

BEDFORD VOTERS GUIDE

Brought to you by
THE BEDFORD CITIZEN
and the **BEDFORD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**



Prepare to cast your ballot at the Town Election

Saturday, March 14

8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

John Glenn Middle School



Prepare to participate in Town Meeting

Monday, March 23

7:00 p.m.

Bedford High School Auditorium

2020



THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED NEWS FOR BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Reader,

Thanks to the support of readers like you, the Lottie Scharfman Citizen Education Fund of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, the Friends of the Bedford Council on Aging, and the Bedford Cultural Council, *The Bedford Citizen* is able to provide you with this VOTERS GUIDE to the 2020 town election and Town Meeting now in your hands.

At *The Citizen*, we believe that active participation in electing your local representatives to Town Government and participation in Town Meeting are the foundation of our small-town democracy.

The incredible support of our readers to our fall NewsMatch matching gift challenge means we were able to print and mail this Guide to ensure you can read candidate statements at your leisure as you prepare for the March 14 election.

The League of Women Voters provided the candidate questions. The League and the Friends of the Bedford Council on Aging and provided financial support for printing the Guide. And we are grateful to the Bedford Cultural Council for the support that puts copies of the Guide at The Bedford Free Public Library, Council on Aging, at Town Hall, and other locations around town.

I hope you will find the information enclosed in this Guide informative and that it helps you both at the ballot box on March 14 and at Town Meeting on March 23. I look forward to seeing you there!

Teri Morrow, President and Publisher

This publication is funded by

- The Bedford Citizen • Bedford Cultural Council
- LWV Lottie E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund • Friends of the Council on Aging



**Friends of the Bedford
Council on Aging**

FBCOA members volunteer and support programs and activities for the Bedford Council on Aging. Residents of all ages are invited to become members and support our Bedford Seniors.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Prepare to cast your ballot on March 14!

Candidates Answer Questions

The League of Women Voters is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. The League encourages informed and active participation in government. In this spirit, the members of the League of Women Voters of Bedford in conjunction with The Bedford Citizen developed candidate questions to provide voters with information on backgrounds and positions of those who are volunteering to serve on Town boards.

Democracy is not a spectator sport.

Lottie E. Scharfman

SELECTMEN (SELECT BOARD) *Two positions, three-year terms*



Bopha Malone
bopha.malone@gmail.com

Q1 How do you see your newness to the Selectmen lining up against the experience of the other two candidates contributing to the work of this board?

My life experiences, career, and community service have helped prepare me for this role. As a community banker, I'll help to ensure that Bedford stays financially strong while bringing a fresh set of eyes to review various line items. As a community advocate and leader to non-profit boards, I've collaborated with civic leaders, residents, businesses, and elected officials to improve lives and transform communities. As a refugee, the values of hard work, persistence and resiliency have helped me to learn quickly and to be successful in my life and in my community work. I will be able to approach issues with a fresh perspective based on a lifetime of community activism and service and as a concerned mother and Bedford resident.

Q2 What is your position on the proposal for a new Fire Station?

I do not have sufficient information to take a position on this issue yet. As a new Select Board member, my

goal is to use our strength of collective decision-making and problem solving to take on this opportunity. I will listen to the voices of our service providers, our leaders, residents from different neighborhoods to hear their input and ideas so that we have a good solution that meets the need of our community and is best for everyone and will be sustainable, cost-effective, and accessible to all.

Q3 What do you identify as areas you would like to influence some changes in how the Selectmen meet their responsibilities or influence the direction that has been taken on particular issues?

In my career as a VP at Enterprise Bank and in my community work on the board of many non-profit organizations, I've helped transform communities and have helped thousands of people achieve their American Dream by getting them into their first homes and start or expand their businesses. I've brought a sinking non-profit organization back to life and taken many organizations to the next level of success. This would not have been possible without my ability and willingness to be open-minded and to listen, learn, work as a team member, and collaborate and communicate with colleagues and fellow board members. As your Select Board member, I intend to contribute to the Board and to our town by continuing to use the strengths that have helped me to be successful in working with everyone to achieve success for all.

SELECTMEN (SELECT BOARD) *Two positions, three-year terms*

Continued



Mark S. Siegenthaler

ms.siege@verizon.net

Q1 Previously you were a Selectmen but retired a couple years ago. Why have you decided to return?

In 2017, I decided not to run for re-election, but I continued to volunteer in town government. I served on the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and then a vacancy occurred on the Planning Board. I was appointed to fill the vacancy, and then was elected to finish the rest of the Planning Board term through this coming March.

Continuing to serve reinforced for me, that my skills, interests and long-term experience are still well-matched to the work of the Selectmen. I am running again to offer my skills in the best way I know how. I spent many years working with others to refine the services and programs our town provides so we can fully enjoy our community. I am excited by the challenges we face, the projects we are pursuing, and the environmental, housing and community initiatives that are still ahead of us.

Q2 What is your position on the proposal for a new Fire Station?

