60 hockey sticks, along with some footballs, soccer balls, goalie nets and pads and jump ropes.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee accepts the gifts as presented.

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pettitt</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**5. SPED Stabilization Fund Draft Policy-2<sup>nd</sup> Read & Vote**

Mr. Chuang went over the revised policy for the SPED Stabilization Fund for review and vote. The Town Manager, Town Finance Committee and superintendent Chuang made some small technical changes. The revised policy was submitted approved and voted on by the Select Board at their March meeting.

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: The School Committee approves the Bedford SPED Stabilization Fund policy as revised and approved by the Bedford Select Board on March 25, 2024

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. McGinley**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Pettitt</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**6. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Chuang presented to the School Committee the following during his report. Month of the Military Child breakfast will take place on Friday. Everyone is encouraged to wear purple. Eid al-Fitr ends tomorrow and spring trail walks and talks with Mr. Chuang have been advertised. Project Manager Position will need to be filled and a presentation will be made to the committee at the appropriate time. Next School Committee meeting will be held at the METCO Headquarters.

**7. Adjournment**

Ms. Mehta-Green made the following motion: To adjourn at 9:21 pm into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Unit A and Unit B Contract Negotiations with the Bedford Education Association. Not to reopen to the public.

**MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. McGinley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Mehta-Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Mr. Pettitt**

**Yes**

**Exhibits/Documents**

**Draft Minutes**

**Student BUCS Robotics VEX Presentation**

**Gifts/Donations**

**Field Trip- Panama & Costa Rica, February 2026**

**School Committee Approved**

**Date: April 23, 2024**