

1216  
857  
41  
994

**Bedford, New Hampshire  
1994 School District Annual Report**



**Applaud Education ... Look To The Future  
Support Your Bedford Schools**



## SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS

for the Year Ending June 30, 1994

### DISTRICT OFFICERS

#### MODERATOR

Ryk Bullock..... 1995

#### CLERK

Martha P. Harris ..... 1995

#### TREASURER

H. Richard Spurway ..... 1995

### SCHOOL BOARD

James Dias, Chairman ..... 1996

Margaret Comiskey, Vice Chairperson ..... 1996

Maureen Kelley ..... 1995

Linda Camarota ..... 1997

Jeffery Hudson ..... 1997

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Dennis J. Pope ..... Superintendent of Schools

Ross Lurgio ..... Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Pauline Armstrong ..... Business Administrator

Kenneth Williams ..... Principal, Peter Woodbury School

Deborah Gibbens ..... Assistant Principal, Peter Woodbury School

Gail Paludi ..... Principal, Memorial School

Arnold MacDonald ..... Principal, McKelvie School

Charlene Carper ..... Assistant Principal, McKelvie School

Robert Forsten ..... Director of Special Services

## NEED TO WRITE OR CALL US?

Superintendent's Office  
School Administrative Unit #25  
103 County Road  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
472-3755

Peter Woodbury School  
180 County Road  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
622-0476

Memorial School  
55 Old Bedford Road  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
627-1776

McKelvie Middle School  
108 Liberty Hill Road  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
472-3122

*Thanks to:*

- Alphagraphics, Inc. for their production of this report, using a desktop publishing system, at a special Bedford School District reduced rate.
- Sue and Walt Staples of Visual Impressions, Inc. for their rendering and donation of the front cover design.
- Min-A-Print, Inc., for their production of the cover at a reduced rate.
- The many Bedford students who submitted artwork for this report.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Dedication .....	4
School Board Report .....	5
Superintendent's Report .....	6
Peter Woodbury School .....	8
Memorial School .....	10
McKelvie Middle School .....	12
We Applaud Our Support Staff .....	14
Bedford School District Meetings .....	16
School Warrants .....	26
1995-96 Proposed Budget .....	28
Budget Summary .....	30
1995-96 Preliminary Revenues and Credits .....	31
Budget Analysis .....	32
Expense and Revenue Analyses .....	33
Resident School Enrollments and Bond Maturity Schedule .....	34
Comparative Enrollments .....	35
Student Enrollment Projections .....	36
Special Education Report .....	37
The Real Cost of Education	
Bedford High School Students .....	38
Independent Auditor's Report .....	39

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Bedford School District are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, disability or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the Bedford School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 or ADA is directed to contact Pauline Armstrong, Business Administrator, SAU #25, 103 County Road, Bedford, NH 03110, telephone (603) 472-3755, who has been designated by the Bedford School District to coordinate the district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA.

THIS ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT  
IS DEDICATED TO MAYNARD CONTOIS  
FOR HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AND  
THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN



## REPORT OF THE BEDFORD SCHOOL BOARD

James Dias, Chairman

From July 1, 1993 through June 30, 1994, the Bedford School District continued to provide an excellent education for our students. The School Improvement Program (SIP) teams worked throughout the district with staff, parents, and citizens sharing thoughts, ideas, and concepts on methods to improve the way children learn and grow, both in and out of the classroom.

The school board proposed, and the voters approved, a budget during the March, 1994 Annual School District Meeting which provided for a new Assistant Principal at Peter Woodbury School, a new eighth grade teacher, and several new paraprofessionals. In addition, it provided all funds requested by the three school administrators for books, supplies, training aids, and resource material for the children to excel.

The 1993/94 school year produced many rewarding moments for the school district. McKelvie School Science teacher Sandra Kent received the 1993 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching in the area of Secondary Science from the National Science Foundation. McKelvie School Technology Education teacher Dorothy Yager



*"Programming...The End Result"  
by Jeffrey Brown, grade 7*

was honored by the NH Technology Education Association as the 1994 NH Technology Education Teacher of the Year. The Technology Program has been a model for other school districts throughout the state, and more importantly, our children have adapted to this new methodology successfully.

Peter Woodbury and Memorial Schools each received a Blue Ribbon School Achievement Award in recognition for their outstanding volunteer program. In addition, programs such as Project RISE (Regional Institute for Science Education), SEED (Skills Enriched through Educational Diversity), and Project Read continued to be an integral part of our educational program and our core curriculum.

Toward the end of the 1993/94 school year, topics such as the moment of silence and the Health Curriculum dominated school board meetings. The dialogue continues and the results will be reported by the school board to the citizens of Bedford in the next Annual Report.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Bedford School Board during these challenging times. The community should be assured that the educational goals set forth by the board have been achieved.

Finally, the members of the school board applaud the parents, professionals, support staff, the community, and the many volunteers who gave their time, expertise and caring attitude to Bedford's finest, "our children," our future.



*Bedford School Board. Left to right: Seated, Margaret Comiskey, Maureen Kelley, Linda Camarota. Standing: Jeffrey Hudson, James Dias.*

### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dennis J. Pope

The 1993/94 school year saw many changes in the Bedford School District. Memorial School Principal Maynard Contois retired on June 30, 1994, after 36 years of dedicated service to the children of Bedford. A testimonial was held on May 13, 1994, at the Sheraton Wayfarer in Bedford at which time over 300 friends and colleagues honored and recognized him for his many contributions to public education. June, 1994, also brought the retirement of two other long-time employees: Gerry Vallee, Director of Food Services and Transportation Coordinator; and Al Latulippe, Memorial School custodian. On behalf of the School Board, the staff, and the children of Bedford, I extend a sincere thank you and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

"Together everyone achieves more" (TEAM) is a belief and truism in Bedford. A dedicated staff, involved parents, and a supportive community worked together in 1993/94 to cause good things to happen for children in the Bedford schools.

Community relations and communication continued to be a priority. Special meetings were held to inform members of the community and answer questions on various topics. School visitations provided first-hand information regarding programs and student achievement. Two successful school district meetings - one in Fall, 1993 and one in March, 1994 - resulted from communication, community awareness of the needs and success of our

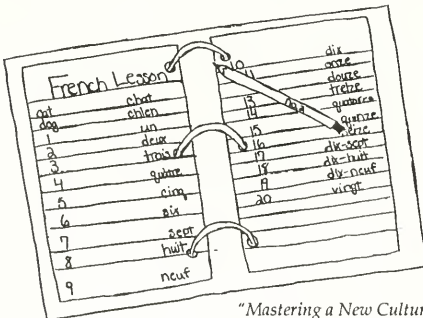
students, and the board's response to community input.

The voters at the Annual School District Meeting in March, 1994 supported the proposed budget which required a change in the school day at the primary grades (K-4). With a staggered opening schedule, the board agreed to provide a "Before School Program" for the children of working parents. This program was planned and successfully implemented.



Superintendent Pope discusses a Geography Project with McKelvie students.

Assistant Superintendent Ross Lurgio and I participated in the town's Economic Development Commission - Business Visitation Program. This activity provided us an opportunity to meet and dialogue with members of the business community, to provide a service to the town, and to learn how the school district is perceived and judged. The business community accorded the Bedford schools the highest rating among fourteen items in responding to the following question: "If you were deciding where to locate your business and you were considering this community as a possible site, how would you rate the community with respect to the following factors?" The survey response, which rated the schools number one, is a significant indicator of the district's proof of goodness.



"Mastering a New Culture" by Cara Conti, grade 6



During the school year, the members of the Quality Performance Standards (QPS) Committee worked on their report. They read a great deal. They met with staff. They held community forums. They dialogued at length about what our students should know and be able to do as a result of attending the Bedford public schools. They were guided by the district's culture which demands quality, a positive attitude, and the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

The QPS Committee established high standards and expectations with a future orientation. We, as educators, must learn from the past, while living in the present, with an eye to the future. Today's students, as we adults have come to realize, will live in a different, high-tech, more complex, ever-changing world which demands increased knowledge and skills.

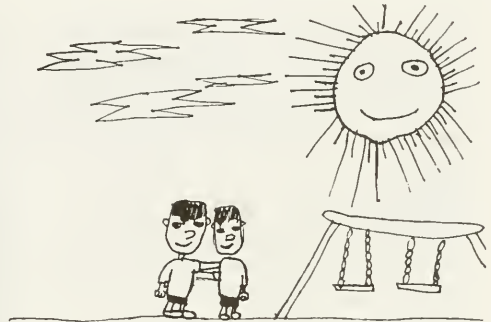
**"Together everyone achieves more"  
(TEAM) is a belief and truism in  
Bedford.**

New Hampshire's State Department of Education reinforced higher standards, and increased knowledge and skills through the NH Assessment Program. Our third graders were administered the new assessment test in April, 1994. The results showed that our students have accomplished a great deal and yet could do better. After further analysis of the assessment data, the staff will determine what must and can be done to cause our students to achieve more in order to meet the higher standards.

Implementation of the district's Technology Plan is ongoing. Student achievement can be increased in an effective and efficient manner through the use of technology. The district's productivity increases when staff and students are properly trained to use technology.

As the Superintendent of Schools, I continue to promote the concept of a community of learners. High standards and quality schools cannot be realized without a positive work ethic and attitude which value learning. Everyone in the Bedford School District is ex-

pected to learn, to grow, and to be the very best at what they do. Teachers, administrators, custodians, secretaries, etc. - everyone - and especially students must strive for excellence.