It is time for the town to support construction of a new fire station. The Bedford fire department has been evolving over many years. It was once a smaller department focused on fires, accidents and EMT calls. The department is now a multi-faceted emergency response team capable of responding to a broad range of specialized rescue, hazardous materials incidents and disaster events, as well as fires and major medical emergencies.

Our fire department personnel have worked diligently to expand their knowledge and expertise. The Town has provided the vehicles and equipment, but we have continued to house it all in a cramped and increasingly unsuitable facility. It is time to build a facility that provides appropriate space for our personnel, vehicles and the equipment they need to effectively and efficiently respond on behalf of our residents and businesses. A possible location will be detailed and discussed at Annual Town meeting.

Q3 What do you identify as areas you would like to influence some changes in how the Selectmen meet their responsibilities or influence the direction that has been taken on particular issues?

I have demonstrated the ability to sort through the competing components of an issue or challenge, and to help others arrive at reasonable solutions, approaches or outcomes. Sometimes, gathering input to accomplish this can be challenging. Residents should feel encouraged to bring or submit their views on issues to the Selectmen. Meeting agenda items for general input, and a correspondence review to publicly discuss any written comments received, could help with this.

In the short-term, there are two issues – environmental sustainability and senior housing – that need a continued sense of urgency on the part of town government. We need to do a better job identifying what the Town can do and when we can do it. We should try to move more quickly for example, in piloting approaches to source reduction in solid waste and recycling, reductions in energy usage and next steps for senior housing.



Edward M. Pierce
(Incumbent)

epiercebedford@gmail.com

Q1 Why have you decided to run for another term? What do you identify as the contributions you have made to the deliberations of the Selectmen during your current term?

I am seeking another term as I would like to continue to provide oversight in the transition of our Town Manager. I would like the opportunity to be chair and set the agenda. I would like to continue evaluating the needs and plans for the fire, police, cable studio, and historical museum. I would like to find solutions to our housing needs. I would like to analyze our traffic issues and improve the dialog we have on improvements to intersections. I want to balance the carbon footprint changes we may impose on the commercial buildings in relation to the significant subsidy the commercial sector provides to our residential taxes.

continued

SELECTMEN (SELECT BOARD) *Two positions, three-year terms*

Continued

As a business person with a financial background and twenty five years of Town volunteer service, I will continue to use my business and analytical skills to influence the decisions that are reached are in the best interest of the community.

Q2 What is your position on the proposal for a new Fire Station?

We recently voted to recommend to Town Meeting that we pursue a new location to build a fire station. The current site has served us well but is too small and too congested for a modern fire fighting station. One of the alternatives was to add a new substation in lieu of a new location for the main unit. There is a significant duplication in the cost of building, maintaining and staffing a substation compared to a single site. The likely site for a substation is along Middlesex Turnpike. The overwhelming number of calls for the firefighters is for medical incidents. Response time can be a matter of life or not. As a result, the driver for the location of the station is response time. The site should also accommodate the modern equipment and pieces of equipment necessary

to respond to the calls. The site recommended is 175 Great Rd.

Q3 What do you identify as areas you would like to influence some changes in how the Selectmen meet their responsibilities or influence the direction that has been taken on particular issues

The Select Board on an annual basis prioritize the major goals for the Town. The process we use to do that is the pairwise ranking and it usually takes some time to complete. The projects are grouped in six categories, Infrastructure, Financial, Organizational Capacity, Charter Bylaw and Regulations, Transportation and Community Improvements and are ranked in comparison with other projects in there category. I would like to see us expand on this process by clearly identifying what outcome we are looking to achieve, what information we think we need to take action and what we expect the timeline to be. Further I think it would be beneficial to communicate these goals with all boards, committee's and task forces.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS *One position, three-year term*



Rebecca G. Neale

(781) 499-2016

Rebecca@BedfordFamilyLawyer.com

Q1 What is the basis of your interest in serving the Bedford community in this capacity and what do you consider your primary qualifications?

I am interested in serving as an Assessor because it's a great way to use my legal experience to help Bedford in a vital way.

I have the experience and temperament to serve the town well as an Assessor. One of the Assessor's roles is to review homeowner appeals of their property assessment. It's work that must be done in a trustworthy manner, fairly using the appraisal techniques that all Massachusetts municipalities must use. As a lawyer, I

apply legal standards to case-specific facts all the time. I have also served in positions of public trust at the California and the Massachusetts Attorney General Offices, and in the highest state courts in New York and California, where I reviewed appeals of lower court decisions.

I would enjoy doing similar work on behalf of the town, and that's why I ask for your vote.

Q2 Mitre corporation, a not-for-profit, makes payment to the town in lieu of taxes. The agreement between Mitre and the Town is reaching its end. What factors would you consider in helping shape a new agreement?

My spouse works for MITRE, so I cannot be involved in shaping or approving Bedford's new agreement with MITRE.

continued

BOARD OF ASSESSORS *One position, three-year term*

Continued

Rebecca G. Neale

Q3 The Board of Assessors has encountered significant issues the last few years. What would you do to build trust and transparency to the community at-large?

I understand the need for transparency and trustworthiness in the Assessors. I intend to treat Bedford with the same attention and respect I give to my clients, who I serve with integrity and diligence.

