

City of Biddeford
School Committee
October 27, 2021 7:00 PM Little Theater at BHS

Public Viewing

Public Viewing:
Local Public Access Station
City of Biddeford Website

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82076681268>
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Public Participation - Further Instructions

[Further Instructions 10_26_2021 \(1\).pdf](#)

A. Call to Order:

B. Roll Call:

C. Pledge of Allegiance:

D. Adjustments to Agenda:

E. Consideration of Minutes:

E.1. Minutes 10/13/2021
[Biddeford Minutes 10_13_2021.pdf](#)

F. Consent Agenda

F.1. Nomination:
Karen Gellis ~ CTE Business Studies ~ Replacing Brian Maiorino
Appointments:
BHS Non-Athletic Stipends
BMS Athletic Stipends
Kayla Keimach ~ Cross Country Elementary Stipend BIS
Taylor Turner ~ Accounts Payable Associate Leadership Office ~ Replacing Emily Furr
Novella Earl ~ Food Service Worker Prep Cook ~ Replacing Diane Buckley who is retiring
Michelle Comeau ~ Food Service Worker JFK ~ Replacing Natorya Kendrick
Kathryn Letellier ~ Part-Time Administrative Assistant JFK ~ New Position
Resignations:
Linda Laroche Trudeau ~ Sub Bus Aide ~ Resignation
Tiffany Williamson ~ Ed Tech II Behavior BMS ~ Resignation
Brenda Cole ~ Ed Tech II Behavior BIS ~ Resignation
Transfers:

Bonnie Jensen ~ Food Service Worker JFK ~ Replacing Elaine Hamel who is retiring
Cathy Fecteau ~ Full Time Bus Aide ~ Replacing Tammy Guay who moved to a new position in the district
Tammy Guay ~ Full Time Bus Aide ~ Replacing Mike Hickson who resigned

[Non-Athletic Stipends BHS 2021 - Sheet1.pdf](#)
[BMS Athletic Stipends 2021 Winter - Sheet1.pdf](#)
[BIS Stipends 2021 - Sheet1.pdf](#)

G. Superintendent's Report:

H. Committee Reports: Finance/Building, Grounds; Curriculum; Policy; Waterhouse Advisory Committee

I. Old Business:

- I.1. Second Reading
 - CC ~ Administrative Organization
 - IHD ~ Biddeford Adult/Community Education
 - IKACA ~ Parent Conferences
 - IMGA ~ Service Animals in Schools
 - JFAA ~ Admission of Resident Students
 - JFAB ~ Admission of Non-Resident Students
 - JIC ~ Student Code of Conduct
 - JICIA ~ Weapons, Violence and School Safety

[CC_ Administrative Organization Biddeford.docx.pdf](#)
[IHD Adult Ed_ Community Policy.pdf](#)
[IKACA Parent Conferences.pdf](#)
[IMGA Service Animals In Schools.pdf](#)
[JFAA Admission of Resident Students.pdf](#)
[JFAB Admission of Non-Resident Students.pdf](#)
[JIC.pdf](#)
[JICIA Weapons Violence and School Safety.pdf](#)

J. New Business: Public participation opportunity after each item listed below (3 minutes per item)

- J.1. Update on 8th Grade at BHS
 - i. Future building additions
 - ii. Funding - ESSER II and ESSER III
- Snow Day Closures
- Revolving Renovations Applications
- Nursing Sub Pay Rate

[21.10.11_BHS PROPOSED PLANS.pdf](#)
[Biddeford Snow Day Closure.pdf](#)
[Memo on Revolving Renovations Funds.pdf](#)
[Nurse Sub Pay.pdf](#)
[8th Grade at BHS pros and cons memo.pdf](#)

- K. Public Participation: (3 minutes; any item)**
- L. Communications:**
- M. Executive Session:**
- N. Adjournment:**

Instructions for Public Participation

The Biddeford School Committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

This meeting will be held in person by the School Committee only in the Little Theater. The meeting for the public will be conducted using [Zoom Webinar](#), a web-based video conferencing tool, under [1 M.R.S.A. § 403-A](#), which authorizes the school department to hold remote meetings during the state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Topic: Biddeford School Committee Meeting

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You will not be shown on the camera as a meeting viewer, and your microphone will be muted by default.

What controls should I use to participate in the meeting?

If you would like to participate during the meeting, click the “raise your hand” button at the bottom of the screen at the appropriate time for comment. The host of the meeting will see that you would like to participate and will be able to turn your mic on for you when it is your turn to speak.

If you have joined the meeting by phone only, you will need to use the following codes:

***6-Toggle mute/unmute**

***9-Raise hand**

Do I have to use Zoom to watch the meeting?

No, you will still be able to watch a live stream of the meetings as you usually would on Public Access Channel 1301 or on the city website.

Watch Video: [City of Biddeford Website](#)

Due to the COVID-19 PANDEMIC, the Biddeford School Committee will meet in person but will conduct the public hearing and meeting telephonically. The public will not be allowed to attend the meeting in person. However, the meeting may be viewed live on the City’s Public Access Channel or on the City’s website: www.biddefordmaine.org, selecting the Government tab and then clicking on “Video/Agendas/Minutes”. Copies of the agenda and minutes are available on the City’s website and School website www.biddefordschools.me. Questions or comments may be emailed prior to the meeting to [School Committee Members](#), Superintendent, [Jeremy Ray](#), Assistant Superintendent, [Christopher Indorf](#), or Director of Instruction & Innovation, [Mandy Cyr](#).

