

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 5, 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 7:58 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Santiago, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay. There was no student representative present.

2. Comments from Public

*Mr. Angel Pettitt
North Road*

Mr. Pettit was concerned with device availability, gaps in guidance and student needs.

*Ms. Angela Carpenter & Mr. Aaron Carpenter
Clark Road*

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter were excited about the Bedford remote curriculum model but had concerns about the LMS model. They noted that if a remote option were chosen, they would prefer the option taught with Bedford curriculum.

*Ms. Kathryn Clymer-Knapp
Concord Road*

Ms. Clymer-Knapp said that the report provided does not provide enough detail for parents. Parents should be able to submit questions until Friday and she would like additional plan details

*Mr. David Khorton
Evans Avenue*

Mr. Khorton supports an in-person plan for students returning to school and feels that this is supported by the current guidelines

*Mr. David Kimmel
Concord Road*

Mr. Kimmel hopes that the learning will be seamless and believes that K-5 classes should be in-person. He believes that grades 6-12 may work better remotely and believes that creativity can provide the best solutions for remote learning.

*Ms. Nancy Wolk
Daniels Drive*

Ms. Wolk would like focus on solutions for students with the highest needs and believes that these students must be in an in-person learning environment. She hopes for a plan that will support all family needs.

*Ms. Stephanie Keep
Great Road*

Ms. Keep hopes that all options are as transparent as possible. She would like to see all of the options available for review now so that there is enough time for families to make decisions.

*Ms. Meg McAllister
Notre Dame Road*

Ms. McAllister finds the remote-only option to be disappointing and has little faith in online schooling. If remote is the only option, she would like the implementation of Bedford curriculum.

*Mr. Mike McGinley
Wilson Road*

Mr. McGinley feels that the first option is ideal; option two is not feasible where option three is. He believes that options four and five are substandard.

*Ms. Rebecca Wanglier
Newton LABBB Parent*

Ms. Wanglier called to advocate for some degree of in-person learning and said that her child has not had much success with online learning and she does not agree with the full online model.

*Ms. Ani Eskandarian
Dewey Road*

Ms. Eskandarian would like to see the option for outsourced remote learning removed as an option.

*Mr. Don Chaplin
Curb Street*

Mr. Chaplin is a clinical pharmacist and said that the statistics are on the rise. He believes that more parents should be prepared to choose a full remote option and would like to see Bedford curriculum implemented in the remote option.

Ms. Caitlin Buxton and Mr. Tom Fraser
Pickman Drive

Ms. Buxton feels strongly about the remote option, especially for families that have other members who are older or have health issues.

Mr. Tom Fraser
No address given

Mr. Fraser agrees with Mr. Chaplin and thinks it would only take one incident to bring all students to full remote. If that is the case, he would like to see the implementation of Bedford curriculum.

Ms. Erica Callahan
Woodmor Drive

Ms. Callahan called to voice her support for the hybrid model

Ms. Julie Samble
Curve Street

Ms. Samble supports Bedford teachers teaching Bedford students, Bedford curriculum.

Ms. Anne Gardsbane
Winthrop Avenue

Ms. Gardsbane also supports Bedford curriculum for the remote learning option. She would like to see the outsourced learning program rejected.

Ms. Elizabeth Stringer-Keefe
Alcott Street

Ms. Stringer-Keefe called to advocate for full remote learning for families who may need that option.

Mr. Seth Cargiuolo
Hillside Avenue

Mr. Cargiuolo believes that we should focus on 100% remote learning resources.

Ms. Marilou Dawson
No address given

Ms. Dawson supports district led full remote learning.

*Mr. Kevin Dickert
Glenridge Drive*

Mr. Dickert believes that LMS is an inequitable solution and supports Bedford based remote learning.

*Ms. Laura McLeod
Glendridge Drive*

Ms. McLeod called to say that her son is thriving in the in-person summer program and mentioned that he has had no problem wearing a mask or a shield, he is just happy to be in a routine.

*Mr. Bill Folman
Davis Road*

Mr. Folman hopes that Bedford prepares for the best remote learning possible.

*Mr. Vikram Kumar
Aspen Circle*

Mr. Kumar suggested that Bedford look to see what other towns are doing and he is not in support of the LMS model.