I will build trust in the Board in three ways: First, by fully educating myself for this important role, with the state-mandated courses for Assessors. Second, for the past two years, the Assessors have timely certified the tax rolls. I will strive to continue that forward momentum, and have the tax rolls timely certified during each year of my term. Lastly, Bedford's assessments are currently done by a well-qualified interim consultant. Notwithstanding his excellent work, I will contribute to Bedford's efforts to hire a full-time Assessing Director in order to achieve more stability in the Department.

BOARD OF HEALTH *Two positions, three-year terms*



Susan B. Schwartz
sbschwartz34@gmail.com

Q1 Why do you want to serve the Bedford community in this capacity and what do you consider your primary qualifications?

I want to join the Board of Health to work on programs that improve the overall health and wellness of our community. Over the past 24 years, I have witnessed the positive impact the Board has had through its advocacy and health initiatives. My primary qualifications for the role include membership in Bedford's Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team, role as a domestic violence victim's advocate, and work on Oracle Corporation's Emergency Response Team. I am a proven manager, coach, mentor, strategist, and leader. My hands-on experience, alongside my ability to equip people to make informed decisions, makes me an asset to the Board. I am committed to ensuring our community is healthy, prepared, and safe. My ability to mitigate emergencies fits well with the mission and goals of the Board and will help all of us lead healthy lives.

Q2 What do you identify as the critical health issues that the Board of Health will be addressing in 2020 and how will you communicate with the community about these issues?

I believe a broad array of critical health issues will affect

Bedford residents this year including mental health, opioid use and abuse, suicide, tobacco, vaping, tick and mosquito-borne diseases, influenza and other virus strains, obesity, heart disease, cancer, and domestic violence. I am dedicated to ensuring our residents have the information required to make informed decisions in easy to access formats via effective distribution channels. When elected to the Board, I look forward to working alongside the other Board members, its Director, and staff to communicate with our diverse community through proactive educational programs and outreach. We must collaborate with town departments and partners via awareness and prevention campaigns, and leverage web and social media channels to ensure we reach all residents. As many issues cross town lines, I plan to continue to coordinate with neighboring communities and the state.

Q3 What current programs offered by the Board do you feel are most impactful? Are there programs you would like to see assessed for efficacy?

Board programs that have touched me, include its awareness and prevention campaigns regarding tick and mosquito-borne diseases, fall prevention, and educating food establishments on food safety and protection. Programs on mental health, tobacco, vaping, opioid and substance use, and suicide prevention spread awareness so neighbors can help neighbors and those in need have visibility and access to beneficial resources and services. General health screening and counseling programs, vaccination clinics and the out-

continued

BOARD OF HEALTH *Two positions, three-year terms*

Continued

reaches by the Community Nurse and the Community Social Worker, along with the Board's participation in the Healthy Bedford initiative, have all made a positive impact. As community demographics and needs evolve, we must stay on top of trends and work with our community to identify and respond to emerging public health concerns and assess the Board's programs for relevance and effectiveness, including feedback mechanisms with Bedford's residents and business partners.



Ann A. Kiessling
(Incumbent)
kiessling@bedfordresearch.org

Q1 Why do you want to continue to serve the Bedford community in this capacity and what do you consider your primary qualifications?

Staying involved with government has been a life-long activity because I believe citizen involvement is the foundation of democracy. I have a half century of experience in biomedical research with a focus on virology (HIV/AIDS transmission) and regenerative medicine (Stem Cells for Everybody), research that has the Bedford Research Foundation at the cutting edge of this science. Given Bedford's history of public health problems with diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks, and my successful involvement in minimizing the increase in mosquito populations by the Avalon Bay affordable housing project 20 years ago, I have the background and resolve to continue to find ways to minimize those risks to Bedford residents.

Q2 What do you identify as the critical health issues that the Board of Health will be addressing in 2020 and how will you communicate with the community about these issues?

As with all U.S. communities, Bedford's number one health issue is probably obesity, followed by increased risk of tick-borne diseases because of its numerous wetlands and woodlands. Bedford's Atlantic White Cedar Swamp also increases the risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus and West Nile Virus. Board of Health

Director, Heidi Porter, has played an active role in the past in organizing multi-community awareness programs about avoiding personal exposure to ticks and mosquitoes. In consultation with Dr. Sam Telford, the tick expert at Tufts School of Veterinary medicine, I more recently proposed placing a 4-foot gravel tick-barrier around all of Bedford's athletic fields that border woodlands, a plan that will be implemented by the DPW in conjunction with planned fencing of athletic fields in the spring. Promoting similar gravel tick-barriers around all Bedford homes and businesses that border woodlands is a goal for 2020.

Q3 What current programs offered by the Board do you feel are most impactful? Are there programs you would like to see assessed for efficacy?

