

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 30, 2020

Live Virtual Online Meeting using Zoom™ Audio/Video Conference Software

*** Due to the Covid-19 Crisis, this meeting was live-streamed over the internet using Zoom™ video/audio conferencing software in order to adhere with social distancing measures put in place by Governor Baker. This meeting was open to the public for live chat during Public Comment.*

1. Call to Order

At 7:34 p.m., Ms. Santiago called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay. There was no student representative present.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Sills reviewed the Personnel report with the members of the School Committee, which included the following:

Resignations:

Veronique Meyer	1.0 World Language Teacher	Lane
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Retirements:

Debora Sullivan	1.0 Library Educational Assistant	Davis
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Transfers:

Eric Driscoll	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Jayson LaRiviere	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	BHS
Rachel Mark	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Cheryl Pespisa	1.0 Special Education Teacher	JGMS
Kristen Tracy	1.0 Director of Student Achievement	BHS

Appointments:

Katherine Hamor	1.0 Special Education Teacher (SAIL)	Davis
Correna Hopley	1.0 Special Education Teacher (Mod Dis)	Davis
Joy Stark	1.0 Mathematics Teacher	BHS
Alexa Angelopoulos	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	JGMS

Jill Hedrick	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	JGMS
Nicole Pariseau	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	JGMS
Valerie Porter	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	JGMS

4. Donation – Equipment for IT

Postponed

5. Joint Statement on Budget Reductions for the Select Board and the School Committee

The Select Board proposed issuing a joint statement on the current proposed FY 2021 budget. This statement will be posted on the Town website and it will be published in the Bedford Citizen. If time allows, it will also be available in the Bedford Minuteman, distributed at the Food Bank and it is intended to go out with the School Budget letter.

The School Committee supports the joint statement and believes that it answers some of the most frequently asked questions. Each School Committee member agreed to sign the joint statement after a few minor edits.

6. District Calendar Update

A review of changes to the 2020-2021 District Calendar were added to the agenda for this evening. Mr. Sill asked the School Committee for approval of these changes.

The changes include:

- Elimination of three professional development days during the school year
- No school for students on Election Day
- Last day of school will be June 16th depending on snow days

Along with a few other edits, the School Committee supported these changes.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: To approve the Bedford Public Schools District Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

7. Associate Superintendent Contract

On June 16, 2020, the School Committee agreed on a contract for Mr. Sills to serve as Associate Superintendent from the period of July 1 to August 30, 2020.

The agreed amount at that time was \$37,750.00 but due to a slight miscalculation, the contract should have read \$38,039.32, which is an increase of \$289.32.

After communicating this change to legal counsel, it was determined that the dollar amount was nominal and did not require a re-vote by the School Committee. The contract will be updated to reflect the new amount of \$38,039.32.

8. Superintendent's Evaluation

Every year the School Committee must conduct a public evaluation of the Superintendent, which requires a formal rating and a commentary.

The School Committee rated Mr. Sills as proficient in all categories and exemplary in cultural proficiency.

It was noted that he set an ambitious agenda for the school year; the School Committee Chair went on to list the categories for which Mr. Sills was rated;

- Instructional Leadership
- Management in Operations
- Family and Community Engagement
- Professional Culture

The School Committee members commended Mr. Sills for his perseverance during a very trying year, especially having to deal with the Triple E virus and now COVID-19. They agreed that he has carried on with great focus towards district goals and appreciated his work on diversity and culture.

Ms. Guay lost connection at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the evaluation of Superintendent Jon Sills for the 2019-2020 school year

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Mr. Morrison Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

9. Superintendent's Report 2020-2021 Reopening Update

Mr. Sills reported that Governor Charles Baker and the Commissioner of Education have announced guidelines for reopening schools. Bedford's Reopening Taskforce has been hard at work ordering PPE, cleaning supplies as well as other needs to meet the guideline requirements.

Three reopening models have been created to outline possible scenarios for the reopening of schools:

1. Fully Remote – *Classes will take place online learning from home*
2. Hybrid – *Classes will be a combination of in-person and online learning*
3. In Person – *Classes will resume full time in school buildings*

Mr. Sills noted that the preferred model for learning would be the back to school full time in class model but he realizes that this may not be possible. Working together with the Bedford Board of Health, the School Reopening Taskforce is reviewing classroom sizes and making determinations of how social distancing can happen in the classroom using three to six feet spacing guideline. Mr. Sills said that there is roughly \$500K in reopening aid that should become available and he believes that another Town Meeting may be necessary before November 2020. He noted that buses will have to be staggered, teaching and learning will be impacted in the fall and he had concerns about the how younger students would deal with wearing masks. Mr. Sills concluded that the biggest challenge will be conducting teaching and learning in a traditional way and noted that the situation is still very fluid.

Mr. Philip Conrad, the incoming Superintendent of Bedford Public Schools commented that he appreciates the opportunity to meet the guidelines and he does not want to lose any of the teaching and learning for students. He anticipates a seamless transition.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tricia Clifford stated that a remote learning survey had gone out to staff members and she will be reviewing these results shortly.

Mr. Sills noted that he felt confident in passing the torch to Mr. Conrad.

The School Committee had some questions and comments.

Mr. Brosgol asked if students would be keeping their devices throughout the summer and wondered if there would be funding available to replace those that may be broken or lost. He also asked what discretionary options districts will have once they have chosen a reopening model. Mr. Brosgol also asked if there were any further updates on fall athletics.

Mr. Sills replied that the 400 loaner devices will be replaced using CARES Act III funding. Mr. Sills gave an example saying that, district choices could include decisions about whether a school has enough space to meet the social distancing guidelines for a full reopening or whether they would need to choose a hybrid option. He finished by saying that MIAA athletic guidelines had not yet been released.

Mr. Morrison asked what the timeline was for a final calculation for building capacity for each of the schools.

Mr. Sills said that it was originally set for July 15, but as of now, it is still unclear.

Ms. Guay rejoined the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Ms. Guay asked if the special education students would be in the school programs over the summer.

Mr. Sills that they are planning to have the special education students in over the summer but the state has not given final guidance.

Ms. Scoville asked if families choose to keep their children at home for a remote option, what is expected of the teachers.

Mr. Sills stated that the three possibilities for a family would be to withdraw their child and homeschool, choose an online program with state provided curriculum or choose curriculum provided by the school. He said that he is still waiting on more guidance from the state.

Ms. Santiago asked if the Reopening Committee had members representing different family dynamics such as families with health concerns, parents of students with special needs or parents that cannot be home during the day with their students.

Mr. Sills said that the committee had representatives from Boston families, parents that belong to SEPAC and other Bedford residents.

10. Minutes

Postponed

11. School Committee Reorganization

Ms. Santiago started by saying that this would be the last School Committee meeting that Mr. Sills would attend.

The members of the School Committee each took turns thanking Mr. Sills for his dedication and his wonderful leadership.

The School Committee then went on with their nominations for the reorganization.

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to nominate Mr. Brosgol as 2020-2021 School Committee Chair

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to nominate Ms. Scoville as 2020-2021 School Committee Vice-Chair

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes

Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to nominate Mr. Morrison as 2020-2021 School Committee Secretary

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes

12. Adjourn to Executive Session – Not to Reopen

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the Purpose of Non- Union Contract Negotiations at 9:01 p.m., not to re-open.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Santiago	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes



School Committee Secretary

11/13/20

Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
June 30, 2020
Exhibits/Documents

- Personnel Report
- District Calendar 2020-2021
- Minutes
 - May 19, 2020
 - May 26, 2020