Biddeford School Department
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

5:00 pm **Minutes**

School Committee - Little Theater BHS in Person
Public Viewing - Zoom & Public Access

Public Viewing:

Local Public Access Station
City of Biddeford [Website](#)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88463848530>

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Webinar ID: 884 6384 8530

Public Participation - [Further Instructions](#)

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Alan Casavant
- B. Roll Call:** Mayor Alan Casavant, Lisa Vадnais, Amy Grohman, Randy Forcier, Rebecca Henry, Nate Bean, Jeremy Ray, Chris Indorf, and Mandy Cyr were all present
- C. Pledge of Allegiance:**
- D. Adjustments to the Agenda:**
- E. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:** Minutes from [9/22/2021](#) ~ Lisa Vадnais moved to approve the minutes from 9/22/2021, Randy Forcier seconded, and all were in favor
- F. Consent Agenda:** ~ Lisa Vадnais moved to approve the consent agenda, Amy Grohman seconded, and all were in favor

Appointments:

- a. Mindy Smith ~ Ed Tech Pre-K JFK ~ Replacing Leah Austin
- b. Susan Scully ~ Ed Tech II FLS ~ Replacing Jack Niles
- c. Candice Hankel ~ Ed Tech I ~ 1 Year Position
- d. Rachel Stewart ~ Food Service Worker BMS ~ Replacing Billie Jo Kennie
- e. Jeffery Veltsos ~ Maintenance ~ Replacing Robert Bouley
- f. Roland Desrosiers ~ Custodian BHS ~ Replacing Kelly Robinson

Resignations:

- a. Lori Junkins ~ Food Service Worker BHS
- b. Pietrina Owen ~ Special Education Teacher BHS ~ Retiring 1/31/2022
- c. Shenade Martel ~ Full Time Van Driver
- d. Sandra Curlew ~ Full Time Bus Aide
- e. Emily Furr ~ Accounts Payable Associate
- f. Brian Maiorino ~ COT Business Teacher
- g. Kylie Ireland ~ EL Ed Tech BPS
- h. Catherine Lamb ~ Regular Ed/Ed Tech II BIS
- i. Billie Jo Kennie ~ Food Service Worker BMS

School Committee Members:

Alan Casavant-Chair	Randy Forcier
Lisa Vадnais-Vice Chair	Dominic Deschambault
Karen Ruel	Nate Bean
Amy Grohman	Rebecca Henry

cc: Jeremy Ray- Superintendent
cc: Chris Indorf-Asst. Superintendent
cc: Mandy Cyr- Dir. Instr. & Innov.

Transfers:

- a. Nicole Walker ~ Ed Tech II BMS ~ Ed Tech III BMS ~ 1 Year Position
- b. Didi Holt ~ ELA Teacher APC ~ Special Education Teacher APC

G. Superintendent's Report: ~ Schools, students, and staff have been working hard on the NWEA testing. As you are all aware last week we made all employees aware that they either had to show proof of vaccination or register for weekly pool testing. We are happy to report that we are only waiting on two people at this time. We are on our second week of pool testing and we have only had two positive pools so far. Which shows that the process does work. The weekends seem to set things back because of outside exposure. This weekend we were able to have a Homecoming event at Waterhouse Field. We had 350 students participate. We need to continue to do more of those things in the future for our students. We have started to have communications with the Southern Maine Medical Center about vaccinations for children 5 to 11 years. If it is approved we would like to be able to offer a clinic in our own schools. Hiring has been a challenge. Transportation, food service, educational technicians, and custodial staff have been hard to find. We are working on putting together a job fair and have been putting out lots of information on social media. We spoke to the DOE about possibly helping with the fingerprinting of staff members. That is something that can be costly for staff as well as time-consuming. Our homeless population is growing and we are working on ways to help the families. Thank you to Dennis Walton for all his hard work keeping our students safe with outside sporting events.

H. Committee Reports:

I. Old Business:

- a. Approval of Math Program at BRCOT

J. New Business:

- a. [Federally mandated update on "back to school" health guidance](#)
- b. [Student Enrollment Update](#)
- c. [Pooled Testing Update](#)
- d. **Motion to Strike:** ~ Lisa Vадnais moved to approve, Randy Forcier seconded, and all were in favor
[JIC](#) ~ Student Code of Conduct
[JLCB-R](#) ~ Immunization Requirements
[IHD](#) ~ Biddeford Adult/Community Education
- e. **First Reading motion to approve policies:** ~ Lisa Vадnais moved to approve, Randy Forcier seconded, and all were in favor
[CC](#) ~ Administrative Organization
[IHD](#) ~ Biddeford Adult/Community Education
[IKACA](#) ~ Parent Conferences
[IMGA](#) ~ Service Animals in Schools
[JFAA](#) ~ Admission of Resident Students
[JFAB](#) ~ Admission of Non-Resident Students
[JIC](#) ~ Student Code of Conduct
[JICIA](#) ~ Weapons, Violence and School Safety
- f. **First and Second Reading Motion to Approve Policies:** ~ Lisa Vадnais moved to approve, Randy Forcier seconded, and all were in favor
[ACAF](#) ~ Workplace Bullying
[JLCB](#) ~ Immunizations of Students

K. Public Participation: (3 minutes; any item) Raise digital hand ~ None

School Committee Members:

Alan Casavant-Chair	Randy Forcier
Lisa Vадnais-Vice Chair	Dominic Deschambault
Karen Ruel	Nate Bean
Amy Grohman	Rebecca Henry

cc: Jeremy Ray- Superintendent
cc: Chris Indorf-Asst. Superintendent
cc: Mandy Cyr- Dir. Instr. & Innov.

L. Communications:

M. Executive Session:

N. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm. Lisa Vадnais moved to adjourn, Randy Forcier seconded, and all were in favor

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Signed:

Jeremy Ray ~ Superintendent of Schools

Date: 10/19/2021

School Committee Members:

Alan Casavant-Chair

Randy Forcier

Lisa Vадnais-Vice Chair

Dominic Deschambault

Karen Ruel

Nate Bean

Amy Grohman

Rebecca Henry

cc: Jeremy Ray- Superintendent

cc: Chris Indorf-Asst. Superintendent

cc: Mandy Cyr- Dir. Instr. & Innov.