The Bedford Board of Health has been impactful in the areas of awareness of vaping health risks and access to mental health support, particularly in sponsoring public suicide and drug abuse awareness and prevention programs. Commonwealth public health authorities are encouraging towns to coordinate and combine Boards of Health resources in an effort to normalize services state-wide and lower overall costs. Public awareness outreach programs have broader impact and better use of professional resources when multiple communities are involved. Health data compiled from broader populations would be more uniform and comprehensive than individual reports from the 351 Boards of Health of cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Especially useful would be more coordinated efforts for mosquito and tick surveillance, control and public awareness programs between townships.

VOTE
on Saturday,
March 14

John Glenn Middle School
99 McMahan Road

PLANNING BOARD

Two positions, three-year terms

Steven R. Hagan

steven.hagan@gmail.com

NO RESPONSE



Jacinda M. Barbehenn

(Incumbent)

Twitter: @BeJacinda

jacinda.barbehenn@icloud.com

Q1 Why did you decide to seek another term? What do you think you have contributed to the Planning Board that you want to continue?

I ran for my first term because I believe that it's a civic responsibility to contribute to the community one lives in. I am running again because I have amassed a critical amount of useful knowledge around growth that could, if considered lead, to win-win outcomes for all in town. In my first term I also found there was no process for on-boarding new board and committee members. It took me a good part of my first three-year term to begin to understand how to be effective in any meaningful way. I'd love to make that barrier of entry onto our Town boards and committees easier for those in the future who would like to serve and I would like to work on efforts in that regard.

Q2 If elected, what will you do as a member of the Planning Board to implement the Towns' Netzero plan? How do you see the Planning Board moving that forward?

I would encourage my fellow board members to listen to and work closely with community members that are already working tirelessly on this effort. This includes

not only our Town's Energy and Sustainability Committee but also local organizations that are out there learning best practices and bringing them back to Bedford for us all. Working together to promote stronger energy-saving building codes and policies we would advance these issues in a timely manner. I would also take advantage of the great work that our Transportation, Bicycle and Trails Committees are doing—working toward complete streets solutions and alternative path connections that make non-automobile travel not only safer but easy, convenient, and fun. In doing so they are not only working towards reducing our carbon footprint with every less auto trip traveled but also promoting better health outcomes for individuals as well as our community as a whole.

Q3 What would you suggest as creative solutions to Bedford's tilt toward homes priced beyond the reach of teachers, firemen, and other middle-income earners including those who work in town but can't afford to live here.

There are many creative solutions I'd love to share and work towards like co-housing and expanding our options for building forms that are more amenable to how people are actually preferring and needing to live today. Fundamentally though, in order to move the needle on housing, we need to hear from more voices in town so that we as a board understand and take into consideration the needs of the entire population. As a re-elected board member, I would like to consider it a mandate that I, the Planning Board and Town government work towards innovative ways to connect with and include the considerations of a greater proportion of our residents—many of whom are simply too busy in their daily lives to find time for evening meetings. There are lots of both process and technology-oriented innovative solutions out there in use today that we could try.

Ballot Questions

The ballot will also include several questions relating to changes to the Town Charter. Initially approved at the Special Town Meeting in November, the second step is to include the changes on the ballot so all voters are assured of the opportunity to support or reject the change.

Information on the questions is available at www.thebedfordcitizen.org

THE QR CODE AT RIGHT WILL BRING YOU TO THE BEDFORD CITIZEN'S WEBSITE, "BALLOT QUESTIONS"



LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Two positions, three-year terms



Robin Grace Silbert
(Incumbent)
robingracesilbert@yahoo.com

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community in this capacity and what do you consider your primary qualifications?

It's been an honor to serve as a Bedford Free Public Library trustee. Before I was elected in 2017, I participated in formulating the library's strategic planning survey alongside a diverse group of Bedford residents. Through that task, I came away with a deeper understanding of what goes into the making of a library that serves its community well. With that knowledge, I decided to run and was elected. The three years I've spent on the board have been an enriching learning experience. As a general library patron, I didn't have to consider all the moving parts required to make the building and operation run. My sole concern was locating the materials I needed and finding a place to work when necessary. With three years of experience behind me, I not only understand the workings of the library, I know what it takes to make the library work.

Q2 What would your "dream" Library look like?

I don't have a dream library in terms of architectural style, size or location. My dream library is always the feeling that any library, anywhere evokes in me. Do I feel welcome when I walk in the door? Is there a comfortable place for me to sit or a table for me to work at? Does the staff seem happy to help? Is there a place for children, teens and adults to congregate or is everyone in a jumble jockeying for the same space? Are people of all ages and ethnicities comfortable? Is it user friendly? Is it keeping pace with the new technologies? And if I were new to a community, is the library a place where I could find interesting programs and perhaps make a new friend? My dream library, grand or small, is one that shows it cares about me. And a coffee bar wouldn't hurt.

Q3 Bedford's demographics are changing. Our population is aging and we have an increasing number of residents whose primary language is not English. How can the Library reach out to and better serve these populations?