*Mr. Don Vinh
Glenridge Drive*

Mr. Vinh called to advocate for high honors remote learning.

*Ms. Kathryn O'Brien
McMahon Road*

Ms. O'Brien supports the hybrid model and believes that students need time with their teachers in person.

*Ms. Alexis Weisz
Loomis Street*

Ms. Weiss fully supports the hybrid model.

*Ms. Shaena Grossman
North Road*

Ms. Grossman also supports the hybrid plan for students and staff.

*Ms. Katie Green
Bonnievale Drive*

Ms. Green supports the hybrid mode. She said that the remote learning is not an option for her family.

*Mrs. Karen Morrissey
Wildwood Drive*

Ms. Morrissey stated that remote learning is difficult for her children and said that her kids have benefited from a social summer program. She believes the in-person model works best.

*Ms. Heather Davis
No address given*

Ms. Davis said that remote learning is difficult for her to handle as a single parent and an essential worker. She prefers the hybrid model or a full return to the classroom.

*Ms. Becky Venuti
Evans Avenue*

Ms. Venuti called to advocate for the hybrid model.

*Ms. Soraya Stevens
Radcliffe Circle*

Ms. Stevens believes that K-5 should be in-person and those students in grades 6-12 are more apt to mingle.

Ms. Guay lost connection at 9:22 p.m.

*Ms. Christie Martin
Southridge Road*

Ms. Martin asked if there were air filtration systems in the school buildings. She asked if the systems have been tested and requested documentation showing the test results. Ms. Martin also asked what specific filtration is needed as a requirement during COVID-19.

*Ms. Cintia Laurencio
Wildwood Drive*

Called to express her concern.

Ms. Guay reconnected at 9:26 p.m.

*Mr. Larry David
Ginnetti Street*

Mr. David called to reassure parents that the teachers are working very hard spending time working on remote learning techniques noting that the teachers are taking it very seriously

Ms. Patty Carluccio
Washington Street

Ms. Carluccio said that her kids were in a summer program and she supports the hybrid model and the in-person model.

The public comment time ended and callers were asked to email any further questions to the School Committee.

3. Personnel Report

Mr. Conrad briefed the School Committee on the latest Personnel Report.

Resignations:

Maria Ayala	1.0 Educational Assistant	Davis
Zuzka Blasi	0.8 Academic Achievement Center Teacher	BHS
Danielle Gordon	1.0 Academic Achievement Center TA	BHS
Kristen Johnson	1.0 Assistant METCO Director	District Wide
Jennifer Rabold	1.0 Secondary Literacy Program Administrator	BHS/JGMS
Hannah Turner	1.0 Literacy Specialist	BHS

Retirements:

Mary Warwick	1.0 Educational Assistant	Davis
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Transfers:

Linda Barbacano	1.0 Accounts Coordinator/Payroll Specialist	Central
Shauna Decoteau	1.0 Grade 3 Elementary Teacher	Lane
Karen Ford	1.0 Adjustment Counselor	BHS
Kimberly Perrotta	1.0 Grade 4 Elementary Teacher	Lane
Gina Piantedosi	1.0 Administrative Assistant/Payroll Specialist	Central
Maura Varney	1.0 Financial Operations Supervisor	Central
Lillian Younger	1.0 SPED Teaching Assistant/Behavior Tech	Davis

Appointments:

Elissa DeNunzio	1.0 Grade 3 Elementary Teacher for 1 Yr LOA	Lane
Tara Turner Kervick	0.5 BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst)	JGMS
Casey Thomas	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	Lane
Paige MacNeill	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	JGMS
Kailey Sparks	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	Davis
Crystal Kjelsberg	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant	BHS
Kathleen Defina	1.0 Administrative Assistant	Davis
Jennifer Lucey	1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh Tech	Davis

4. Reopening of Schools

Mr. Conrad gave a shared a presentation with the School Committee where he reviewed current guidance from the Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE) and risks involved of the decision to return to school.