Stipend Position					
	Applicant Name	Season	Stipend	Nominated	Approved by Board
BHS - Co-Curricular					
Annual - 2021-2022					
Choral Director	Wesley Raines	21-22	\$2,229.00	10/12/2021	
Drama Director	Bruce Brasier	21-22	\$2,229.00	10/22/2021	
Instrumental Director	Mike Murphy	21-22	\$3,343.50	10/12/2021	
Fall - 2021					
Marching Band Director	Mike Murphy	2021	\$3,343.50	10/12/2021	
BHS Drill Instructor	Brandon Johnson	2021	\$2,229.00	10/12/2021	
BHS Color Guard	Margaret Pitt	2021	\$2,229.00	10/12/2021	
BHS Percussion	Grace Murphy	2021	\$2,972.00	10/12/2021	
BHS Tech	Will Martin	2021	\$1,192.00	10/12/2021	
Winter - 2021-2022					
Marching Band Director	Mike Murphy	21-22	\$2,972.00	10/12/2021	
BHS Visual Design	Brandon Johnson	21-22	\$1,490.00	10/12/2021	
BHS Percussion	Grace Murphy	21-22	\$1,490.00	10/12/2021	
Percussion Staff - Winter	Vacant	21-22			
BHS Tech	Will Martin	21-22	\$1,192.00	10/12/2021	
Non-Instrumental Stipends					
Civil Rights Team Advisor	Dave Nelson (1/4)	21-22	\$278.62	10/12/2021	
Civil Rights Team Advisor	Clarence Holman (1/2)	21-22	\$557.25	10/12/2021	
Civil Rights Team Advisor	Jordan Seavey (1/4)	21-22	\$278.62	10/12/2021	
Debate Team Coach	Not Offered				
Interact	Hanah Johnson	21-22	\$1,114.50	10/12/2021	
Freshmen Mentor Advisor	Joyce Tarp	21-22	\$1,486.00	10/12/2021	
Robotics	Carol LePauloue	21-22	\$1,114.50	10/12/2021	
National Honor Society	Doreen Collin (1/2)	21-22	\$557.25	10/12/2021	
National Honor Society	Vicki Salo (1/2)	21-22	\$557.25	10/12/2021	

Stipend Position					
	Applicant Name	Season	Stipend	Nominated	Approved by Board
BHS - Co-Curricular					
Annual - 2021-2022					
Journalism	Bruce Brasier	21-22	\$1,114.50	10/12/2021	
Math Team Advisor	James Grover	21-22	\$1,114.50	10/12/2021	
Odyssey of the Mind Cord.	Vicky Salo	21-22	\$1,114.50	10/12/2021	
Student Council Advisor	Becky Auten (1/3)	21-22	\$743.00	10/12/2021	
Student Council Advisor	Hannah Johnson (1/3)	21-22	\$743.00	10/12/2021	
Student Council Advisor	James Grover (1/3)	21-22	\$743.00	10/12/2021	
Yearbook Advisor	Heather Tremblay	21-22	\$2,972.00	10/12/2021	

Stipend Position					
WINTER	Coach's Name	Stipend	Nominated	Approved by Board	Background/Experience
Middle School Winter Cheering Co-Coach	Olivia Souliere	\$954.30 (Stipend divided by 2)	10/18/2021		Former BHS Cheerleader, current Fall Recreation coach
Middle School Winter Cheer Co-Coach	Natalie Hatch	\$954.30 (stipend divided by 2)	10/18/2021		Former BHS Cheerleader and current Biddeford Recreation Coach
Grade 7 Boys Basketball	Derek Gaudreau	\$3,053.76	10/18/2021		Former travel coach and Current BPS Employee
Boys Basketball Grade 8	Kelly O'Guinn	\$3,053.76	10/18/2021		Volunteer coach last season and current BMS Football Assistant
Grade 7 Girls Basketball	Melody Michaud	\$3,053.76	10/18/2021		Current BMS coach
Grade 8 Girls Basketball	Don Stanhope	\$3,053.76	10/18/2021		Current BMS teacher and former coach in the Bangor School System

Stipend Position				
FALL	Coach's Name	Stipend	Nominated	Approved by Board
Cross Country Elementary	Joseph Aiken	763.44	9/8/2021	9/22/2021
Cross Country Elementary	Nathaniel Molleur	763.44	9/8/2021	9/22/2021
Cross Country Elementary	Maggie Guzman	763.44	9/8/2021	9/22/2021
Drama Elementary	Robert Petit	1526.88	9/8/2021	9/22/2021
Cross Country Elementary	Kayla Keimach	763.44	9/10/2021	

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The legal authority of the School Committee shall be transmitted through the Superintendent along specific lines from position to position as shown in the School Committee-approved organizational chart of the school system.

The lines of authority on the chart shall represent direction of authority and responsibility.

The Superintendent shall have the freedom and responsibility to reorganize lines of authority and to revise the organizational chart subject to School Committee approval of major changes and/or the elimination and creation of positions. The School Committee expects the Superintendent to keep the administrative structure up to date with the needs for supervision and accountability throughout the school system.

Cross Reference: CCA – Organizational Chart

Legal Reference: M.S.R.A. 20-A Chapter 508, §13701-13706

Adopted: October 28, 1992

Revised: April 27, 1999, January 10, 2017, _____

Adult/Community Education

The Adult Education Director and local Adult Education Advisory Board will keep the Superintendent abreast of program developments and will report annually to the School Committee. A Biddeford High School diploma will be issued to eligible adults upon successful completion of the required courses and units. Other certificates of completion or recognition will be issued, when appropriate, upon successful completion of programs or courses.

Adult/community education programs are provided to encourage adults of the community to pursue educational opportunities. **These programs operate with the following goals:**

- A. To provide a system of basic education for adults who have less than ninth grade ability levels. This aspect of adult education will concentrate on the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic;**
- B. Instructional programs will also be provided for adults needing instruction in English for speakers of other languages;**
- C. To provide opportunities for adults to complete high school either by taking courses to complete the required number of credits for graduation or by preparing for and taking the High School Equivalency test to receive the Adult High School Diploma;**
- D. To provide introductory and advanced workforce development training courses to help adults prepare for a career and employment;**
- E. To work cooperatively with both Biddeford High School and Biddeford Regional Center of Technology regarding student referrals and curriculum development in the areas of high school completion and workforce training;**
- F. To provide transition training to college or career;**
- G. To provide educational and enrichment programs which are related to the general learning needs and interests of the adult community; and,**
- H. To work in a cooperative and collaborative manner with our community agencies and organizations concerned with adult education.**

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 8601 et seq.

Cross Reference: IHAI – Philosophy of Biddeford Regional Vocational Center

Adopted: September 1991

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____

PARENT CONFERENCES

Close communication between home and school is an important factor in establishing a highly effective school program. Planned conferences between parents and teachers are an important way to bring about understanding and close cooperation between the home and school. Close communication should be maintained through conferences with all parents, not just those whose children's academic or other problems suggest the need for closer communication.

Conferences between parents and teachers regarding a child should be treated by the teacher as an opportunity to help the child and every effort should be made to make the conference constructive, objective, and pleasant. Conferences should provide an opportunity for a mutual exchange of information and ideas for the welfare of the child.