One of our primary tasks as trustees has been to examine what we're doing to serve an ever-changing population. One place where we've excelled is in our children's room where diversity is celebrated and embraced through materials and programming. We've expanded our World Language Collection to reflect the town's growth and change. Eight different languages are spoken among staff. Overdrive and other online apps give all our patrons – including foreign-language speakers and the housebound – the ability to borrow materials without leaving home. We collaborate with COA on monthly book discussions and our Library of Things includes items helpful to an aging population. We are upgrading the reference room lighting to energy-saving LEDs. We also work closely with the Nashoba Learning Group and have hired one of their Autistic student volunteers as a page. Going forward, we will continue to address the changing needs of Bedford's increasingly diverse population.



Rachel Field
(Incumbent)
randjfield@verizon.net

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community in this capacity and what do you consider your primary qualifications?

I have extensive experience as a Board member of non-profit organizations, and it has been a privilege and a delight to serve as a Bedford Library Trustee for the past 12 years.

I was an integral part of developing our last two 5-year Strategic Plans, helped write the guidelines for the use of Library endowment assets, played a key role in our successful application for a Federal grant, and initiated numerous outdoor improvements. This I continue to do.

If elected, I would provide continuity and an historical perspective useful to the Board. I'm deeply committed to the mission we share: to thoughtfully craft Library policies, and oversee their implementation; to safeguard our State and Municipal funding; to support our staff and administration; to facilitate free and open access to

continued

LIBRARY TRUSTEES *Two positions, three-year terms*

Continued

Rachel Field

information, and information literacy for all; and to stalwartly support the public right to intellectual freedom.

Q2 What would your “dream” Library look like?

My “dream” library would continue to provide state of the art information and media services (books, e-books, audiobooks, music, film/video, periodicals, etc.) as well as engaging programming for all members of our diverse community, young and old.

It would provide access to new, cutting edge technologies (I’d love us to get a 3-d printer and two large Apple computers), serving Bedford as a vibrant nexus of collaboration and innovation.

It would include two laptop bars, comfortable leather seating, as well as a pay-by-the-cup coffee/tea machine, on our underutilized “mezzanine” (third floor).

It would also offer additional lovely outdoor seating, improved bike racks, and beautiful decorative plantings. And it would showcase works of public art on our campus, such as library-themed mosaics, to decorate exterior walls that are now uninspiring bare cement.

Q3 Bedford’s demographics are changing. Our population is aging and we have an increasing number of residents whose primary language is not English. How can the Library reach out to and better serve these populations?

All of us on the Board consider how to best serve the evolving needs of our growing and changing community.

One way to reflect and celebrate the breadth of cultural, linguistic and age diversity here in town is to expand our bilingual and foreign language collections, and to increase the scope and frequency of programs we offer. Additionally, we can strengthen and enhance our outreach to and collaboration with entities such as Bedford Celebrates Diversity, the Multicultural Fair, Bedford public schools, Youth and Family Services, the educational and cultural facilities at Hanscom Air Force Base, as well as the Council on the Aging. Trustees can address these challenges directly by putting them on our agenda and soliciting input from the groups mentioned above. Additionally, we need to work with creativity and courage to thoughtfully overcome resistance to change and new ideas that can at times reside in any governing body.

Candidates for two three year terms

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

★ EDITOR’S NOTE: The number of seats to be filled on the School Committee reflects a unique situation. Given staggered terms to ensure a smooth transition, this year there would normally be two seats on the ballot.



Sarah A. Scoville
(Incumbent)
sscoville11@gmail.com

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community as a member of the School Committee and what issues are of particular interest to you?

I am a working artist and art educator. I have taught in different capacities for over 20 years. My favorite mo-

ments of teaching include witnessing sparks of excitement and curiosity in a child while making a project, seeing a child’s glee in getting messy with paper mache or calming a child’s mind with a weaving project. My passion for education combined with my love to work behind the scenes to make organizations better has led me to the Bedford School Committee. For the last three years on the School Committee I have enjoyed collaborating with the other members to focus on children and what they need to be the healthiest and best learners they can be. I have an understanding of children, how they learn, and the importance of approaching different learners differently. I also understand how teachers need

continued

SCHOOL COMMITTEE *Candidates for two three year terms*

Continued

to be supported. Please see #3 for the issues interest me.

Q2 What steps would you support to integrate the new school superintendent into the Bedford community, i.e., not just the school system but the community at large?

Bedford is a small unique community. Jon Sills has made a priority of celebrating its differences. He has been a key leader in the Bedford Embraces Diversity, has been on the board of METCO, spearheaded the Parent Diversity Council, and created the Tenacity Challenge. One of my main goals in hiring and transitioning in a new superintendent is to make sure that this celebration of diversity does not get lost in the day to day governance of a school district. I hope the new superintendent has the passion and interest in the Bedford community that Jon has had. The Bedford Community Partnership group would be a place to start to introduce the new superintendent to the different groups in town. I would also encourage attendance at events like Bedford Day, October Fest, MLK breakfast, and the Town Walk Abouts.

Q3 What are three specific issues regarding the public education in Bedford that are critical issues you want to influence as a member of the School Committee?

Three issues regarding the Bedford Public Schools that I think are critical are:

Social Emotional Wellness: I want to strengthen programs around Social and Emotional Wellness to foster healthy individual students and overall positive learning environments.