He shared his recommendation of reopening school using the Hybrid model, contingent on health metrics, emergency preparedness and the school physical environment. Mr. Conrad covered multiple scenarios that have been put in place by school nurses that cover response, notification and the return to school. Staff members will be trained in the procedures and communication with families will be ongoing. The physical environment includes maintaining the HVAC system to mitigate transmission, mechanical engineering evaluation of all school buildings and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting. Government funding from FEMA, MEMA and several tiers of CARES ACT funding will be available to support the reopening efforts. Parents will have a choice with enrollment and transportation registration which will take place in small cohorts in person or online. Mr. Conrad mentioned that feedback and collaboration with the Bedford Educators Association is continuing and more critical data is needed to solidify reopening plans. He finished by talking about Extended Day activities and that the Fall Athletic season will begin on September 14, 2020 and clubs and activities will not meet in person until it is deemed safe to do so by the Board of Health and DESE.

Mr. Brosgol believes that transparency is an important goal. This is the first time that the School Committee is seeing the reopening plan, he was concerned about DESE's 3 feet distancing guideline, and he does not think that 3 feet is sufficient for social distancing.

Ms. Santiago asked if the re-entry plan would be gradual and if students would come back in stages. She also wondered how the schools would handle items such as art and science supplies.

Mr. Conrad said that the first three days could be used to bring students back in stages. He told Ms. Santiago that there are individual art packs for each student with supplies and if musical instruments can be used within the guidelines, it may have to happen outside.

Ms. Santiago asked if there was any questions or comments from our Boston families. She also had questions about who would set the metrics, if there would be a mask policy and a plan for a sanitizing protocol.

Mr. Conrad said that the Boston families have some of the same concerns as the Hanscom AFB families and the biggest concern was with busing. Mr. Conrad told Ms. Santiago that the metrics would be set by the state. He went on to say that, there will be a mask policy and a cleaning policy in place before school starts.

Ms. Guay recommends a staggered start to the beginning of the school year. She asked what remote days would look like for students. She also asked if there were enough devices on hand for our K-5 students.

Dr. Clifford responded by saying that student/teacher engagement is important. There will be support staff to assist with remote students. She believes that creativity will be needed to make the best use of staff.

Mr. Conrad assured Ms. Guay that there were enough devices for all students for remote learning.

Ms. Santiago lost connection at 10:15 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Ms. Guay asked if all students would be able to participate in Athletics.

Mr. Conrad said as long as it is safe, all students may participate. Mr. Keith Mangan is working with MIAA for more information.

Ms. Guay asked which students would be in “Cohort C”, the cohort that will be in-person 4 days a week, and whether or not it would be students on IEPs, students that live in a single parent home, and for students whose parents are essential workers.

Mr. Conrad told Ms. Guay that the makeup of “Cohort C” is still being discussed but some students may have special cases.

At 10:23 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called for a 7-minute break.

The School Committee returned and the meeting resumed at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Morrison stated that he currently serves on two of the five taskforces; he asked what the remote class would look like.

Dr. Clifford said that what it will look like would be in collaboration with the Program Administrators, Program Directors and the Director of Special Education. She said that the teachers are currently working on remote dynamic platforms.

Mr. Morrison asked if resources would have to be doubled due to having several cohorts.

Mr. Conrad told Mr. Morrison that streaming cameras in the classroom could increase support and teachers have expressed their interest in teaching students no matter what the platform.

Mr. Morrison asked if there were any other concrete remote alternatives. He also believes that the only option for remote learning for Bedford students should be with the use of Bedford curriculum. He also believes in a staggered re-entry plan.

Mr. Conrad said that options for a remote alternative are still under review and discussions are still happening with teaching staff.

Ms. Scoville asked the difference between home schooling and remote learning. She mentioned that she hopes that the plan to create the cohorts in alphabetical order stays in place. Ms. Scofield also asked if lunch has been considered in the hybrid model for students with food insecurity.

Mr. Conrad said that homeschooling is very difficult and a student would have to be withdrawn from school. He said that parents create their own curriculum plan that must meet school approval and then the plan is monitored.

Mr. Conrad said that the Director of the Foodservice, Mr. Ken Whittier, has plans for lunches for students in school as well as students taking part in the remote learning.

Ms. Kirrane noted that during the summer, Mr. Whittier operated a seamless food pantry program. She believes he will continue to do the same throughout the school year.

Ms. Scoville asked to hear the perspective of Ms. Heidi Porter from the Bedford Board of Health.

Ms. Porter was happy for the support of six foot social distancing in the classroom. She continues to promote the use of protective measures, sanitizing and cleansing. Ms. Porter told the School Committee that the numbers of positive testing in the town is well below 2% and that the numbers look great, as a community.