Occasionally parents may request meetings or telephone conferences when teachers have responsibilities for class instruction. Although the purpose of such requests may be worthy, School Committee policy discourages this practice as it disrupts the educational program. Parents and teachers should arrange for conferences outside of teachers' instructional time. Teachers should be prepared to provide time for conferences before or after school.

One planned parent-teacher conference for each student is scheduled each year. In addition to this annual conference, teachers are expected to request additional conferences with parents on an as-needed basis.

A teacher may, at his/her discretion, request that a building administrator be present at any parent-teacher conference.

During a public health condition or local/state emergency, the Superintendent may decide to move conferences to a telephonic or online format, at their discretion.

Cross Reference: KI – Visitors to the Schools

Adopted: April 5, 1990

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____

SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

The following rules shall govern the use of service animals by persons in the schools.

A. General Conditions

1. Only qualified individuals with disabilities are eligible to use service animals in school.
2. Use of a service animal by a person with a disability will be allowed in school when the animal is required to perform work or tasks directly related to the individual's disability.
3. "Service animal" is defined in Maine law as follows:

~~An animal~~ **dog** that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting an individual who is totally or partially blind with navigation or other tasks, alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting an individual to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or a telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with a mobility disability, and helping a person with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

4. The District will not be responsible for the training, feeding, grooming or care of any service animal permitted to attend school under this policy (except in the limited circumstances described in Section B.2.a.2). It shall be the responsibility of the individual with a disability or designated handler to ensure the proper care and supervision of the service animal.
5. All service animals must be kept on a harness, leash or tether unless this prevents the animal from performing his/her specific work or tasks with the individual. The animal

must be under the control of the individual with a disability or designated handler at all times.

6. The individual with a disability (or in the case of a student, the student's parent(s)) is liable for any damage to school or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by the service animal.
7. Individuals with service animals may access the same areas that individuals without disabilities are authorized to access.

B. Administrative Review of Service Animals

1. Whenever a service animal is in school or on school property (and it is not obvious that the dog qualifies as a service animal, e.g., guide dog for a blind person), a building administrator or other authorized school official may ask:
 1. Whether the service animal is required because of a disability;
 2. What work or task(s) the animal has been trained to perform.
2. When it is anticipated that a service animal is going to be in the school on a regular basis with an employee, student, volunteer or other frequent visitor to the school, the individual using the service animal (or in the case of a student, the student's parent(s)) are expected to notify the building administrator in advance.
 - a. The school shall not provide staff support to care for or control a service animal, but may provide support to a student using a service animal as needed in a particular instance (i.e., accompanying a young student who takes a service animal outside to relieve him/herself).
 - b. Any handler (parent or other person) accompanying the service animal must have approval to work in the school from the Maine Department of Education and undergo the State criminal background check.

Service animals must be properly licensed and vaccinated.

C. Removal or Exclusion of Service Animals from School

1. A building administrator or other authorized school official may require that a service animal be removed from the school or other school property under any of the following circumstances:

- a. The service animal poses a direct threat to the safety of individuals at school, causes a significant disruption of school activities or otherwise jeopardizes the safe operation of the school;
- b. The service animal demonstrates that it is unable to perform reliably the work or tasks which it was represented as being able to perform;
- c. The service animal is not under the full control of the person with a disability, or the authorized handler.
- d. The service animal is sick (i.e., vomiting, etc.), infested with parasites, has an infection of the skin, mouth or eyes, or otherwise presents a threat to the public health;
- e. The service animal demonstrates that it is not sufficiently trained to relieve itself outside the school building; and/or
- f. The service animal's presence significantly impairs the learning of students and/or fundamentally alters the nature of any school program.

D. Miniature Horses

Miniature horses are not defined as service animals under state or federal law. However, miniature horses which have been individually trained to perform specific work or tasks may be permitted in the schools in certain circumstances as a reasonable accommodation for a qualified individual with a disability. Any such requests should be directed to the building administrator for consideration. If a miniature horse is approved, all the conditions in this policy shall apply.

Legal References: 2 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104; 35.130(h); 35.136

5 M.R.S.A. §§ 4553; 4592

Maine Human Rights Commission Rule Chapter 7

ADA 2010 Regulations on Service Animals

https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

Adopted: January 26, 2016

Revised: _____

ADMISSION OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

The Biddeford School Department shall admit as students those of legal school age whose parents or guardians legally reside within the unit. Adequate proof of residence shall be required. The School Committee reserves the right to verify residency through appropriate means for any enrolled student or any family applying for enrollment.

“Residence” means bona fide residence—one’s actual residence maintained in good faith—and does not include a temporary or superficial residence established for the purpose of free school attendance in this system. It shall be considered the place where important family activity takes place—the place where the family eats, sleeps, relaxes and plays. It is a place which can be called a “home.” While it is possible for an individual to maintain property and pay taxes in more than one location or community, for purposes of student eligibility for school attendance, “residence” shall mean where the parent maintains ~~a home~~ **and occupies a home for more than 50% of the year.**

Guardianship shall be substantiated by a copy of a court order or probated will appointing the resident as guardian of the student. No student shall be accepted for enrollment or allowed to continue in enrollment on the basis of guardianship established by a power of attorney.

Resident students entering school for the first time shall be admitted upon presentation of an original birth certificate (or official copy) to the Principal, along with a record of required immunizations and pertinent health records. Photocopies shall be made and retained in the student’s file.

New resident students who are transferring into the school system shall be admitted on the basis of age, health and academic records received from the previous school. However, original documentation may be required if deemed necessary to appropriately determine a student’s eligibility for enrollment and assignment.