Experiential Learning: Massachusetts is getting better at creating assessments that test student's knowledge. The data that is collected from the tests is used wisely, for example to strengthen Bedford's literacy programs. However, I don't want Bedford to become a district that teaches to a test or loses their existing innovative, experiential, hands on learning opportunities. Experiential learning is a powerful way to engage students, differentiate materials for different learners, and stimulate innovation and collaboration opportunities to prepare students for an everchanging world.

Extra-curricular opportunities for all: I will continue to support and encourage:

1. a broad array of opportunities for student athletes with programs like JV hockey and Unified Basketball,
2. The visual arts with art exhibits collaborations,
3. The award-winning performing arts department.



Ann E. Guay
(Incumbent)

mguay70046@aol.com

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community as a member of the School Committee and what issues are of particular interest to you ?

At the outset, I want to emphasize how much I appreciate living in a town which strongly supports public education. I initially applied for an open seat on the Bedford School Committee seven years ago because I thought it was important to have a member who had a child with special needs. After a few meetings, I quickly earned how much work and planning goes into ensuring good schools for a community.

I am committed to doing all that I can to continue to support the Bedford schools. Issues of particular interest include assisting the new school superintendent with transitioning into the district, negotiating a fair teacher contract, providing teachers with proper classroom supports, continued development of strong in-district special education programming, supporting ESL and ELL students, creating stronger ties among Bedford, Boston and HAFB families, expanding mental health services and meeting the individual needs of all of our students.

Q2 What steps would you support to integrate the new school superintendent into the Bedford community, i.e., not just the school system but the community at large?

At the outset, I will resist the temptation to share all of my experiences living here in Bedford. While these stories may be somewhat relevant and sometimes interesting, I believe it is more important to give the new superintendent time to acclimate to the new position and

continued

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Continued

Ann E. Guay *for a three year term*

provide what guidance is asked for. I will, of course, offer to make the rounds, help with introductions around town and be sure to let the new superintendent know about events that may be of interest. Bedford is a very welcoming community.

Q3 What are three specific issues regarding the public education in Bedford that are critical issues you want to influence as a member of the School Committee?

Three important issues facing the Bedford Schools that I want to influence as a member of the Bedford School Committee are:

- (1) Effective training and supports for co-teaching models in the classrooms that work in an inclusive setting;
- (2) Strengthen reading comprehension skills for students K-12.
- (3) Provide additional supports for students struggling with stress and mental health issues.

cause I would like to see our strong system continue to thrive, and I believe I can make a contribution towards making that happen. I am especially passionate about developing our young citizens both academically and outside of the classroom, so I believe in well-rounded education across domains such as the arts, athletics, and a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities.

Q2 What steps would you support to integrate the new school superintendent into the Bedford community, i.e., not just the school system but the community at large?

In serving on the School Committee, I have experienced first-hand how fortunate we are to have had strong leadership for many years from our superintendent Jon Sills. Once our search for the new superintendent concludes, it will be important for our community to take steps to effectively welcome him or her on board. Formal steps might include introductions and on-boarding conversations with the School Committee and the administrators, teachers and staff in our several schools. Similarly, we the School Committee can help the new superintendent build connections throughout the community, including government groups such as the police and fire departments, town officers, and town committees. We should seek to connect with community groups to feature the rich diversity that we enjoy in Bedford. The superintendent might consider a town hall format to meet community members. Because we have students from Hanscom and Boston, we would include these groups as well.

Q3 What are three specific issues regarding the public education in Bedford that are critical issues you want to influence as a member of the School Committee?

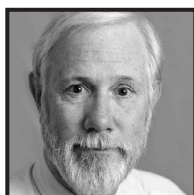
The social and emotional well-being of our youth is a critical issue for Bedford and for schools around the country. Childhood and teenager years are quite simply different for most students compared to when their parents were children. Our teachers and staff are acutely aware of this need, and we the community must support and partner with them to foster a healthy school climate and community environment.

Every student is different. We should aspire to offer each child the opportunities both within and outside of the classroom that will engage, educate, and groom

continued

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Candidate for two-year term



J. Bradley Morrison, PhD
(currently serving
short-term appointment)
morrison@mit.edu

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community as a member of the School Committee and what issues are of particular interest to you ?

Education has been part of my life in many ways over the years. I am a college professor with a tenured faculty position at Brandeis University and teaching appointments at the MIT Sloan School and Brown University. I am also a parent of a 14-year old, 8th grade boy in the Bedford public school system, now at JGMS. Through him, I have been able to see the excellence of our school system, along with an occasional imperfection. I am volunteering for this position be-

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Continued

them for success in whatever path they follow in life. For me, that means attention to equality and diversity, support for special education, and support for innovation in the school system.

It is also essential that we accomplish our goals in a financially responsible manner, so we must be fiscally prudent in setting our school budget.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Candidate for a one-year term



Daniel Hartley Brosgol
(Incumbent)
daniel.brosgol@gmail.com

Q1 Why are you interested in serving the Bedford community as a member of the School Committee and what issues are of particular interest to you ?