*"Together We Grow"  
by Matthew Nutt, grade 3*

Schools reflect their communities. Bedford is an outstanding community with top-notch schools. The staff and I welcome visits to the schools and invite you to see them in operation. If you have any questions or comments, please share them with us; and remember, "together everyone achieves more" (TEAM). Let us continue to work together to define and bring life to our vision, beliefs, and expectations while making sure that the educational process and children benefit from our decisions.

This report would be incomplete without a personal thank you to David Barnes and Kathy Cassano for their years of dedicated service on the School Board. In addition, I would like to thank the current School Board members for their support, school employees for their hard work and dedication, volunteers for their diligence and caring, and the citizens of Bedford for their continued support and cooperation. It is a pleasure to work in such a fine educational system and community.

During the 1993/94 school year, the community of Bedford continued to demonstrate its commitment to children. The present and future challenges bring life to President Kennedy's words, "There's an old saying that the course of civilization is a race between catastrophe and education. In a democracy such as ours, we must make sure that education wins the race."

## PETER WOODBURY SCHOOL

Kenneth Williams, Principal

The 1993/94 school year was one that was highlighted with technology assisted instruction, student and teacher collaboratives, school-community involvement, and continued efforts dedicated to school improvement and growth.

Highlights of the school year include . . .

- **Technology:** Teachers and students continued to use technology as a tool for instruction and learning. Using networked computers, students were involved in projects that enhanced reading, language, mathematics, and science efforts. Our students used technology as they created and illustrated their own books and classroom newsletters.
- **Volunteer Program:** The Peter Woodbury School's volunteer program was again cited by the New Hampshire Partners In Education agency for its outstanding support from parents and community members. Hours of volunteer time enabled our school to be named the recipient of its fourth "Blue Ribbon School



*First graders share a story with Principal Williams.*

Achievement Award." This award recognizes exemplary school/community efforts.

- **Peter Woodbury/Higher Education Partnerships:** Our school served as a learning site for University of New Hampshire interns as well as for student teachers from both Notre Dame and Plymouth State Colleges. These partnerships with Peter Woodbury educators enhanced the learning atmosphere of our classrooms and school.
- **School Improvement Program:** School staff and community members continued to collaborate on efforts that addressed school planning, improvement, and growth. The Peter Woodbury School's study teams focused on assessment, time management, curriculum/instruction, and communication. These teams are guided by a school building



*By Erin Cain, grade 1*

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

- During the Spring of 1994, PWS teachers and students, supported by many parent volunteers, created and displayed an exhibit representing animal habitats from varied global regions. The exhibit was viewed by over 200 community members.
- \* Technology is being utilized worldwide by a group of PWS 2nd graders through the use of National Geographic's "Kids' Network" Program.

team that bridges efforts with Bedford School District research and development teams.

- **School/Community Collaboratives:** Teachers, students, and parents created an exhibit that represented animal habitats from varied global regions. The exhibit provided an avenue for all community members to share in the learning experience of our readiness and first grade students and staff.

We continue to participate in a school/business partnership with the Bedford Mall where student events are planned and student exhibits are displayed.

- **School Visitations:** Visitations by other school districts, community organizations, and town and state officials took place at our school during the 1993/94 school year. Educators and community members viewed our school's efforts in

Project Read, technology, and special education. Visitors included: Governor Stephen Merrill; State Board of Education Chairman Ovide Lamontagne; Bedford Town Council members; the Bedford Rotary Club; and representatives from the school districts of Merrimack, Shaker Regional, Concord, Merrimack Valley, Londonderry, and Manchester, New Hampshire, as well as Pepperell and Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Peter Woodbury School's staff, the Bedford School Board, administrators, central office staff, the Bedford Parent-Teacher Group, parents, students, and community members for their efforts, assistance, and support.



*Art work at PWS is displayed for Assistant Principal Gibbens.*

## MEMORIAL SCHOOL

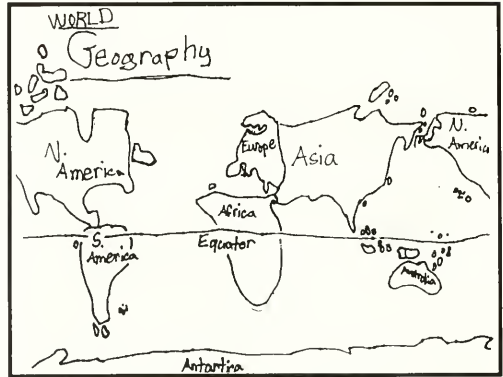
Maynard Contois, Former Principal

Technology, literature, inclusion education, and the School Improvement Program were only a few of the exciting, innovative programs that occurred at Memorial School during the 1993/94 school year.

Our enrollment on September 19, 1993, showed 250 third grade students and 211 fourth graders, with a total of 461 children. We ended the school year on June 24, 1994, with 258 third graders and 210 fourth graders for a total of 468 children, a net gain of 7 children.

In September and October, 1993, acting Principal Dr. Angelo Panteli administered the building and set the tone for a year of work, learning, and involvement for the students and staff. New staff members that joined the Memorial faculty were third grade teacher Kristin Possee, school nurse Ellen Barber, para-professional Julie Edmunds, and math tutors Linda Denhup and Valerie Tirman.

The summer prior to the opening of school found the teaching staff heavily involved in computer training. Throughout the school year, our students were introduced to appropriate software that integrated curriculum with hands-on experiences. At the Annual School



*"Exploring the Seven Continents"*  
by David Moore, grade 3

District Meeting in March, the Bedford voters positively supported the computer budget and our commitment to preparing our school and students for the 21st Century.

One-third of our 3rd and 4th grade teachers introduced their students to the HBJ Treasury of Literature Program which had been successfully piloted during the previous school year. This reading program has a heavy emphasis on literature and basic skills.

The 1993/94 school year commenced Memorial School's second year of involvement with the School Improvement Program. Many hours were spent by staff and parents working on the following research and development teams: inclusion, responsible behavior, instructional practice, and parent/school partnership. These research and development teams were formed as a result of our school profile which showed these four areas as needing to be addressed.



*4th graders demonstrate their abilities in the use of "Orff" instruments for Principal Paludi during a music class.*

For the second year in a row, the contribution of our parents of countless hours of volunteer time resulted in Memorial School being named the recipient of its second "Blue Ribbon School Achievement Award" from the NH Partners in Education Agency.

Other programs that involved the participation of key staff members were:

- **Project AIMS:** Student activities integrating math and science.
- **Project RISE:** Courses and workshops that prepare teachers, and ultimately students, for the changes in teaching and learning of science that have occurred and will continue to occur frequently in the future.
- **Inclusion:** The staff continued to work on our objective of total inclusion for our special needs students and mainstreaming our special education students into regular education classrooms.

In the Spring of 1994, the Superintendent formed a committee of parents and staff to work with him in the search for my replacement. After an exhaustive search, the Superintendent and the committee agreed that Mrs. Gail Paludi was an outstanding candidate; therefore, the Superintendent nominated and the School Board elected her to become the next Principal of the Memorial School. I wish her much success.

Albert Latulippe, school custodian, retired in June, 1994 after working fourteen years at Memorial School. For the students and staff



*Diane Lonergan, state-level awardee for the '94 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math Teaching, shares her expertise with her third grade class.*

who have come to know, love and respect Albert as a friend, his presence will be greatly missed. We all wish him good health and much happiness in his retirement.

In conclusion, after working thirty-six years for the Bedford School District, and the last five years as Principal of the Memorial School, I would like to personally thank the community, staff, parents, and the children for their continued cooperation, support and assistance so generously extended to me.

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

- 3rd grade teacher Diane Lonergan is a 1994 state-level awardee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching at the elementary level.
- Students from Memorial School's SEED Space Voyagers class earned Honorable Mentions for their creation of spacesuit models in the "Suit Up for Space" contest sponsored by the Discovery Channel.

## MCKELVIE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Arnold MacDonald, Principal

During the 1993/94 school year, McKelvie School completed its second year of participation in the School Improvement Program. The McKelvie staff was actively involved in a variety of school Research and Development Teams addressing specific issues within the building. The Scheduling Priorities Committee focused on investigating ways to include more physical education in the middle school schedule without lessening the time currently allocated to other subject areas. The External Communications Committee's objective was to determine ways to improve communication with the Bedford community. The Language Arts Committee reviewed the entire program within the McKelvie School with the intent of enhancing and improving the curriculum. The Internal Culture and Communications Committee focused on the belief that only in a healthy school culture can effective change and improvement take place. The committee planned and implemented a variety of workshops directed at improving the staff's planning, decision-making, communication, and conflict resolution skills.

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

- The 8th grade staff hosted a New England School Development Council Seminar on various aspects of the academics of their Mt. Cardigan Environmental Unit.
- Assistant Principal Carper was elected President of the New England League of Middle Schools comprised of over 1,100 middle schools and 40,000 middle school teachers.



*Grade 6 students explain a Social Studies Research Project to Principal MacDonald.*

At the close of the school year, I solicited information from parents about areas that could be improved upon in our Language Arts Program. Several parents took time to write comments while others met with school staff. I would like to thank all the parents for their participation. The information received was reviewed and specifics shared with teachers and the Language Arts Committee. As a result, various components of the Language Arts Curriculum have been emphasized or restructured. As a major focus, we continue to have reading and writing in all subject areas, otherwise known as Reading and Writing in the Content Area. To strengthen professional skills in this area, all staff have been provided direction and guidelines through workshops presented by our Reading Specialists Kathleen Slater and Noreen McAloon. Members of the committee, under the direction of Language Arts Coordinator Barbara Gondek, will continue their work during the 1994/95 school year.

The "Stand By Me Program," in its fifth successful year, provided an enjoyable and worthwhile learning experience for McKelvie 7th grade students and their parents. This program, which is directed at enhancing communication and understanding among the school, parents and children, was made possible through the financial contribution of the Elliot Hospital. The activities were developed and coordinated through the volunteer efforts

of many parents. The work of co-chairpersons Connie Roy Czynowski and Lisa Lynch was a major factor in this program's success.