Legal Reference: 18-A MRSA § 5-201, et seq.
20-A MRSA §§ 5202 et seq.; 6002
Maine Commissioner of Ed. Administrative Letter No. 13, 10/9/97

Cross Reference: JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students

Adopted: January 24, 1995

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____

ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Individual non-resident students may be accepted under any of the following conditions if approved by the Superintendent:

- A. Any agreement with another local school administrative unit, upon payment of the tuition fee allowed by state law;
- B. Following receipt of a written parental request and formal approval by the School Committee on a space/program-available basis and upon payment of the tuition fee allowed by state law. Reapplication shall be made annually. Behavior, cooperation and suitability of programming shall be considered;
- C. To provide continuity of program for a student whose family provides evidence of intent to move to the community shortly after a school year begins, or moves from the community near the end of a school year;
- D. In accordance with Maine law related to the assignment of students for school purposes, including state wards; students for whom the Superintendent determines it is in the student's best interest to attend, students placed by state agencies; homeless children of school age; students living at light, fog warning or life stations; temporary residents; and a transfer student when the two Superintendents approve, in the student's best interest;
- E. Upon recommendation of the high school principal, ~~a foreign~~ **an** exchange student assigned to a household in the City of Biddeford and under the auspices of a recognized ~~foreign~~ exchange program may be enrolled on a tuition-free basis; and
- F. Non-resident school employees may enroll their children in the Biddeford school system, ~~on a tuition-free, basis~~ **on a space-available basis.**

Retroactive tuition will be assessed for students found to be non-residents and ineligible for enrollment under law or School Committee policy.

All age, health examinations, immunizations and any other requirements which apply to resident students shall also apply to non-resident students accepted for enrollment in the Biddeford school system.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 5203-5205; 5801
8 USC § 1101

Cross Reference: JFAA - Admission of Resident Students

Adopted: June 28, 1994

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

~~Citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others. Students in the Biddeford school system shall be expected to conduct themselves in such a way that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. Students shall respect constituted authority, conform to school rules and regulations, and to those provisions of law that apply to the conduct of juveniles or minors.~~

~~Teachers and other members of the school staff shall emphasize and model for students high standards of courtesy, morality, honesty, constructive relationships with others, and pride in one's work and achievements.~~

Promoting ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential component of the Biddeford School Committee's educational mission. Refer to policy [ADAA](#)

The Biddeford School Committee is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and orderly school environment in which students may receive and staff may deliver quality education without disruption or interference and in which students may develop as ethical, responsible, and involved citizens.

To achieve this goal, the Committee has developed this Student Code of Conduct with input from school administrators, staff, students, parents, and the community. Based on values identified as essential to ethical and responsible behavior, the Code articulates the Biddeford School Committee's expectations for student conduct.

The Committee believes that each member of the school community should take responsibility for their own behavior. To that end, the Committee recognizes the need to define unacceptable student conduct, identify the possible consequences for unacceptable conduct, and ensure that discipline is administered fairly, promptly, and appropriately.

The Student Code of Conduct applies to students who are on school property, who are in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be distributed to students, parents, and staff through handbooks and/or other methods deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

The Code of Conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following standards for ethical and responsible behavior:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Courage

Code of Conduct

All students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and all related Committee policies and school rules. The Code applies to students:

- On school property,
- While in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or
- At any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

General Behavior Expectations and Discipline Policies

The following expectations for student behavior are fundamental to the safe, orderly, and respectful environment in our schools. Each student should:

1. Be courteous to fellow students, staff, and visitors.
2. Respect the rights and privileges of other students and school staff.
3. Obey all Committee policies and school rules governing student conduct.
4. Follow directions from school staff.
5. Cooperate with staff in maintaining school safety, order and discipline.
6. Attend school regularly.
7. Meet school standards for grooming and dress.
8. Respect the property of others, including school property and facilities.

9. Refrain from cheating or plagiarizing the work of others.
10. Refrain from vulgarity, profanity, obscenity, lewdness, and indecency.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary consequences depend upon the seriousness of the violation and the student's prior disciplinary record. Consequences will range from a verbal warning for minor violations up to and including expulsion for the most serious offenses. Behavior that also violates the law may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

Expectations

The following is a summary of the school unit's expectations for student behavior. In many cases, the Committee has adopted policies that address these expectations in greater detail. Students, parents, and others should refer to the policies and student handbooks for more information about the expectations and consequences. In case of an inconsistency between the Code of Conduct, Committee policies, and/or school handbooks, the Committee's policies will prevail.

A. Violence and Threats

Students shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Prohibited behavior includes fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property, or threats, intimidation, or harassment. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

B. Weapons

Students shall not possess or use weapons of any kind (examples include but are not limited to firearms, explosives, and knives). Students also shall not use any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person (examples include but are not limited to bats, lighters, tools, and toy weapons). Firearms violations will result in expulsion in accordance with state and federal statutes; other weapons violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

C. Bullying

Bullying is not acceptable conduct in Biddeford schools and is prohibited. Any student who engages in conduct that constitutes bullying shall be subject to disciplinary consequences including suspension and expulsion. A student's bullying behavior may also be addressed through other behavioral interventions.

D. Hazing

Hazing is prohibited. Maine law defines injurious hazing as "any action or situation, including harassing behavior that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in public school." No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in such activities in connection with any school program or activity, including extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic activities. Students who engage in hazing activities are subject to suspension, expulsion, and/or other appropriate disciplinary measures.

E. Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment

Students should not discriminate against other students on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Nor should students harass one another on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Harassment is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

F. Drug and Alcohol Use

Students shall not distribute, possess, use or be under the influence of "bath salts" or of any alcoholic beverage, drug, or look-alike substance as described in Committee policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.

G. Tobacco Use

Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell or distribute any tobacco products. This prohibition also applies to e-cigarettes and products and

paraphilia associated with “vaping.” Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.

H. Conduct on School Buses

Students must comply with all school rules while on school buses. Students who violate these rules on a school bus may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked, and may also be subject to additional disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, depending upon the particular violation.

I. Computer/Internet Use

Students may use school computers, networks, and Internet services only for educational purposes. Students shall comply with all policies and rules governing acceptable use. Unacceptable use may result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

J. Athletic/Extracurricular Activities

Students must follow all Biddeford School Committee policies and school rules while participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. Students who violate policies and rules may be subject to suspension or removal from the team/activity as well as additional disciplinary action under applicable Committee policies and/or school rules.

Removal of Disruptive/Violent/Threatening Students

1. Students who are disruptive, violent, or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses, or other school property when necessary to maintain order and safety. The staff member who orders the student removed should arrange to have the student escorted to the office or other designated location.