We are fortunate to live in Bedford and I am very proud to have served on the School Committee since 2015. I have enjoyed my service on School Committee, as well as on the Capital Expenditure Committee, the Fiscal Planning and Coordinating Committee, the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee, and others; I love giving back to Bedford.

As the student population has grown, and the diverse needs of the students have grown, the School Committee, along with district leadership, has been engaged in a continuous process of reflection, adaptation, and strategic thinking to stay ahead of the challenges that we face as a district. As we consider the next few years in Bedford, I am most interested in addressing issues related to the social-emotional wellness of our students, the growth of our student population, responsible budget management, and fostering excellence and equity for our diverse community of learners.

Q2 What steps would you support to integrate the new school superintendent into the Bedford

community, i.e., not just the school system but the community at large?

The hiring of a new superintendent is a critical task and that is why I volunteered to serve on the search committee for the position. I look forward to working with our new superintendent and showing them how and why Bedford is unique in three key areas.

Bedford educates students from three distinct communities—Bedford, Hanscom Air Force Base, and Boston. The new superintendent will need to meet with and get to know the needs of all three constituencies.

Bedford belongs to three special education collaboratives—EDCO, CASE, and LABB. The new superintendent must understand how we partner with these organizations to serve the needs of our students.

Bedford's town government and School Committee work collaboratively and amicably to serve the needs of both the schools and the Town. The trust and support of our elected and appointed officials is a tremendous asset.

Q3 What are three specific issues regarding the public education in Bedford that are critical issues you want to influence as a member of the School Committee?

Firstly, we must preserve the small-town, nurturing feel of our schools and ensure that the social-emotional wellness of our students is our most important priority. Students report stress and anxiety in greater numbers every year, and we must proactively address these issues in an aggressive fashion, as we did with the hiring of a K-12 Director of Counseling and additional counselors at Davis and BHS.

Secondly, we must continue to address the challenges presented by the growth of our student population. The growth of all student populations—regular and special education, English language learners, and others—has stressed our buildings, required the hiring of new staff, and placed greater pressure on the budget.

Lastly, we must continue to foster student achievement for all learners. Our analysis and use of data in refining our work with all subgroups should inform our practice as we improve outcomes for all students.

Prepare to participate in Town Meeting on March 23!

To the Voters of Bedford:

As a registered voter, you have the privilege and responsibility of exercising your right to vote in each and every election. And, because you live in Bedford, you also have the privilege and responsibility of being a “legislator” for the Town of Bedford. We hope that you will exercise these rights, both at the polls *AND* by attending Town Meeting March 23, 2020.

Our local government is organized as Selectmen/Town Meeting. The Selectmen (Select Board) are the Executive branch of government and oversee the operations of the Town—roads, police, fire, water, sewer, etc. In our town, this work is accomplished with the day-to-day management of our Town Manager and our amazing town employees. Of course, even our small-town government is a bit more complex than this simplified description suggests and, if you want to know more, we encourage you to read the Annual Town Report that will be available soon. It contains a full description of all departments, committees, boards, and commissions that do the work of government in Bedford.

Town Meeting is Bedford’s Legislature. It is where

voters make decisions about the laws of the Town – called bylaws – and determine the expenditures of the Town. No money can be expended for any town function, department, or project unless and until Town Meeting has approved it. You, a registered voter in Bedford, have the right to attend Town Meeting. You can determine the financial priorities and the laws of the Town if you choose to attend.

You will soon receive a Warrant for Bedford’s Annual Town Meeting in the mail. The Warrant contains a list of all the articles of business that will be considered during the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. You are invited to attend, ask questions, and state your opinion during the discussion period. You then vote to determine the outcome. Town Meeting cannot function unless voters show up—at least 100 have to be present before any business can be conducted.

We invite you to participate in this amazing form of direct democracy that has been handed down through the generations since Bedford was incorporated in 1729.

Bedford’s government depends on you, and so we hope to see you at Town Meeting,

Town Moderator Cathy Cordes and Town Manager Sarah Stanton

Short Takes— Bedford’s FY2021 Annual Meeting Warrant

Bylaws—Articles 9 to 21

Both Bedford’s Charter and Bylaws are reviewed every five years by the appointed Charter and Bylaws Committee. While Charter changes were voted during Special Town Meeting in November 2019, and had to appear on the ballot during the 2020 Town Election, bylaws are more easily changed.

In addition to universal changes to make them gender-neutral, Bylaw changes will update and clarify bylaws pertaining to Town Elections, Town Meeting, as well as several boards and committees.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)—Article 22

The ADU bylaw requires a 2/3 vote, which it narrowly missed at Special Town Meeting in the autumn. Several provisions have been added to address community concerns. In addition to setback and land area requirements, the bylaw now includes language stating that detached ADUs are intended to “give Bedford homeowners greater options and flexibility to configure their properties to meet their own needs, help the Town meet its housing needs without detracting from its historic development pattern; to increase the range of choice of housing accommodations, particularly smaller rental dwellings; and to encourage greater

continued

Short Takes *continued*

diversity of population with particular attention to young adults and senior citizens.”