Recognition for accomplishments, dedication and initiative was extended to several members of our staff and to school programs. McKelvie's Technology Education Program received several accolades during the school year and was recognized by the NH Technology Education Association as the 1994 Outstanding Program at the Middle School Level. Technology Education teacher, Dottie Yager, received state-wide recognition as the 1994 Technology Teacher of the Year. In addition, several pupils from the McKelvie Technology Student Association received a variety of awards in state-wide competition.

McKelvie staff members Ray Landry, Sandra Kent, Tony Buteau, Karen Maitland, Charlene Carper, and Arnold MacDonald, participated in Project RISE (Regional Institute for Science Improvement). This project was made possible through a National Science Foundation Grant directed at improving the teaching/learning of science. The grant is for a three-year period, with training taking place during the summer and implementation during each school year.

Sandra Kent, 7th grade Science teacher, became a national recipient of the 1993 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching in the category of Secondary Science. She was one of 214 elementary

and secondary teachers in the United States to receive this honor. The award included a Presidential Citation and a \$7,500 National Science Foundation Grant to enhance the Mathematics and Science Program at McKelvie School. Ms. Kent is the second teacher in this district within the last three years to be nationally recognized with this honor.



*"Nature's Untamed"*  
by Jeffrey Brown, grade 7

Charlene Carper, Assistant Principal at McKelvie School, was elected and is presently serving as President of the New England League of Middle Schools. The league is composed of over 1,100 middle schools representing 40,000 middle school teachers throughout the New England area.

Mark Vallone, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator and 7th grade teacher, was voted President-elect of the NH Council for Social Studies. He chaired the state conference for the association and was a state delegate to the National Social Studies Council Annual Meeting.

Georgia Brussard, 7th grade Language Arts teacher, was the recipient of a regional Education Association grant. This money will be used to enhance the judicial unit which focuses on a courtroom trial entitled, "The Trial of Hop Frog".

As the 1993/94 school year ended, the McKelvie School staff reaffirmed their commitment to quality education for all our students. We look forward to working with parents and the community to fulfill our commitment.



*Assistant Principal Carper views a Science Research Project by 8th grade students.*

## WE APPLAUD OUR SUPPORT STAFF . . .

The following is an article written by Dr. Gary Burton, former Meredith Superintendent of Schools, which appeared in the 11/7/93 issue of the Union Leader NH Sunday News.

Dr. Burton's thoughts depict the feelings of the Bedford School District and, therefore, it is appropriate to share with you, the reader, the following:

### SUPPORT STAFF IS SILENT PARTNER

I would like to recognize a group of people who, in many ways, are the unsung heroes of our school districts. At the start of each school year, there is always talk about the traditional partnership between students, teachers and parents. This triad is well known and essential to a child's educational welfare. In my opinion, however, there is a silent, and often overlooked fourth partner who is equally important to the successful schooling of our children.

This partner is the support staff of any school: cafeteria workers, bus drivers, classroom aides, playground aides, school secretaries, and custodians. Too often, these school employees are taken for granted, yet day after day, they make our schools run smoothly. I, for one, appreciate their good efforts and hard work and I think they deserve our praise and public recognition.

Support staff personnel spend a lot of time in our schools. They are there in the early morning when the buildings open and many of them are still there late in the afternoon when most everyone else has gone home. Most have a keen sense of ownership in the physical buildings and, more importantly, a genuine concern for the people who use them. Pride in their work is a key ingredient in any well-run school building.

Everybody knows that first impressions are important. What you may not realize is that the majority of people who have contact

with a local school do so by telephone. Thus, it's the secretary's voice that forms that all-important first impression in a caller's mind. A secretary with a friendly, helpful voice is a full-time public relations agency and a million-dollar advertisement rolled into one.

In fair weather and foul, playground aides brace the elements daily, supervising hundreds of children at recess. That's their job. What goes unnoticed is that it is often these same aides that take the time to look for a student's lost jacket, or track down an older sister with a message to bring home her brother's homework. These little activities may not sound very important but from a busy parent's perspective, these "personal" things must be done routinely for any school to be judged efficient.

It is the responsibility of the cooks and cafeteria workers to prepare school lunches and watch over hundreds of students each day. Believe me, that's not as easy as it sounds. You try getting a (big) roomful of second and third graders to eat their lunches quietly! Not only do these employees prepare meals and supervise lunchrooms, they also encourage



*Business Administrator Armstrong (center-right) visiting with PWS food service workers (left to right) Tish Conroy, Janet Schneiderheinze, and Manager Gloria Sherwin.*



*We miss you Albert*



*"A special friend"....Albert Latulippe,  
Memorial School retired head custodian  
by Marc Dionne, grade 4*

children to eat their peas, at least try the carrots, and watch their manners. For some children, this is exactly where they learn proper table behavior and the lifelong value of eating a balanced meal.

Bus drivers are the first school employees to whom many parents entrust their children at the start of each school day. They are also the last school person to see many children home at day's end. The drivers know who comes to school happy and they know who goes home happy. Most drivers greet students each morning with a smile and send them home with a word of encouragement. Is that important? You bet it is! Both the smile and word of encouragement end up in the classroom and in your house!

Education is a messy business and someone has to clean our buildings — day after day after day. Custodians are paid to do this. Still, as many principal or veteran teacher knows, a good custodian is worth his or her weight in gold. Neat and tidy classrooms and clean buildings promote better student learning, and help establish a positive building atmosphere of respect for people and property. All of this takes hard work and that's what custodians do. Besides, ask any teacher, "Who do you call in an emergency?" It's usually, "the custodian."

Support staff personnel make sure that our school buildings are clean, look good, and open and close on time. In doing this, they also see what's going on in our schools. Custodians, and secretaries in particular, know exactly what's happening inside our schools. If you don't believe me, just ask one!

National opinion polls on the public schools have repeatedly found that the most credible spokesperson in most schools is the custodian. I might like it to be the superintendent or the principal, but it isn't. People expect administrators to say certain things. Support staff personnel, on the other hand, are a little less diplomatic; they tell it like it is.

When a school secretary, an aide, or custodian is overheard telling someone who is a good teacher, or who works hard, or who really cares about the children, that's information you can take to the bank. Many a school's reputation has been made or lost on what the supportive staff employees say in town!

Experience has taught me that support staff employees earn their money the old-fashioned way; they work for it. In recognition, I would ask that we not forget or underestimate how truly important these people are to the process of educating our children. Without the support staff, the schools themselves would not work nearly as well as they do.

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

- Memorial School received its second, and PWS its fourth "Blue Ribbon School Achievement Award" for their Volunteer Program from the NH Partners in Education.

## BEDFORD SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

September 14, 1993  
McKelvie School

A Special School District Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 14, 1993 at the McKelvie School with approximately 100 in attendance. Present were Superintendent Dennis Pope, Assistant Superintendent Ross Lurgio, Business Administrator Pauline Armstrong, and School Board Members David Barnes, Kathleen Cassano, Margaret Comiskey, and Maureen Kelley.

School District Moderator Ryk Bullock opened the meeting at 7 PM and explained the rules of procedure for the meeting.

**ARTICLE I.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$189,400.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School Board and the Bedford Education Association for the 1993-94 school year which resulted from negotiations with the teachers and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1992-1993 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items.

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

- Bedford's Project Read Program received an "Award for Excellence for Multisensory Structured Language Programming" from the New England Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society.

Assistant Superintendent Lurgio was also recognized for his outstanding leadership in the development and implementation of this program.

Chairman Barnes moved Article I; motion seconded. Mr. Barnes summarized two changes since the March School District Meeting. Single employees will now pay 10% of their health benefits, and individuals at the top of the salary schedule will receive longevity pay of \$1,000 as opposed to \$1,200. As a result of the above-



*Assistant Superintendent Lurgio receives a lesson in Social Studies from Ms. Hannah's first grade class.*

referenced changes, the additional costs relating to the proposed contract will amount to \$189,400 as opposed to the additional costs of \$303,038, which would have resulted from the contract turned down at the March 1993 meeting. This approximately \$114,000 in savings results from the two above-referenced changes in the contract, together with the fact that the premium for health insurance benefits increased by approximately 5% rather than the 18.6% figure that was included in the estimate presented in March.

Mr. Barnes said the School Board feels this is a contract they can support. He indicated School Board member Jim Dias was away but wanted it noted that he supports the contract. The cost of the contract will be paid for by the

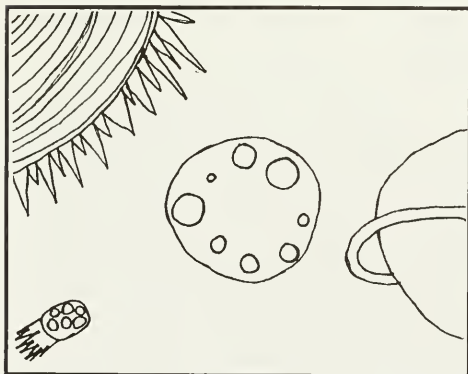
unencumbered fund balance of \$270,261 which is the amount returned to the Town to reduce taxes.

Based on last year's numbers for the tax base in Bedford, the cost of funding the proposed contract will amount to an increase of 16 cents per \$1,000 on the tax rate. Together with the balance of the budget passed at the March Annual School District Meeting, the cost of the entire school budget will have increased 3.2% over the budget for the prior fiscal year and would result in an increase of 45 cents per \$1,000 on the tax rate.