Mr. Brosgol asked about the dollar amount of the level funding aid by the state.

Ms. Kirrane said that the initial CARES amount was \$46K, the second round of CARES was \$609K and that the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) funding has not been approved yet but would be close to an additional \$200K.

Mr. Brosgol asked if the families that would be in Cohort C have been notified that they are in Cohort C.

Mr. Conrad said that the list has not been finalized but families will be invited to join Cohort C.

Mr. Brosgol asked what would happen if a student who was not in a particular Cohort, showed up to school on a day that they were not scheduled for in-person. He also asked what the capacity was for the nurses and if the preschool children would have to wear masks.

Mr. Conrad said that the schools are preparing for the situation of a student showing up on the wrong day. He said that the Davis school is currently working on the preschool plan and he believes all students will wear masks.

Ms. Porter said that the school nurses would be partnered with the Board of Health.

Mr. Brosgol asked about the impact of the cleaning solutions and if there would be any impact on staff and student health.

Ms. Kirrane said that an industrial hygienist has been hired and that the materials used are considered safe. She also said that documentation on this is available.

Ms. Santiago asked how the needs of special education students in a remote environment would be addressed.

Mr. Conrad that Ms. Marianne Vines is working on this and that each child's needs are different.

Ms. Santiago asked where the funding for the additional support staff would come from.

Ms. Kirrane replied that this is dependent on how Bedford will return to school and that the most recent pupil grant will help cover these costs.

Ms. Guay asked what the plan is if a student or staff member needs to quarantine.

Mr. Conrad said that Ms. Porter is working with the nursing staff to put the proper protocols in place.

Mr. Morrison believes that a robust plan for learning must be developed if there is a need to go to an all-remote model. He also had concerns for teacher wellness.

Mr. Conrad said that Ms. Linsey, head of Counseling is working on a social and emotional plan for students and staff alike.

Ms. Scoville looks forward to a hybrid model.

Mr. Brosgol is prepared to support a hybrid model with a parent's choice for remote learning.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that the Bedford School Committee approve the fully in-person, hybrid, and fully remote learning plans as presented and that the District begins a 2020-2021 school year using the hybrid model, furthermore should the hybrid model or fully in-person model be fully implemented, families will have the option to go fully remote if they so choose, and that between now and the opening of schools the Re-Opening Taskforces and the Bedford Education Association will continue to work on the operational details for each model.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that the Bedford Public Schools develop a remote learning plan featuring Bedford Curriculum and Bedford Instruction.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that the Bedford School Committee authorizes the Superintendent, between August 5, 2020 and the second School Committee meeting in September 2020, to use COVID related funding to hire staff such as special educators, teaching assistants and bus monitors as needed to contend with the needs of the school district due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

5. District Calendar – Review and Vote

Mr. Conrad told the School Committee that the Department of Education has reduced the student calendar from 180 days to 170 days with the allowance of those 10 days to be used at the beginning of the school year for staff training. The span of August 31, 2020 to September 15, 2020 will be used for training for staff members. Two days had already been planned so these two days will be held in the event that the full-remote plan goes into effect. This will allow two additional training days for staff if needed.

Ms. Santiago mentioned that the Governor has implemented a new holiday of June 18 as the “Juneteenth” state holiday.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that the School Committee approve the 2020-2021 District Calendar as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

6. EDCO, CASE and LABBB Board Member Appointment for Philip Conrad

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that the Bedford School Committee appoint Superintendent Philip Conrad to represent the Bedford Public Schools on the Board of Directors at the EDCO, CASE and the LABBB Educational Collaborative.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

7. Superintendent Report

Mr. Conrad gave a brief statement saying that there has been a lot of work done on the COVID-19 and re-entry and he will continue to work harder for the reopening of schools.

9. Minutes

Postponed

10. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 12:15 a.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Mr. Morrison Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Mr. Brosgol Yes



School Committee Secretary



Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 5, 2020

Exhibits/Documents

- Personnel Report
- 2020-2021 District Calendar
- Superintendent's Reopening Plan Presentation
- Minutes
 - May 19, 2020
 - May 26, 2020
 - June 4, 2020
 - June 10, 2020