2. If a student does not comply with a staff member's order to leave, the staff member will contact an administrator, or, if not available, another suitable person, who shall respond promptly.
3. Staff members should not use force or restraint, except only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm. Staff members are not required to take action that puts them at risk of serious injury.
4. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force or restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm or to quell a disturbance. Whenever practicable, law enforcement should be called to restrain or physically remove the non-compliant student. The administrator may invoke the school unit's emergency management plan if appropriate.

Special Services

1. **Referral.** The school unit has adopted policies and procedures for determining when a student shall be referred for special services.
2. **Review of Individual Educational Plan.** The school shall schedule a meeting to review the IEP of a student who has been removed from class when: a) school officials and/or the parent believes the student may present a substantial likelihood of injury to himself/herself or others; b) the class removals are sufficient to constitute a change in the student's special education program, or c) school officials or the parent believes that the student's behavior may warrant a change in educational programming.

Referrals to Law Enforcement Authorities

The Superintendent and principals have the authority to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities when there is a substantial threat to the safety of the schools, students, or staff. The Superintendent/principals may also inform law enforcement authorities when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a local, state, or federal statute. All serious offenses, as determined by the Superintendent, must be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Dissemination of the Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct and summary of consequences for violation of the Code of Conduct shall be distributed to staff, students, and parents through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 254(11); 1001 (15)

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 254 (11); 1001 (15)
Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior in Maine Schools and Communities (Report of the Commission for Ethical and Responsible Behavior, 2/01)

Cross Reference: AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA/ACAA-R - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAD - Hazing
ADAA - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
ADC - Tobacco Use and Possession
EBCC - Bomb Threats
IHBAA – Referral and Use of General Education Interventions
IHBAC - Child Find
IJNDB – Student Use of School - Issued Computers, Devices and Internet and Cyber Safety
JICIA - Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JICH - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
JICK - Bullying
JK - Student Discipline
JKD - Suspension of Students
JKE - Expulsion of Students
JKF - Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities

Adopted: March 14, 1995

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____

WEAPONS, VIOLENCE, AND SCHOOL SAFETY

The Biddeford School Committee believes that students and staff are entitled to learn and work in a school environment free of violence, threats, and disruptive behavior. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Biddeford School Committee policies, school rules, reasonable unwritten behavior expectations, and applicable state and federal laws.

School staff is required to immediately report incidents of prohibited conduct by students to the building administrator/designee for investigation and appropriate action.

I. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Students, staff, and all other persons are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct on school property, while in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school:

- A. Possession and/or use of articles commonly used as weapons or designed to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person. Examples of such articles include but are not limited to firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, any other kind of gun, ammunition, explosives, cross-bows, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, chains, clubs, Kung Fu stars, and nunchucks;
- B. Use of any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person. Examples of such articles include but are not limited to bats, belts, picks, pencils, compasses, objects capable of ignition (e.g., matches, lighters), files, tools of any sort, and replicas of weapons (including toys), **or those made or replicated by 3-D printing or other additive technology.**
- C. Violent or threatening behavior, including but not limited to fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property (e.g., verbal or written death threats, threats of bodily harm, bomb threats);
- D. Verbal or written statements (including those made on or through a computer or other electronic communications devices or technologies) which threaten, intimidate, or harass others, which tend to incite violence and/or disrupt the school program;
- E. Willful and malicious damage to school or personal property;
- F. Stealing or attempting to steal school or personal property;

- G. Lewd, indecent or obscene acts or expressions of any kind;
- H. Violations of the school unit's drug/alcohol and tobacco policies;
- I. Violations of state or federal laws; and
- J. Any other conduct that may be harmful to persons or property.

II. EXCEPTIONS TO PROHIBITIONS ON POSSESSION AND DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The prohibition on the possession and discharge of firearms on school property does not apply to law enforcement officials acting in the performance of their duties.

III. USE OF OTHER WEAPONS IN INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Nothing in this policy shall prevent the school system from offering instructional activities using objects other than firearms that are generally considered weapons (e.g., bows and arrows) or from allowing an object generally considered a weapon to be brought to school for supervised instructional activities (e.g., archery, boat building) approved by the Biddeford School Committee so long as the Biddeford School Committee has adopted appropriate safeguards to ensure student and staff safety.

Any proposal to introduce an instructional activity involving such objects must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent, who will make a recommendation to the Biddeford School Committee. Such a proposal must state the objectives of the activity and describe the safeguards that will be put in place to ensure student and staff safety.

No weapons or objects that are generally considered weapons may be used in instructional activities or brought to school for instructional activities unless the Superintendent/designee has given specific permission in advance.

IV. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Principals may suspend and/or recommend expulsion of students who violate this policy based upon the facts of each case and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Conduct which violates this policy is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for expulsion under other provisions of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9 and 9-A) that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing and trafficking of scheduled drugs.

A student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school or to have possessed a firearm at school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year, **except that this requirement may be modified by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.** ~~unless this requirement is modified by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.~~

All firearms violations shall be referred to law enforcement authorities as required by law. Other violations of this policy shall be referred to law enforcement authorities at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws/regulations and School Committee Policy JKF.

V. NOTIFICATION TEAM/CONFIDENTIALITY

Maine law authorizes law enforcement officers and criminal justice agencies to share with a Superintendent or principal information pertaining to a juvenile when the information is credible and indicates imminent danger to the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or at a school function. Maine law requires the District Attorney to notify the superintendent when a juvenile is charged with use or threatened use of force or is adjudicated as having committed one or more juvenile crimes that involve the use or threatened use of force.

Within ten days or immediately if necessary for school safety, the Superintendent shall convene a notification team. The notification team must include the administrator/designee of the school building where the student attends, at least one classroom teacher to whom the student is assigned, a guidance counselor, and the student's parent/guardian. The notification team shall determine on this basis of need which school employees are entitled to receive information concerning allegations or adjudications of use or threatened use of force. Information received by the Superintendent/designee and disclosed to the notification team and/or disclosed to school employees is confidential and may not become part of the student's educational record.