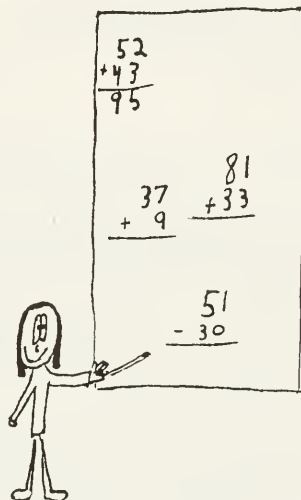
All employees will now contribute 10% toward their health insurance. The proposed contract maintains Bedford's position in the middle range of salaries paid by abutting and similarly situated districts.

Mark Stull, 35 Blackbird Drive, President of the Taxpayers for Quality Education, said they support the contract. He commended both sides for their work on the contract.

Roy Stewart, 19 Hickory Lane, President of the Bedford Taxpayers' Association dittoed that and said they also support the contract.



*"Space Voyage"*  
by David Bryant, grade 3



*"Building a Foundation"*  
by Meghan White, grade 3

A motion was made to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$189,400.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School Board and the Bedford Education Association for the 1993-1994 school year which resulted from negotiations with the teachers and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1992-1993 salaries, fringe benefits and other items; motion seconded. Vote on motion passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha P. Harris  
School District Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence, this 15th day of September, 1993, a Notary Public in and for the State of New Hampshire.

Carol A. Pow, Notary Public  
My Commission Expires August 28, 1996

## BEDFORD ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

March 16, 1994

McKelvie School

The Annual Bedford School District Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16, 1994 at McKelvie School.

School District Moderator Ryk Bullock opened the meeting at 7 PM and introduced those on the stage. Present were Superintendent Dennis Pope, Assistant Superintendent Ross Lurgio, Finance Administrator Pauline Armstrong and School Board Members David Barnes, Kathy Cassano, Margaret Comiskey, James Dias, and Maureen Kelley. School District Counsel Eugene Van Loan, III joined the meeting later. There were approximately 630 people present.

Mr. Bullock thanked all his staff for their help, and acknowledged with thanks the assistance from the School District Staff, Highway Department, Police Chief David Bailey and Fire Chief Robert Fabich.

Mr. Bullock announced that a Bedford student, Ryan Louney, was involved in a serious skiing accident, and ribbons are being sold to show community support.



*Thank you parent chaperones for another successful field trip with PWS kindergarten students.*

Ms. Kelley thanked the two previous School Board Members David Barnes and Kathy Cassano who have each served 3 years on the Board.

Mr. Bullock reviewed the rules for the meeting citing RSA 40:10 regarding protection of reconsideration.

School Board Chairman David Barnes gave an opening statement sketching out the parameters of the budget. He stated the warrant articles are the result of many months of hard work by a lot of people and represents the School Board's best efforts to balance a large number of competing concerns and factors. The School Board feels they have done a good job balancing their duty to the children, as well as being fair to the taxpayers while keeping in mind current economic conditions and trends.

Mr. Barnes indicated the total budget as proposed is \$17,804,318 which is an increase of \$413,622 or 2.4% over the 1993-94 budget. The total assessment is \$16,692,806 which is up \$420,637 or 2.6% over the 1993-94 assessment. Both of these increases are less than the cost of living. If we assume a 2% increase in net assessed valuations of property, this would result in a nine-cent increase in the tax rate.

Mr. Barnes pointed out some highlights of the budget including three new positions. One is an assistant principal at Peter Woodbury School in order to comply with state accreditation, which we haven't met and have been on probation for 2 years because there are over 500 pupils. The second position is a new eighth grade teacher in an effort to keep a 25:1 ratio at the middle school level. It also includes a new district wide computer coordinator (a 3/5 position since we are funding 2/5 of that position now). There is a loss of 1 1/2 positions, both in the maintenance area.

The collective bargaining agreement represents a 2.9% increase over the prior year's



*"Our Children, Our Future"  
by Ashley Ivester, grade 2*

agreement. The rest of the salary increases are extremely modest and significantly below the cost of living. All employees in the district will now contribute 10% toward their health insurance.

Other increases include a slight increase in high school tuition, significant increases in maintenance, and a significant decrease in regular transportation.

**ARTICLE I.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars (\$183,998.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School District and the Bedford Education Association for the 1994-95 school year which resulted from negotiations with the teachers and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1993-94 salaries, fringe benefits and other cost items.

Ms. Kelley moved the article as read; motion seconded. Ms. Kelley spoke to the article indicating this is the amount to fund the second year of the teacher's contract. This is a two-year contract. It reflects a 2.9% overall increase and reflects a continued desire to remain in a competitive position with staff salaries.

Mark Stull, 35 Blackbird Lane, supports the article. It maintains the same contract

approved last September. It maintains the financial benefits achieved in the renegotiation. Mr. Stull expressed his appreciation to the teachers for what they have done for the students. He urged everyone to vote for it.

A motion was made to move the article; motion seconded. Vote on Article I passed.

**ARTICLE II.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School District and the Bedford Education Support Staff Association for the 1994-95 school year which resulted from negotiations with the custodial and maintenance staff and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1993-94 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items.

Mrs. Cassano moved to dismiss Article II; motion seconded. Mrs. Cassano said they

## *DID YOU KNOW?*

- PWS Reading Specialist Joyce Snierson received the "Outstanding Service to NEBODS NH" Award from the New England Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society.

have not reached an agreement as of this time. Vote to dismiss the article passed.

**ARTICLE III.** To see if the school district will vote to create an expendable general fund trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the school buildings maintenance fund, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the school buildings. Furthermore, to name the school board as agents to expend and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or 25% of

the June 30, 1994 fund balance, whichever is lower, toward this purpose, and to authorize the use/transfer in that amount from the June 30, 1994 fund balance.

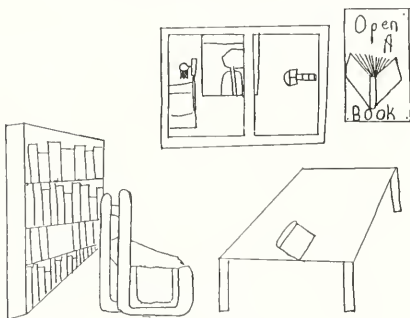
Mrs. Comiskey moved Article III as read; motion seconded. Mrs. Comiskey spoke to the article indicating this will allow the district to set aside funds for some of these projects to lessen the effect on future tax rates.

Gus Garceau, North Amherst Road, asked for clarification because the moderator read 1944 instead of 1994. Mr. Bullock said he stands corrected. It is 1994.

Ann Hoffman, 64 Cider Mill Road, asked if these funds can only be used for repairs and maintenance and cannot be diverted to any other account. Mrs. Comiskey said that is true.

John Webber, 15 Kennedy Drive, asked for an explanation. Mrs. Comiskey explained at the end of the fiscal year we should have about \$200,000 unreserved fund balance, i.e. money in this year's budget that we have not expended.

Vote on motion passed.



*"Spread the Word"*  
by Alyse Forrest, grade 5

**ARTICLE IV.** To see what sum of money the school district will vote to raise and appropriate, in addition to any sums appropriated under Articles I, II, and III hereof, for the sup-

port of schools, for the payment of salaries of the school district and agents, and for the statutory obligations of the district.



*Technology is an integral part of the McKelvie School day.*

Mr. Barnes moved to raise and appropriate \$17,804,318 which includes Article I; motion seconded.

Terry Libby, President of the PTG, speaking on behalf of the PTG, explained the purpose of the PTG and said they support the budget and encourage everyone to vote for it. They feel it shows remarkable fiscal restraint without compromising quality education. Ms. Libby said the Town's operating budget passed last week rose almost 7%, this year's school budget is up a mere 2.4%.

Ms. Libby said the membership has not reached a consensus on the staggered school hours. The PTG believes each person must decide for themselves.

Ms. Libby commenced to address charges leveled against her and the PTG by the Bedford Taxpayers' Association and its fringe group. Mr. Bullock said this is not a forum for conflict but for discussion. Ms. Libby said she would like to be heard. This is a meeting for the people, and she has a right to be heard. Mr. Bullock said we are here to discuss items on the warrant. This is not an appropriate forum for charges or counter charges. Ms.

Lunch Time!*"Refueling"**by Katherine Davison, grade 4*

Libby said this meeting concerns education in Bedford, and she is speaking to the educational climate in Bedford and demands to be heard. She said this is a meeting of the people and she insists on reading her speech. Mr. Bullock said he will not allow recrimination or cross charges to take over this meeting. Ms. Libby continued about things related to the PTG and education in Bedford. She referred to the newsletter "Sense and Nonsense", and Mr. Bullock stated we are not going into who said what and what said who. If there is a point to make, she can make it. Ms. Libby continued indicating last year the PTG had 200 members and today has 500 members. She said it has been said that her leadership has been to the detriment of the

kids. She resents any claims that her efforts have hurt the kids and said these statements were made as part of a smear campaign. Mr. Bullock ruled her out of order and asked her to sit down.

Nick Shakra, 4 Wright Acres Road, made a motion to amend the line item for salaries by adding \$48,000 for pay, salary, benefits and equipment to employ an additional fourth grade teacher; motion seconded.

Marian Jones, 12 Reverend Houston Drive, spoke on the student teacher ratio and in favor of the article. She asked everyone to support it.

David Barnes addressed some of the factors the School Board considered in not including this in the budget. The third grade class this year is inordinately large. They are concerned dealing with this class as it works its way through the school system. When this class moves to McKelvie, there will be an extra teacher there. Another concern is if we add an additional fourth grade teacher, the amount of time each fourth grade class would get to spend with the specialists would be reduced, i.e. music, art, physical education, etc. The person would be used by one additional class. There is room at Memorial School to re-engineer the

*PWS hosted Senior Citizens Day in May with tours given by second grade students.*

way certain rooms are used. This was not a unanimous vote of the board.