Article 22 also prohibits dividing the original parcel or converting the buildings into condominiums. Short-term rental of ADUs will be authorized under a Special Permit from the Board of Appeals.

Capital Budget — Article 23

The FY21 Capital budget includes line items that will be funded through the general tax levy as well as those to be bonded.

Projects and items funded through the tax levy range from a replacement hose tester for the Fire Department, through school needs and building repairs; to large equipment replacement, and several information technology and equipment projects.

Bond authorization will be sought for water quality improvements, replacement of a large dump truck, transportation improvements, a sewer pump station program, public safety software, and a water main improvement project.

The three major articles to be bonded are discussed in Article 24, the Police Station Addition/Renovation; Article 25, HVAC replacement for the Bedford Free Public Library; and Article 26, Land acquisition for a new Fire Station.

Police Station Addition/Renovation—Article 24

Article 24 calls for spending \$6.4 million to expand, and renovate, the Police Station. Under the proposal, the building's Mudge Way entrance will remain the same, and wings on either side of the building will expand its footprint. The original facade along The Great Road will be redesigned to remove any possible confusion that it is a viable entrance.

The new addition is expected to complement the existing structure, and create a more functional and comfortable workspace for Bedford's First Responders.

The renovation will solve current training, office, and storage space challenges, while also future-proofing the building. A new non-fossil-fuel-dependent HVAC system will reduce the department's carbon footprint, and help move the Town toward its Energy Net Zero goal.

Of the proposed \$6.4 million total cost, \$4.1 million will be bonded, and \$2.3 million will come from other available existing funds.

Replace the HVAC at the Bedford Free Public Library—Article 25

Replacement of the Bedford Free Public Library's Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning system has been on Bedford's 6-Year Capital Plan for FY20 and FY21. The original plan called for replacing the boilers and the cooling tower on the roof at a cost of nearly \$1.5 million dollars using then-current conventional technology. The scheduled replacement would have been a one-for-one replacement with similar equipment.

With advances in technology and the Town's commit-

ment to NetZero by 2050, looking to the future made sense to Bedford's Facilities Department so they designed an integrated, multi-zoned system for the entire Library that implements current technology and decreases dependence on fossil fuels.

An energy-efficient variable refrigerant flow system (VRF) system with air source heat pumps with Energy Recovery Ventilators (ERV) will be powered by electricity. Since the Town buys 100% Green power, the new system will support Bedford's NetZero goals.

The current plan in Article 25 calls for \$2.5 million to fund the project.

Land Acquisition for a New Fire Station—Article 26

An architectural firm and a public safety consultant were hired in 2015 to evaluate the Department's space needs. They agreed that, “Based on the building evaluation and the programmatic needs of the department, the Fire Station needs to be expanded or replaced.”

Since 2015 the Selectmen with the input from the independent consultants and legal counsel have considered more than 19 parcels for a new Fire Station in Executive Session. Limiting factors included the location's capacity for housing the Department's current fire and rescue apparatus, its impact on service response time, its historical significance, or its impact on a residential neighborhood.

Renovation/rebuilding on the current site was ruled out in 2018 and again in 2020 due to the size of the parcel not being able to accommodate the required footprint of a building for current and future needs. Town-owned properties under consideration were ruled out due to permanent deed restrictions.

The proposed location for the new station will be at 171-175 The Great Road at a cost of \$7,600,000 for the land.

To gather further information or ask questions online, an FAQ and project information will be available on the Town's website and the Fire Department's page.

There will be two in-person opportunities to learn more:

- **Open Houses** at Fire Station at 10 am and 1 pm on Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, March 14
- **Public Forums** in the Reed Room at Town Hall at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 10 and Thursday, March 12

Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021—Article 31

Bedford's annual operating budget for Fiscal year 2021 is up 4.6% for a total of \$98,934,979. The residential tax impact of the operating budget is \$1,229 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

And, in closing, a message from Chair Mike Rosenberg who is retiring from the Selectmen this year,
“Your participation is central to the success of our Town Meeting form of government, and on behalf of the Selectmen, we look forward to seeing you there.”

BEDFORD VOTERS GUIDE 2020

Contents:

Candidates Answer Questions

- **Selectmen**
- **Board of Assessors**
- **Board of Health**
- **Planning Board**
- **Library Trustees**
- **School Committee**

Prepare for Town Meeting

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THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED NEWS FOR BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Bedford Citizen was founded eight years ago to bring local news to residents of the Town. A registered 501 (c)3 non-profit, our work is supported by generous donors, local sponsors, and grants.

We publish several new articles online, Monday through Friday, and at other times if important news comes along early in the morning, late at night, or during the weekend.

All our stories are posted in three places:

- our website, www.thebedfordcitizen.org,
- on Facebook, www.facebook.com/TheBedfordCitizen#, and
- on Twitter, [@Bedford_Citizen](https://twitter.com/Bedford_Citizen)

The most reliable way to get the news, however, is through a free email subscription.

A link on our home page will take you to a form where you can choose to receive a daily email each evening, or only our comprehensive weekly summary email published at 7:30 each Sunday morning.

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