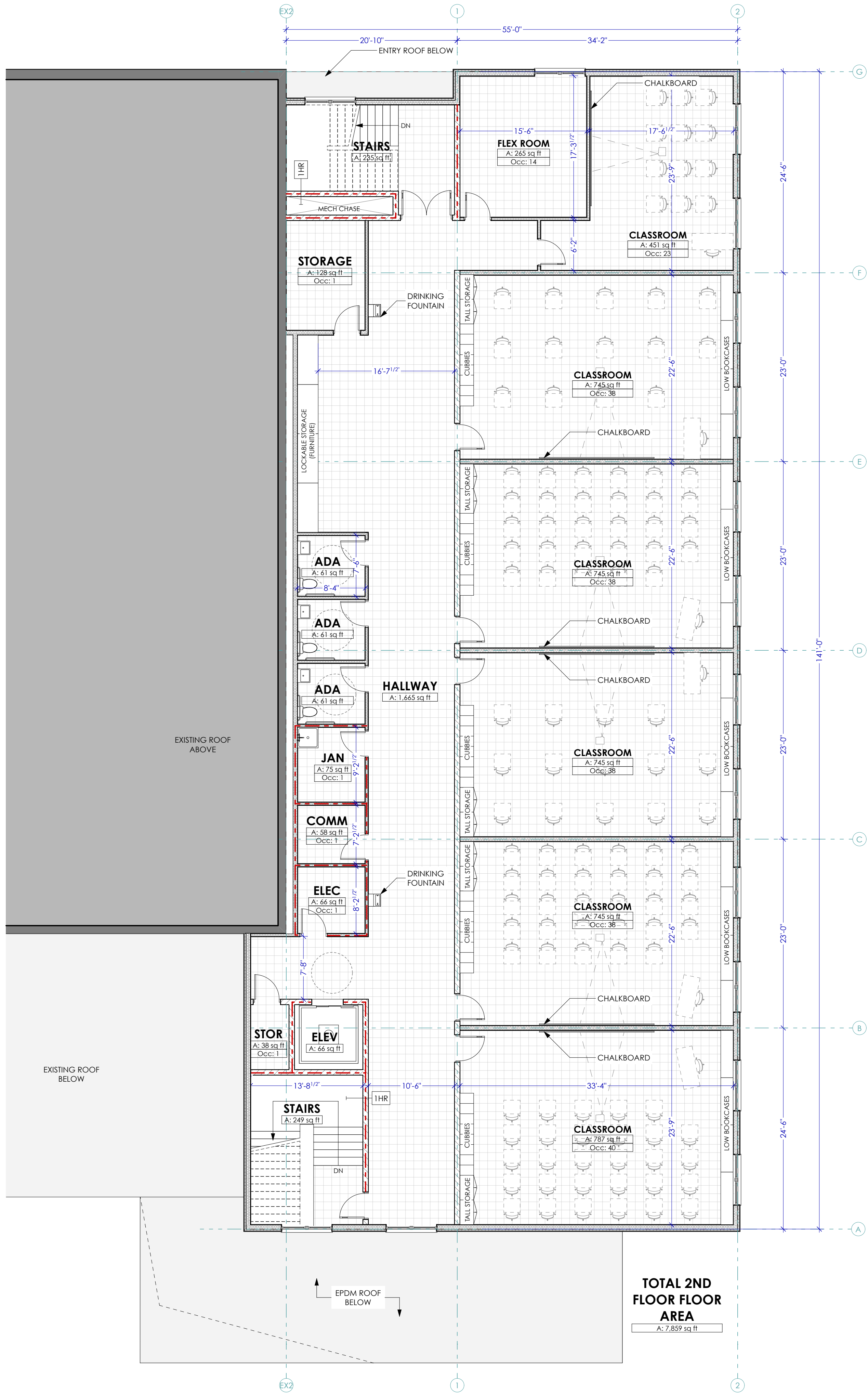
The Superintendent shall ensure that confidentiality training is provided to all school employees who have access to this information

Legal References: 20 USCA § 8921 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994)
5 MRSA § 4681 et seq.
15 M.R.S.A. §§ 3301-A; 3308(7)(E); 3009
17-A MRSA §§ 2(9); 2(12-A)
20 USCA § 7151 (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1990)
20 USC § 7961 (Gun-Free Schools Act)
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(9) (and 9-A); 1002(9-A); 1055(11); 6552

Cross References: ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
 ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
 EBCA – Crisis Response Plan
 JIC - Student Code of Conduct
 JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
 JK – Student Discipline
 JKD – Suspension of Students
 JKE – Expulsion of Students
 JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
 JIH – Questioning and Searches of Students
 KLG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

Adopted: April 14, 1993

Revised: April 27, 1999, _____



- GENERAL PLAN NOTES**
1. All work is to be completed in conformance with all local, state and federal building codes
 2. All dimensions for walls are to rough framing or face of concrete at UNO.
 3. All dimensions are to center lines of doors and windows UNO.

LEGEND

DOOR MARKER
SEE DOOR SCHEDULE

WINDOW MARKER
SEE WINDOW SCHEDULE

TYPICAL NOTE

WALL TAG

BIDDEFORD HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION
SUBMISSIONS:

BIDDEFORD SCHOOL DEPT.
18 Maplewood Ave Biddeford, ME 04005

MOBILE STUDIO DESIGN
128 Main Street, Unit 201
Biddeford, ME 04005
office: 207.494.8102

DATE OF ISSUE: 10/11/21

PROJECT STATUS:
SD

ARCHITECT:
Leah Schaffer
leah@mobilestudiodesign.com

CONSULTANTS:
SURVEYOR:
ENGINEER:

CONTRACTOR:

PROPOSED
PLANS- 2ND
FLOOR

A-102

mobile
studio
design

ISSUE NUMBER
CHANGE NUMBER
CHANGE THIS ISSUE

ID	DESCRIPTION

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION

ID	DESCRIPTION

PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

To: Biddeford School Committee
From: Jeremy Ray
Date: October 22, 2021
Re: Snow Days

Over the past year, we have learned that in-person instruction is critical to the success of our students. As the winter season approaches and we begin to think about school cancellations, snow days will be treated as they were in the past. Students, staff, and families will not be asked to participate in online learning during these days. The missed days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

[Maine Education Law Title 20-A §4776](#) requires that schools attend 175 days in person and school administrative units only can use remote learning for days above the required 175 days of school.

Section F allows the following if a large number of school days are canceled for weather:

A school administrative unit operating under a plan approved by the commissioner may provide for a one-hour extension of the school day for up to 25 days in a school year. Notwithstanding the required number of school days under this subsection, 5 one-hour extensions may be counted as one additional school day. A school administrative unit may, with the approval of the commissioner pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with this subsection, implement extended days pursuant to this paragraph only for the purpose of making up school days missed due to weather or emergency closures. A school administrative unit may develop other ways to make up school days missed due to weather or emergency closures not included in this paragraph as long as they are incorporated into a plan approved by the commissioner. [PL 2019, c. 105, §1 (AMD).]