Trudy Boisvert, Hitching Post Lane, does not think it is fair that this class always has the big class. She spoke in favor and asked if we could hire a full time temporary sub for one year.

Bob Thomas, 40 Elk Drive, asked about projected class sizes and student teacher ratios. Mrs. Cassano said projected figures for next September show third grade with 218 students, 10 teachers, ratio 22:1; fourth grade with 254 students, 11 teachers, 23:1 ratio. Enrollments as of March 8 show 222 in second grade and 255 in third grade.

Nick Shakra is in the real estate business and said there are more houses being bought than are being sold, i.e. with new construction. He asked if anyone has done any research on people coming in versus moving out. He feels this should be considered.

Vote on the amendment to add \$48,000 for salaries for a teacher at the fourth grade level passed.

Mr. Bullock reviewed each budget category.

Regular Instruction - \$8,510,794 - plus the \$48,000 just voted.

Special Education - \$1,861,161

Other Instruction - \$60,430

Census & Attendance - \$3,666

Guidance Services - \$245,960

Health Services - \$71,407

Psychological Services - \$64,950

Speech Services - \$133,112

Pupil Services - \$181,739

Improvement of Instruction - \$304,235

Educational Media Services - \$159,869

School Board Services - \$54,487

School Administration Unit - \$365,462

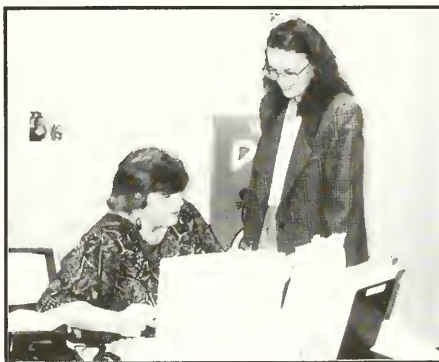
School Administration - \$481,003

Operation of the Plant - \$1,160,222

Transportation - \$960,729

Jan Brown, 33 Beaver Lane, would like to see more research before staggering hours. She feels there are safety issues with darkness and a 50:1 ratio in the before school program. She also feels there are issues on optimum learning time.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to add \$250,000 to leave the school hours as they are; motion seconded.



*PWS clerk Denise Roy (left) and school nurse Yvette Vachon (right) review immunization records of incoming students.*

David Barnes said this has been a very discussed issue. He gave some background on this. They are attempting to save a quarter of a million dollars by cutting 9 buses out. At present all three schools start at 8:10 and end at 2:10. Presently this requires 31 buses at a cost of \$28,287 per bus. The proposal would have McKelvie start at 7:45 and end at 2:05. Peter Woodbury and Memorial would start at 8:45 and end at 2:45. The major concern and reason for starting McKelvie school first is the scope of after school activities and sports events. The School Board feels they have a responsibility to bring this to the body to decide. They have looked at all the districts in southern New Hampshire, and with the exception of Hooksett, we are the only town not doing this. There will be a before school child care program at Peter Woodbury and Memorial.





*Physical Education students at Memorial School using the "buddy system" during a gymnastics lesson.*

Mr. Barnes said the concerns can be broken into three categories: 1) Younger children left at home alone when older siblings go to school and parents go to work. As a solution they propose a before school child care program. A second major concern is the financial burden for people having to pay for a before school program. They will take \$10,800 from the savings and invest in the before school program. The third concern is the scope and nature of the before school program. This would not be an educational program. It would be reading, structured games, playground activities, etc. at a ratio of 50:1 which is what it is now when children arrive before school starts. They would offer a simple breakfast. They expect 10% of the enrolled students might participate. The School Board felt there was very little space to make significant reductions, and this was a good opportunity to look at significant savings.

Bill Wickham, 6 Golden Drive, asked if this is a net figure, does it include the before school program and lunches. Mr. Barnes said yes. They feel this is a minimum amount of savings. They may be able to re-engineer the bus routes and do even better. Mr. Wickham asked the net tax impact of this savings.

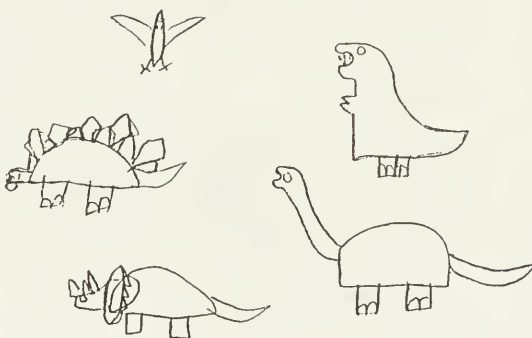
Jim Dias said it would bring the tax rate to 59 cents up from this year. Mr. Bullock said the question was what would this \$250,000 increase the tax singularly. Mr. Dias said 22 cents to 24 cents.

Richard McNamara, Buttonwood Road, is concerned with such a radical change without

any formal study. He feels this will waste the best part of the younger children's day who do the best in the morning. He feels this will impact after school activities. He asked about the liability for the teacher with 50 kids. He also has a safety concern with younger children walking home almost in the dark in the winter. He said the School Board has done a wonderful job with the budget, but this is too radical a change, and he supports putting the money back in the budget to keep the children safe.

Rick Soule, 62 Quincy Drive, said we are one of only 2 communities in southern New Hampshire who do not stagger hours. He asked why are we so unique that we cannot have staggered hours.

Gail Medieros, 286 Wallace Road, is concerned about children in an unstructured environment before school and then being expected to go into a structured environment. She asked where the money is to fund the before school program. She asked how they plan to keep track of all the children's belongings. She thinks the board should be concerned with working parents.



*"Prehistoric Reptiles."  
How many can you name?  
by Ryan Dean, grade 2*

Mr. Barnes said they expect about 10% of the students would utilize this program. They would use existing staff who want to work an extra hour a day. \$10,800 is the estimated cost.

Lee Steege, 46 Veronica Drive, feels it is important to consider taxes, and this is a temporary situation. She appreciates the consideration that has been given to children with 2 working parents. She thinks this will be able to be phased out in 3 or 4 years.

Trudy Boisvert thinks we should have some guidelines. She thinks it is a lot to ask of unemployed people, elderly people, to pay for day care. She thinks the staggered hours is a good idea but thinks the day care is a little unreasonable.

Drew Gillett, Holbrook Road, understands this is a 1.6% increase in the budget over what we have now, rather than 2.4%. He said it should be a 4.0% increase. He said that begins to show a very ominous trend. He feels this is a reasonable thing to do in view of the savings and this money can be put into education rather than transportation.

Sue Thomas, 40 Elk Drive, supports this staggered starts but only with the before school option. The \$10,800 is pennies on the tax rate, and if that is all it takes to save \$250,000, then that is what we have to do.

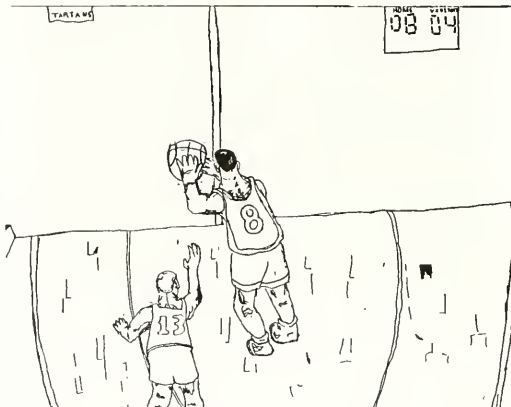
A motion was made to move the question; motion seconded.

Jerry Johnson, Weymouth Drive, said the Bedford Taxpayers' Association supports the School Board on the transportation issue. This will alleviate older children being on the bus with smaller ones.

Trudy Tetro, Farmhouse Road, does not feel this is a real radical change. It is only a half hour. She does not feel a ratio of 1:50 is bad. She supports the staggered system.

Vote on motion to move the question passed.

Vote on motion to add \$250,000 to transportation to negate the staggered hours failed.



"Take Your Best Shot"  
by Fred Coolbroth, grade 6

Jerry Johnson made a motion for no reconsideration; motion seconded. Vote on motion passed.

School Lunch - \$330,957

Managerial Services - \$5,000

Other Support Services - \$1,961,279

Debt Service - \$721,456

Federal Funds - \$166,400

John Webber, asked about the changes in the operation, general maintenance and repairs, special education transportation and federal funds. Mr. Barnes said they have delayed several things so long that they have to be done including repaving the McKelvie parking lot, replacing the glass in the original part of McKelvie, resurface and insulate the Kalwall panels at McKelvie, and replace the steam heat at Memorial. The special education transportation major change is \$30,000 for monitors on the vans was carried in regular education and is now carried in special education. Mrs. Cassano said state law requires to put in all federal funds received. This is an in and out item.

Total Operating Budget - \$17,852,318

Less estimated revenues - \$1,111,512

District Assessment - \$16,740,806 (this includes the \$48,000 added in by vote tonight).

Mimi Lee, 47 Bracken Circle, asked for clarification on high school tuition. "Do you figure all McKelvie students will be on?" Mrs. Cassano said no. Next year's budget at Manchester West High School is based on 676 students at \$5,278 each. Mrs. Lee asked what if half the students from McKelvie go to private school. Mrs. Cassano said we only pay for the exact amount who go. If fewer go than what was budgeted, it very often ends up in the unreserved fund balance as revenue.

Bill Wickham thanked the board and said they have done a marvelous job, and he is proud to have his children in the Bedford school system.

Sue Thomas supports the budget as amended and feels the School Board has done an outstanding job in keeping school expenses under control. She believes people move to Bedford for two reasons - the tax rate and the

school system. Our tax rate is the 67th lowest out of 239 towns. Our School Board and Town have been doing an excellent job keeping the quality of education high and the tax rate low.

