

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 13, 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 7:03 pm, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Morrison, Ms. Guay, and Ms. Santiago. Ms. Scoville arrived at 7:13 pm.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad reported on Classlink issues, iPad updates, COVID Staffing, BHS student performance earned recognition at the 2020 Unified Sports Program- Special Olympics. Ventilation systems have been updates and HEPA filters are in all classrooms. MERCE 13 Air Filter are also being installed. The Bedford Schools have sixty fewer students enrolled this year compared to 2019. SATs will be held on October 14, 2020 at BHS for seniors only

Following Mr. Conrad's reporting two members had follow up questions/comments. Mr. Morrison asked about ventilation testing and air exchange. Mr. Conrad stated that the district is well beyond where it needs to be in regards to ventilation guidelines. Ms. Guay raised a question about the decline in enrollment, and whether data is being collected from families about why they chose to leave the district.

4. Personnel Report

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

Resignations:

Meghan McGowan

1.0 Special Education Assistant

JGMS

Transfers:

Meghan Barnes

0.4 ELL Teacher

Lane

Kasie Costopoulos

0.5 Special Education Teaching Assistant

BHS

Linda Herlihy	1.0 Long Term Substitute Science Teacher	BHS
Tami Heywood	School Committee Secretary	System Wide
Shruti Joshi	COVID 4 Day Building Sub (1 YEAR)	JGMS
Timothy Moore	COVID 4 Day Building Sub (1 YEAR)	JGMS

Retirements:

Appointments:

Hyun Ah Chang	1.0 Educational Assistant for LOA	Davis
Cynthia Lentros	COVID 4 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)	Davis
Rachel Thunberg	0.7 Special Education Assistant	Davis
Laura McGinness	COVID 4 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)	Davis
Rakhi Naik	0.8 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	JGMS
Lauren Matachun	1.0 COVID (1 Year) Speech/Language/Pathology Asst.	JGMS
Richard Lyons	1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	BHS
Michael Powderly	1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	BHS

5. EDCO Collaborative Updates

Superintendent Conrad, recently represented Bedford Public Schools at EDCO Meeting and gave a brief reporting on some of the key points from that meeting.

6. Reopening Update

Mr. Conrad reported that all devices have been handed out to all students. New Chromebooks arrived. Transportation issues have smoothed out. Additional bike racks have been given to all schools from the town. District has had some positive COVID-19 cases. Social distancing and hand washing are being performed on a consistent basis. Bedford is currently in the yellow zone while some surrounding towns are in the red zone. Changes were made to some Lane classrooms with high enrollment in order to maintain a six foot distance between students. Was necessary to keep 6' distance. MCAS is on schedule for January and May. Once results have been compiled and parents have been notified, the results will be presented to the School Committee. Sports are happening with an abundance of safety measures in place for teams to practice and workout.

Several members participated in a discussion about the following topics as a result of Mr. Conrad's reporting. Members asked that teachers be told that their hard work is appreciated. Dismissal at Lane has greatly improved. And a few topics brought forth were:

- Teaching question from the previous meeting. 537 classes at BHS with very few 2 person teachers in a classroom. JGMS has 347 classes of which 92 are taught by 2 teachers, while 81 teachers and aids are the makeup of other classrooms. Davis and Lane are using a team teaching approach.
- What is the plan for snow days? Will they be remote days?

- What is the plan for distancing in January?
- If district enters red zone, who makes the decision to go all remote?
- Does a positive case notice change attendance?
- Early term assessment of students? Any impact from the spring?
- What support is district providing with regards to teacher wellness and stress level?
- Planning for 2021 budget needs to start

Several members discussed the need to start planning early for next school year especially if the start is similar to this year as it takes so long and lots needs to be accomplished.

7. Fiscal 2020 Final Report

Ms. Kirrane report contained some of the following information: We ended the year with a surplus due to COVID emergency closure. Savings were used to offset deficits in tuition and special education transportation. Higher balances were allowed to remain in special revenue accounts. Many special revenue account balances were carried over.

8. FY21 Budget Revote

Ms. Kirrane's presentation was a brief overview of the budget-revote which included information about salary and non-salary budget information. Unforeseen costs due to COVID-19 and welcomed relief from COVID relief fund issued to us by the state. The district was able to utilize those funds for things such as:

- PPE
- Enhancing ventilation and air systems
- Curriculum materials
- Audio/visual technology
- Additional staff

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: To approve the FY21 Adjusted Budget-Revote.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Mr. Morrison Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

9. Approval of Student Activities Account Maximums

Ms. Kirrane reported on each of the school's Student Activity Funds. Informed the members that the audit was moving forward. There is to be no change to account maximums from the previous year.

Mr. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee establish the following maximum balances for student activity accounts for fiscal year 2021

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

10. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., not to reopen.

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

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Exhibits/Documents

- Personnel Report
- Fiscal 2020 Final report
- FY21 Budget Revote
- Student Activity Account

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Brady M.", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

12/11/2020

