

## March 10th, 2020 Bedford School Budget Ballot Guide

*These are my (Jay Nash) suggestions to voters on each Article of the March 10, 2020 Bedford School Board ballot. I am not authorized to speak on behalf of the Bedford school board on these topics. These are my individual opinions.*

**Short version: Please vote YES on Articles III through IX.**

ISSUE	VOTE	WHY
<b>Article I</b> - Election of Officials		<i>This year two seats are on the ballot and only two residents chose to stand for election. Bill Foote for his 4th term, and Sue Jennato. As they are unopposed, both will be elected. Welcome back and welcome aboard.</i>
<b>Article II</b> - Sprinklers and Alarms 10-year bond. \$1,309,000 (gross budget)		<i>After years of discussion with the Bedford Fire Department, and as an effort to further engage voters in meaningful decisions, the Board placed this issue on the ballot to enable the Fire Department to make its case directly to the Bedford voters.</i>
<b>Article III</b> - Negotiated Agreement with Maintenance and Custodial Staff \$158,471 (over three years)	<b>YES</b>	<i>This is a three-year agreement that provides modest wage increases for the people who keep our schools, buildings, and facilities top-notch places to learn. <b>Vote YES to give custodians a modest raise and keep Bedford competitive in hiring important staff.</b></i>
<b>Article IV</b> - Allow a special meeting to address cost items if Article III fails.	<b>YES</b>	
<b>Article V</b> - Negotiated agreement with instructional teaching assistants, secretaries, clerks and food service staff. \$370,707 (over three years)	<b>YES</b>	<i>This is a three-year [agreement](that provides modest wage increases for critical support staff and para-professionals. <b>Vote YES to give paras, food service, secretaries, and clerks a modest raise. Keep Bedford competitive in attracting talented people.</b></i>

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<b>Article VI</b> - Allow a special meeting to address cost items if Article V fails	<b>YES</b>	
<b>Article VII</b> - Athletic Maintenance and Improvements \$793,100	<b>YES</b>	<i>Voters have asked for more choice on the ballot. Here it is. Please fund the replacement of the BHS/Lugio turf, much needed work on the field and the track at McKelvie, and resurfacing of the gym floors at BHS and Lugio. These are some of the most widely used athletic and quality of life assets in the entire community, available to all residents not just students. <b>Vote YES to maintain existing community infrastructure.</b></i>
<b>Article VIII</b> - Operating Budget \$77,738,764	<b>YES</b>	<i>There is no perfect budget. But this is a good budget. It funds personnel, instructional materials, and facilities maintenance investments (that replace 20-30 year old items) needed for our students. <b>If you voted no last year, please vote YES this year. These are investments in your future neighbors.</b></i>
<b>Article IX</b> - Acceptance of Gifts	<b>YES</b>	<i>Voting yes means you don't have to see this on a ballot again. The Board must still vote to accept gifts at meetings, so nothing else changes. <b>Save paper, save ink, save time, vote YES.</b></i>

However you ultimately vote, thank you for voting. Democracy doesn't work if citizens don't willingly engage. If you find this guide useful, great! If not, please pass your copy on to a friend or neighbor and have a conversation about the details.

Thank you,  
Jay Nash