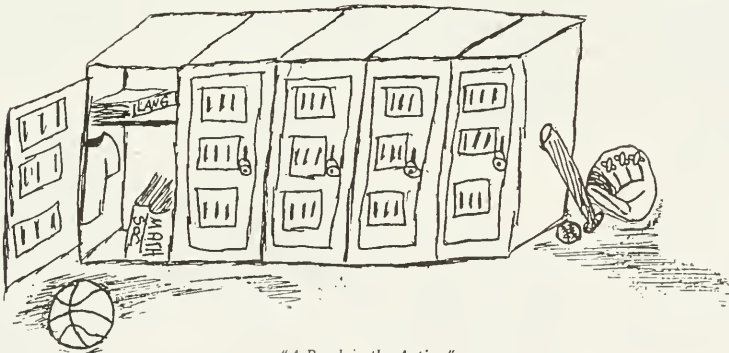
Motion made to approve the budget of \$17,852,318 which includes Article I; motion seconded; vote on motion passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha P. Harris  
School District Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in my presence, this 21st day of March, 1994, a Notary Public in and for the State of New Hampshire.

Carol A. Pow, Notary Public  
My Commission Expires August 28, 1996



*"A Break in the Action"*  
by Keith Boyle, grade 6

**BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL WARRANT  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the school district in the Town of Bedford, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the McKelvie School in said district on Thursday, March 9, 1995, at 7:00 p.m. in the evening, to act upon the following subjects:

**ARTICLE I.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School District and the Bedford Education Association for the 1995/96 school year which resulted from negotiations with the teachers and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1994/95 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items (majority vote required).

(The school board recommends this appropriation)

**ARTICLE II.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to fund those additional cost items related to the collective bargaining agreement between the Bedford School District and the Bedford Education Support Staff Association for the 1995/96 school year which resulted from negotiations with the custodial and maintenance staff and which represents the negotiated increase over the 1994/95 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items (majority vote required).

(The school board recommends this appropriation)

**ARTICLE III.** To see if the school district will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a School Building Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) toward this purpose to be placed in this fund (majority vote required).

(The school board recommends this appropriation)

**ARTICLE IV.** To see what sum of money the school district will vote to raise and appropriate, in addition to any sums appropriated under Articles I, II, and III hereof, for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of the school district and agents, and for the statutory obligations of the district (majority vote required).

Given under our hands at said Bedford this 13th day of February, 1995.

James Dias  
Maureen Kelley  
Margaret Comiskey  
Linda Camarota  
Jeffery Hudson  
SCHOOL BOARD

A true copy of warrant - attest:

James Dias  
Maureen Kelley  
Margaret Comiskey  
Linda Camarota  
Jeffery Hudson  
SCHOOL BOARD

**BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL WARRANT  
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the school district in the Town of Bedford, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the McKelvie School in said district on the 14th day of March, 1995, at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following questions:

1. To choose one member of the School Board for the ensuing three years.
2. To choose a Moderator for the ensuing three years.
3. To choose a Clerk for the ensuing three years.
4. To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing three years.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. and will close no earlier than 7:00 p.m.

Given under our hands at said Bedford this 8th day of February, 1995.

James Dias  
Maureen Kelley  
Margaret Comiskey  
Linda Camarota  
Jeffery Hudson  
SCHOOL BOARD

A true copy of warrant - attest:

James Dias  
Maureen Kelley  
Margaret Comiskey  
Linda Camarota  
Jeffery Hudson  
SCHOOL BOARD

## BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

	BUDGET 93-94	EXPENDED 93-94	BUDGET 94-95	PROPOSED BUDGET 95-96
<b>PETER WOODBURY SCHOOL</b>				
Salaries	1,456,621	1,451,596.07	1,542,315	1,531,361
Supplies & Texts	58,569	53,821.36	65,733	70,255
Furniture & Equipment	10,546	9,595.21	6,280	11,026
Utilities	68,501	63,981.15	75,700	75,700
Other	6,840	6,492.83	8,035	10,055
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,601,077</b>	<b>1,585,486.62</b>	<b>1,698,063</b>	<b>1,698,397</b>
<b>MEMORIAL SCHOOL</b>				
Salaries	1,303,184	1,299,376.82	1,325,429	1,328,409
Supplies & Texts	49,711	43,402.67	56,216	64,144
Furniture & Equipment	8,740	7,357.22	16,308	11,049
Utilities	58,115	53,521.30	60,285	60,285
Other	6,650	5,991.72	6,068	6,369
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,426,400</b>	<b>1,409,649.73</b>	<b>1,464,306</b>	<b>1,470,256</b>
<b>McKELVIE SCHOOL</b>				
Salaries	2,821,783	2,829,570.16	2,933,837	2,931,124
Supplies & Texts	91,994	88,470.60	92,827	96,434
Furniture & Equipment	29,483	28,387.15	19,452	25,429
Utilities	143,978	140,647.17	151,383	150,992
Other	19,625	18,166.69	20,080	21,020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,106,863</b>	<b>3,105,241.77</b>	<b>3,217,579</b>	<b>3,224,999</b>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION</b>				
Tuition	3,561,180	3,413,648.66	3,567,928	3,542,000
Census & Attendance	4,768	3,590.00	3,666	3,666
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,565,948</b>	<b>3,417,238.66</b>	<b>3,571,594</b>	<b>3,545,666</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>				
Salaries	1,236,673	1,183,392.91	1,232,159	1,184,328
Supplies, Texts & Equipment	18,545	17,370.69	17,795	18,275
Psyc & Other Support Services	140,343	139,070.73	149,350	212,350
Tuition	715,050	870,244.70	768,825	1,223,268
Federal Funds	80,000	80,000.00	101,400	117,345
Transportation	257,607	252,274.05	315,600	297,993
Other	2,450	2,993.97	2,650	2,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,450,668</b>	<b>2,545,347.05</b>	<b>2,587,779</b>	<b>3,056,509</b>

	BUDGET 93-94	EXPENDED 93-94	BUDGET 94-95	PROPOSED BUDGET 95-96
<b>DISTRICT WIDE</b>				
Salaries	244,326	246,113.56	339,181	398,909
Supplies, Text & Equipment	208,700	208,506.43	217,000	222,427
Insurance	75,500	68,934.32	75,500	70,165
Benefits	1,792,818	1,725,450.19	1,892,757	1,962,556
Regular Transportation	869,496	855,733.43	624,387	606,565
Federal Funds	15,000	15,000.00	65,000	90,000
Debt Service	820,872	820,871.50	721,456	688,644
Other	85,932	60,453.21	93,775	93,275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,112,644</b>	<b>4,001,062.64</b>	<b>4,029,056</b>	<b>4,132,541</b>
<b>SCHOOL BOARD &amp; DISTRICT OFFICERS</b>				
Salaries	7,450	7,457.50	7,650	7,850
Services & Supplies	27,000	60,490.57	32,400	33,507
Hiring, Printing & Dues	11,989	14,595.01	12,937	18,274
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,439</b>	<b>82,543.08</b>	<b>52,987</b>	<b>59,631</b>
<b>SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT</b>				
Salaries	283,990	283,472.60	294,041	294,041
Services	55,236	44,772.42	26,124	20,954
Supplies & Equipment	4,000	3,814.95	4,000	20,050
Utilities	13,420	12,334.65	12,104	12,084
Travel, Meetings & Dues	10,800	10,537.07	11,100	10,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>367,446</b>	<b>354,931.69</b>	<b>347,369</b>	<b>357,729</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>				
Salaries	137,474	134,413.84	116,489	116,489
Supplies, Equipment & Repairs	224,849	243,641.26	393,339	394,033
Contracted Services	39,194	33,648.26	37,752	37,752
Utilities	0	0	5,048	4,248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401,517</b>	<b>411,703.36</b>	<b>552,628</b>	<b>552,522</b>
<b>FOOD SERVICE</b>				
Salaries	138,306	145,378.17	142,260	140,406
Supplies & Equipment	161,101	193,068.57	176,101	195,901
Travel & FICA	12,287	16,570.22	12,596	12,596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311,694</b>	<b>355,016.96</b>	<b>330,957</b>	<b>348,903</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>17,390,696</b>	<b>17,268,221.56</b>	<b>17,852,318</b>	<b>18,447,153</b>
<b>LESS ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>			<b>1,058,859</b>	<b>1,250,322</b>
<b>DISTRICT ASSESSMENT</b>			<b>16,793,459</b>	<b>17,196,831</b>

**BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**1995-1996 BUDGET SUMMARY**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 1994/95	PROPOSED 1995/96	\$ INC/DEC 1995/96	PERCENT CHANGE
<u>PERSONNEL</u>				
Prof. Teaching Staff	5,971,098	5,940,985	(30,113)	
Admin./Support Staff	810,827	868,327	57,500	
Other Support Staff, Non-Prof.	527,702	499,803	(27,899)	
Business/Operations Support	<u>579,184</u>	<u>576,602</u>	<u>(2,582)</u>	
Subtotal Salaries	7,888,811	7,885,717	(3,094)	
Subtotal Benefits	<u>1,892,757</u>	<u>1,962,556</u>	<u>69,799</u>	
<b>Total Salaries/Benefits</b>	<b>9,781,568</b>	<b>9,848,273</b>	<b>66,705</b>	
<u>OBLIGATIONS</u>				
H.S. Tuition-Manchester	3,567,928	3,542,000	(25,928)	
Special Ed Tuition	768,825	1,223,268	454,443	
Debt Service (Int/Prin)	<u>721,456</u>	<u>688,644</u>	<u>(32,812)</u>	
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>5,058,209</b>	<b>5,453,912</b>	<b>395,703</b>	
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Obligations</b>	<b>14,839,777</b>	<b>15,302,185</b>	<b>462,408</b>	<b>3.12%</b>
<u>INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (NON-SAL)</u>				
Reg'l Prog/Supp., Text, Equip, Repairs	209,147	221,211	12,064	
Special Ed (excl. sal. & tuition)	43,975	46,305	2,330	
Other Inst. Prog./Student Activities	10,030	10,030	0	
Attendance/Guidance/Health	26,106	28,801	2,695	
Psychol./Speech	66,050	78,450	12,400	
Other Pupil Support Services	86,000	136,600	50,600	
Improvement of Instruction	293,875	299,302	5,427	
Educ. Media/Library	34,152	40,214	6,062	
Gen'l/ Admin. Services	105,615	122,419	16,804	
School Admin. Services	<u>51,910</u>	<u>56,181</u>	<u>4,271</u>	
<b>Total Instruction/Support</b>	<b>926,860</b>	<b>1,039,513</b>	<b>112,653</b>	
<u>BUSINESS ACCOUNTS (NON-SAL)</u>				
Operation of Plant/Care/Maintenance	703,097	702,600	(497)	
Pupil Transportation	946,987	911,848	(35,139)	
School Lunch Services	188,697	208,497	19,800	
Managerial Services	5,000	5,000	0	
Other Support Services (Ins.)	75,500	70,165	(5,335)	
Facilities/Acquisition/Construction	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	<u>166,400</u>	<u>207,345</u>	<u>40,945</u>	
<b>Total Business Accounts</b>	<b>2,085,681</b>	<b>2,105,455</b>	<b>19,774</b>	
<b>Total Instr./Business (Non-Sal)</b>	<b>3,012,541</b>	<b>3,144,968</b>	<b>132,427</b>	<b>4.40%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>17,852,318</b>	<b>18,447,153</b>	<b>594,835</b>	<b>3.33%</b>
Less Estimated Revenues	1,058,859	1,250,322	191,463	
<b>DISTRICT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>16,793,459</b>	<b>17,196,831</b>	<b>403,372</b>	<b>2.40%</b>

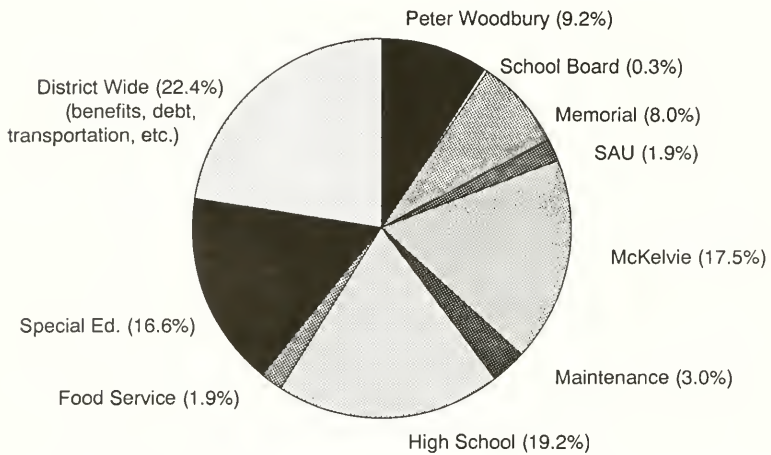


**BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRELIMINARY REVENUES AND CREDITS  
1995-1996**

DESCRIPTION	1994-95	PROPOSED 1995-96
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$130,636	\$100,000
REVENUES FROM STATE SOURCES		
Foundation Aid		
School Building Aid	194,000	194,000
Handicapped Aid - Catastrophic	176,711	340,000
Child Nutrition Program	10,600	7,575
REVENUES FROM FEDERAL SOURCES		
Grants	65,000	90,000
Child Nutrition Program	33,250	33,500
Handicapped Program IDEA and Pre-school Incentive	101,400	117,345
OTHER SOURCES		
Transfer from Capital Projects Fund		
Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund		
Sale of Bonds or Notes		
LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN TAXES		
Tuition		
Summer School	8,700	8,700
Other Tuition	3,456	
Adult Education		
Earnings on Investments		
Interest	25,000	25,000
Pupil Activities		
Other		
Rental of Facilities	3,000	3,000
Transportation Fees	20,000	20,000
Milk & Lunch Program	287,106	311,202
ESTIMATED REVENUES	1,058,859	1,250,322
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	16,793,459	17,196,831
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$17,852,318</b>	<b>\$18,447,153</b>

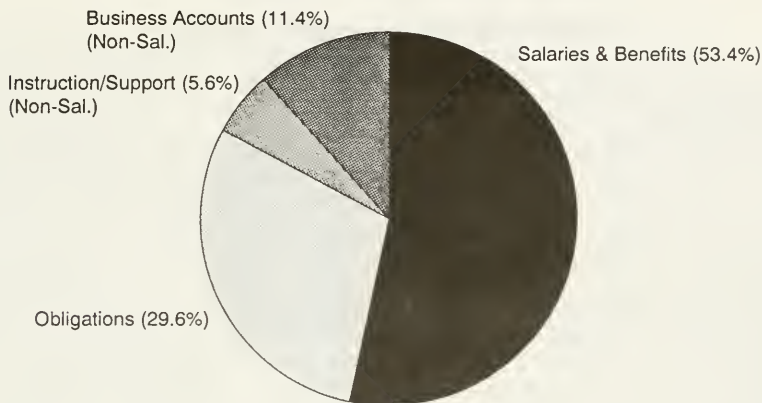
## BUDGET ANALYSIS

The following is an analysis of the proposed budget:



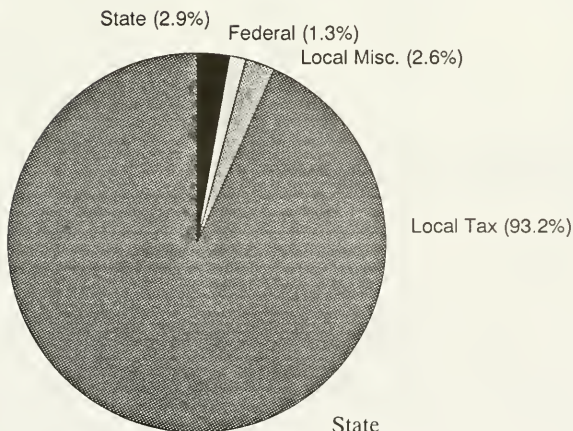
This analysis of the budget allocates costs to the schools, departments, and programs for which they are incurred. The chart provides a quick visual comparison of the total budget.

### EXPENSE ANALYSIS – 1995-96



Salaries & Benefits	9,848,273	53.4%
Obligations	5,453,912	29.6%
Tuition-MWHS	3,542,000	
Tuition-Other	1,223,268	
Debt Services	688,644	
Instruction/Support (Non-Sal.)	1,039,513	5.6%
Business Accounts (Non-Sal.)	2,105,455	11.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,447,153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### REVENUE ANALYSIS – 1995-96



State	541,575	2.9%
Federal	240,845	1.3%
Local Misc.	467,902	2.6%
Local Tax	17,196,831	93.2%
<b>Total Rev. &amp; Dist. Assess.</b>	<b>18,447,153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

10/94

**BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESIDENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS**

SCHOOL	K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12	Total	Yr. 93
Peter Woodbury	139	252	223											614	607
Memorial				220	258									478	459
McKelvie						201	244	221	232					898	913
West HS										178	174	167	172	691	659
Central HS										1			2	3	2
Memorial HS												3	2	5	6
Bishop Gherlin										1	12	5	2	20	24
Concord Christian			1		1		2				3	1	2	10	12
Derryfield								6	6	3	13	16	7	51	61
Faith Christian	1	1	2	2	2	2	1		1					12	14
Goffstown Christian		1	1		1		1							4	5
Grace Christian	2	2	3	1	1									9	8
Kimball Union										1			1	2	3
Phillips Exeter										1	1	1	2	5	3
St. Paul's										1	5	3	1	10	10
Trinity HS										24	17	8	15	64	44
Villa Augustina		3		2	3		1	1	3					13	11
W. Side Catholic				2										2	3
Other		10	4	4	1	4	3	7	4	9	8	7	7	68	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>2959</b>	<b>2896</b>

**BOND MATURITY SCHEDULE**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Retirement</u>
McKelvie	\$250,000	\$435,000	1996/1997
PWS/Memorial	\$325,000	\$1,625,000	1999/2000

## BEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## COMPARATIVE ENROLLMENTS – CLASS SIZE

Each year, the school board and the superintendent receive questions regarding class size and pupil-teacher ratios. The Bedford School District continues to maintain favorable class sizes. Research indicates that class size is important to the educational quality of a school district. Class size impacts student achievement, attitudes, self-concept, social development, and work habits. Appropriate class size contributes to a positive classroom atmosphere, learning, high teacher morale, positive relations between students and teachers, and an increase in parent-teacher contact. Favorable class size allows for individualization of instruction, an increase in motivation to learn, and a variety of instructional methods which provide for higher cognitive.

While the state minimum standards allow up to 25 students per class in grades K-2, and 30 students per class in grades 3-8, the Bedford School District is currently at 21 or less in preschool and grades K-4, and 26 or less in grades 5-8. The comparative enrollment chart indicates that the average overall class size will remain constant for the 1995/96 school year if the budget as presented is approved. The board responded to the economic conditions of the past few years by increasing class size. It is in the best interest of our students to maintain favorable pupil-teacher ratios. Teachers will be able to continue to meet the needs of students and to provide the individualized attention that students and parents have come to expect.