To: Biddeford School Committee
From: Jeremy Ray
Date: October 22, 2021
Re: Application for Revolving Renovation Funds

The Maine Department of Education's School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) provides funding assistance to school administrative units (SAUs) to ensure that students have a safe, healthy and appropriate learning environment. The SRRF offers funding where SAUs have identified needs in the areas of health and safety, building systems, energy and water conservation, and learning space upgrades.

The SRRF has the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Health, safety and compliance issues including roof structural upgrades; improvements to indoor air quality; compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; hazardous material abatement or removal; and other health, safety and compliance issues
- Priority 2: Repairs and improvements not related to health, safety and compliance limited to repairs and improvements to school building structures, windows, doors and water supply or waste disposal systems.
- Priority 3: Repairs and improvements related to energy and water conservation
- Priority 4: Upgrades of learning spaces
- Priority 5: Other projects

The SRRF is funded through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. It is a State and local partnership with each providing a portion of a project's funding.

The fund provides loans to SAUs to finance project expenditures. A portion of each loan is considered a grant and is forgiven. The forgiveness rate ranges from 30 percent to 70 percent and is based on the percentage of State subsidy paid to the local SAU. The remaining balance of the loan is paid back over either five or 10 years at a 0 percent interest rate. The loan repayments revolve back into the SRRF and are then used to fund other approved projects. The maximum loan that can be provided is capped at \$1 million per priority, per school building within any five-year period.

Jeremy Ray, Superintendent
Christopher Indorf, Assistant Superintendent

Terry Gauvin, Business Manager
Jen Normand, Director of Special Education

The Biddeford School Department is working with Oak Point Associates to submit applications for the following projects:

Biddeford Regional Center of Technology

- ADA compliance upgrades to the shop area toilet rooms, door hardware, and corridor water coolers.
- Window replacement
- Ventilation upgrades
- Asbestos abatement
- Exterior door re-keying

Biddeford Intermediate School

- Window replacement
- Security compliance upgrades door hardware

Biddeford Primary School

- Window replacement
- ADA compliance upgrades to classroom toilet rooms
- Security compliance upgrades door hardware

The only commitment by the board at this time is only for the submittal of the applications in an attempt to secure funding. All approved projects are again reviewed by the school committee and must be voted on by the public as part of a separate question during the June school budget approval process.

To: Biddeford School Committee
From: Jeremy Ray
Date: October 22, 2021
Re: Nurse Sub Pay

I am recommending changing the school nurse sub-pay rate from \$140 dollars per day to \$175 dollars per day. The role of a school nurse is extremely critical and the school department is struggling to find qualified nursing substitutes. While healthcare workers are in short supply, we hope that the change in rate will assist the school department to attract additional school nurse substitutes.

Jeremy Ray, Superintendent
Christopher Indorf, Assistant Superintendent

Terry Gauvin, Business Manager
Jen Normand, Director of Special Education

MEMO

TO: Jeremy Ray, Superintendent

FROM: Chris Indorf, Assistant Superintendent
Martha Jacques, BHS Principal
Scott Descoteaux, BMS Principal

CC: Mandy Cyr, Director of Instruction
Jennifer Vitiello, 8th Grade AP

RE: **Contemplation of permanent relocation of 8th grade at BHS**

DATE: October 27, 2021

For the second year, Biddeford's 8th grade students have been housed at the High School, primarily on the third floor. This arrangement was in response to the pandemic and the requirements that the Department implement certain public health measures, including social distancing. Our Residential Internship program, in collaboration with our postsecondary partners, has been a success and has helped us space students and drastically reduce elementary class sizes.

As the Leadership Team prepares its FY23 budget for the public, the Department's largest proposed capital investment would be the addition of a dedicated 8th grade "wing" on the north side of Tiger Gym. Federal funds would be utilized for most (if not all) of the project cost. This project would have many downstream effects, ranging from parking to program. We write today to contemplate the manifest and potential latent effects of the permanent relocation of the 8th grade to the BHS.

There is plenty of nuance to interrogate, and each of us would be happy to address the School Committee in a more thorough fashion. In an effort to capture the most salient considerations, we've endeavored to outline 3 markers: pros, cons, and downstream effects.

Downstream Operational Impacts if 8th grade returned to BMS

- 485 student placements in grades 8, 5 and 3 would need to be realigned returning BPS to a grades 1-3 school, BIS to a 4-5 school, and BMS to a 6-8 school.
- 55 faculty and staff would need to relocate, or be reassigned.
- The REE Internship Program would need to be discontinued, and elementary class sizes would return to pre pandemic levels

- A return to pre pandemic school structure hampers efforts to address capital needs around the district, and reduces options available to the community for how to deal with the JFK school, which would require \$10-15 million in renovations to be made safe and adequate.
- Space for universal PreK.

Benefits of keeping 8th Grade at BHS

- The resulting proximity allows 8th grade students to engage in High School Programming, ranging from the fine arts to advanced mathematics to increased vocational courses.
- A transition gap exists in the STEM program between the 8th and the 9th grade, and further still between that program and the COT. Proximity facilitates collaboration and bridge-building.
- Building principals feel that the transition between 8th and 9th grade is critical socially, emotionally, and academically.
- Principals and program leaders have identified opportunities for growth with alternative and special education programming by maintaining an expanded 8-12 span.
- More spacing flexibility in every school in Biddeford. While it can be hard to conceptualize, many of the primary benefits are reinvested in the younger grades (see above).
- Assistant Principal Vitiello reports many benefits of the 8th grade having a “small school to themselves,” with a dedicated entrance. Serving 130 students is preferable to 500, she contends.

Challenges of maintaining Grade 8 at BHS

- The dividing of STEM students between two buildings is not currently assessed as optimal.
- Access to specialized classroom, equipment, and UA spaces is a question shared by staff, students, and building leaders, and a plan moving forwards should address these challenges.
- Unresolved questions about ancillary services including food, nursing, and social work services. More investigation of best practices and intentional allocation of time is required if the 8th grade continues in the space.