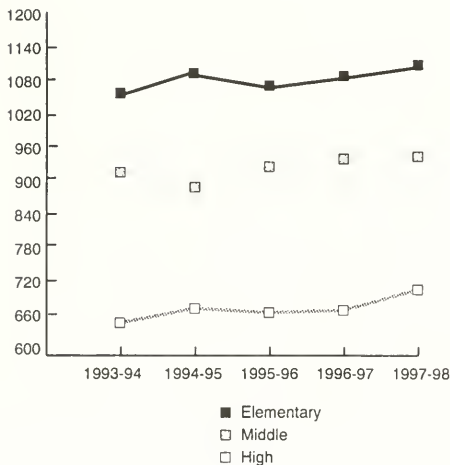
	Enrolled 9/12/94	Teachers	Average Class Size	Projected for 9/95	Teachers	Average Class Size
P	23	1	23	25	1	25
K	139	4	35	140	4	±35
R	16	1	16	17	1	17
1	236	11	21	213	10	21
2	223	11	20	248	12	21
3	220	10	22	229	11	21
4	<u>258</u>	<u>12</u>	22	<u>226</u>	<u>11</u>	21
ST.	1115	50		1098	50	
5	198	9	22	260	11	24
6	242	10	24	204	8	26
7	221	*9	25	238	*9	26
8	<u>232</u>	<u>*9</u>	26	<u>219</u>	<u>*9</u>	24
ST.	893	37		921	37	
GT.	2008	87		2019	87	

‡Divided between a.m. and p.m. sessions.  
\*NOTE: Number of teachers includes Curriculum Coordinators who teach 1/2 time.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

The district's student enrollment projections indicate a continual increase in the student population for the next three years as it has for eleven of the past twelve years. In 1994/95, the high school population increased by 44 students. Grades K-8 enrollment increased by 6 students. In strong economic times, enrollments have increased rather significantly; in tough times, very slightly. Nevertheless, the past twelve years has seen a rather consistent increase in student enrollment.

**Student Enrollment Projections**



History shows the Bedford School District's enrollment projections to be conservative and quite accurate. Student projections show continued but slow growth over the next three years.

### HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS

Year	K-8	DIFF	%	K-12	DIFF	%
1982-83	1387	-		2002	-	
1983-84	1417	30	2.2%	2025	23	1.1%
1984-85	1445	28	2.0%	2059	34	1.7%
1985-86	1524	79	5.5%	2192	133	6.5%
1986-87	1614	90	5.9%	2346	154	7.0%
1987-88	1710	96	5.9%	2439	93	4.0%
1988-89	1734	24	1.4%	2469	30	1.2%
1989-90	1716	-18	-1.0%	2472	3	0.1%
1990-91	1883	167	9.7%	2611	139	5.6%
1991-92	1883	0	0.0%	2617	6	0.2%
1992-93	1948	65	3.5%	2640	23	0.9%
1993-94	1979	31	1.6%	2638	-2	-0.1%
1994-95	1985	6	0.3%	2688	50	1.9%
1995-96	1994	9	0.5%	2694	6	0.2%
1996-97	2017	23	1.2%	2719	25	0.9%
1997-98	2024	7	0.3%	2743	24	0.9%

## SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

### The Promise - The Funding - The Reality

Two major pieces of federal legislation provide the law, standards and framework, and establish the responsibilities of public schools to provide education to handicapped students. The first law, the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - P.L. 93-112 (Section 504)," a Civil Rights Act, prohibits discrimination against disabled persons in all institutions receiving federal financial assistance. It also requires barrier-free access to buildings for handicapped persons. The United States Office for Civil Rights monitors and enforces this law which has no funding provisions.

The second federal law, the "Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975" administered by the United States Department of Education, is commonly known or referred to as P.L. 94:142. In 1990, it was changed to the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)". P.L. 94:142, which went into effect in 1977, and IDEA include the following basic provisions for each state and local school district in the United States:

1. A free appropriate public education (FAPE) for all handicapped children.
2. A written Individualized Education Program (I.E.P.) for each handicapped child.
3. An evaluation process for each child, ages 6-18 (currently 3-21), suspected of having a disability described in 10 categories (currently 15).
4. Procedural safeguards to insure proper due process under the law (U.S. Constitution, 5th and 14th Amendments).
5. Handicapped children educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate.
6. A funding mechanism for the federal government to phase in over a period of five years, eventually reaching 40% of the average national per pupil expenditure by 1981, to be used to pay for the required special education services.

In 1981, the State of New Hampshire established a companion law, Chapter 186-C, which basically paralleled the two federal laws. In addition, a funding mechanism was established. All New Hampshire school districts were to be reimbursed all costs in excess of two times the state average per pupil costs for each student whose special education program exceeded that amount.

There have been numerous amendments and policy interpretations to the law and regulations at the state and federal levels over the past 17 years. Additionally, there has been an overwhelming amount of case law at the state hearing officer level, as well as in the district, state, and federal courts. The basic tenants of the state and federal law, however, have been maintained and/or extended over the course of time.

Funding is a key issue and the Bedford School Board and administration are deeply concerned with the mandated provisions of the federal and state laws. Two potential solutions to this issue are:

1. If Congress fully met its 1975 promise to fund 40% of the national average per pupil cost (\$5,721 for 1992/93), they would provide \$2,288 for each identified educationally disabled student. The actual amount received by the Bedford School District has been approximately 5% or \$300 per student. This amounts to a discrepancy of about \$1,988 per student or \$675,920 which must be made up by the Bedford taxpayer.
2. The New Hampshire state law promised that all costs over 2 times the state average per pupil cost (\$4,960 for 1992/93) would be provided. The current regulations call for 3-1/2 times the state average per pupil cost. If the original funding mechanism had not been reduced, Bedford's cost per student would be capped at \$9,920 instead of the current figure of \$17,361. An estimated savings that could be realized ranges from \$375,000 to \$450,000.

The question of who pays is critical. The Bedford taxpayers must pay approximately one million dollars per year to make up for the shortfall in state and federal funds. It is not the intent of this article to negatively reflect on the very real and compelling need to insure access to appropriate education for all disabled children. It is written to explain and to inform the Bedford voters that the fiscal integrity of the school budget is being severely constrained by unfunded mandates. Unfunded mandates affect our district's ability to maintain quality education opportunities for all students and this should be of concern to every Bedford citizen.

## THE REAL COST OF EDUCATING BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MANCHESTER

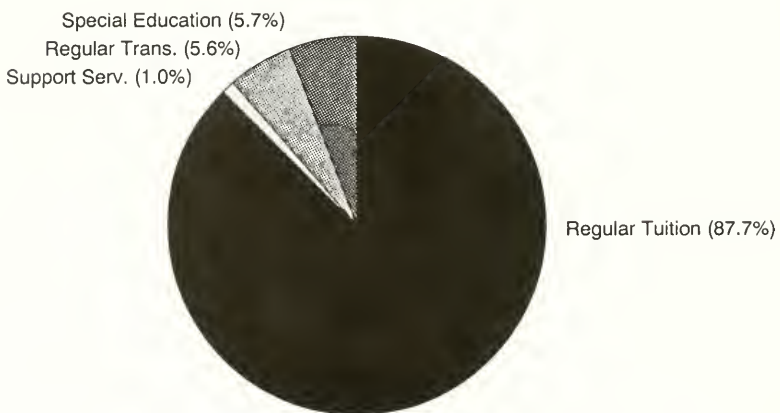
We commonly equate the cost of educating Bedford High School students with the per pupil tuition amount that is billed by the Manchester School Department. What is not generally known or understood is that there are numerous programs and services that Manchester provides at an additional cost and/or that the Bedford School District provides which are not part of the basic contract with Manchester.

While we cannot accurately estimate the cost of indirect services provided to our high school population on the part of administrative personnel, the total of \$4,040,666 is a more accurate reflection of high school costs in Manchester.

The total cost, therefore, to the Bedford School District for the education of high school students in Manchester can be summarized as follows based on the proposed 1995/96 budget.

Regular Tuition	\$3,542,000
Regular Transportation	228,383
Special Education (Salaries, supplies tuition and transportation)	230,304
Support Services (Guidance, LRS, speech, occupational and physical therapy and psychological services)	39,979
	\$4,040,666

### High School Costs



Note: In addition, \$920,301 is budgeted for special education, tuition and transportation costs for high school placements other than Manchester.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

To the Members of the School Board  
Bedford School District  
Bedford, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Bedford School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 1994, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the School District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1B, the general purpose financial statements referred to above do not include the General Fixed Assets Account Group, which should be included to conform with generally accepted accounting principles. The amount that should be recorded in the General Fixed Assets Account Group is not known.

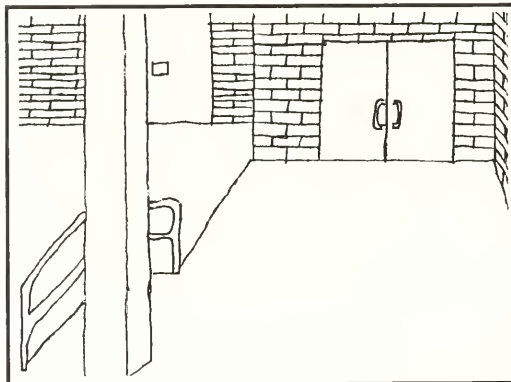
In our opinion, except for the effect on the financial statements of the omission described in the preceding paragraph, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bedford School District as of June 30, 1994, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund financial statements listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the Bedford School District. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

September 21, 1994

PLODZIK & SANDERSON  
Professional Association

## NOTES:



*"Day's End"*  
by Timothy Schuetz, grade 4



**Annual School District Meeting**  

---

**McKelvie Middle School**

