

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 24, 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. JoAnn Santiago, Ms. Scoville, Ms. Guay and student representative Ryan Doucette.

2. Comments from Public

Public comment is available through the webinar feature of Zoom™.

Participants are instructed to use the "raise hand" function in the software and add their name using the "chat" function. Mr. Conrad will invite the panelist into the webinar and each person is allowed three minutes to comment.

Ms. Patricia Carluccio

Washington Street

Read a portion State House statement on the guidance required to bring students back- why is Bedford not following these guidelines?

Erica Callahan

Woodmoor Drive

In favor of bringing back more students into Cohort C and understands the logistical challenges in doing so. Can Davis bring back more students in Cohort C even if Lane cannot?

Doug Horton

Evans Ave

Wants to safely bring back students to in person learning. Please develop a plan to do so. What medical science is the district following? Give that the district has steadfastly held onto the 6ft guideline yet just sent a whole classroom home due to COVID-19 concern, even though students weren't in school. Some parents want to withdraw their children and seek out private school.

Rebecca Li

Shire Lane

Wants a safe return to in person learning. State that the Town of Stoughton just went back to all in person learning. I don't see Bedford's plan for doing the same.

3. Faculty & Staff Wellness Resources

Dr. Clifford shared an overview of the many ways the counseling department is working to make sure they are providing staff and parents with the necessary resources and support during this difficult school year. The counseling department continues to support staff, students, and families with mental health and wellness in mind whether it is formal or informal in nature. All four school principals were present during the school committee meetings and shared the following "on the ground" observations and some of the ways they and staff are managing:

- Holding more frequent faculty meetings
- All four principals stated morale was high given the circumstances
- Teachers and staff are going above and beyond.
- Collaborating with one another to plan and support all students and each other
- New teachers are doing well
- Making themselves more visible to staff
- Conversing more with staff as the need arises
- Grateful for community support

4. Field trip to Ecuador: Andes & Amazon Adventure

Mr. Griffin gave a brief overview about the field trip to Ecuador: Andes & Amazon that had previously been approved by the school committee last spring prior to transition to remote learning due to COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Griffin stated that this field trip has successfully take place before and that it is both cultural. It is educational and a bonding opportunity for the students that make this trip. Mr. Griffin also stated that many students return to the area either in college or on their own. Students who sign up for the trip have the option to cancel with 100% money back guarantee through a date in Spring 2021, should travel not be able to take place in April 2022. Every effort is made to make sure all students that are eligible to go can do so even if the number increases from 22 to 24. School committee members voted to once again approve the field trip to Ecuador.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED to approve the field trip to Ecuador: Andes & Amazon to take place from April 14-26 2022.

MOTION SECONDED by: Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

5. Superintendent Report

Mr. Conrad briefed the School Committee on recent updates to the school's re-opening plan with regards to Cohort C students returning to in person learning:

- Expanded hybrid student population with creation of Cohort E with a very limited student body in 5 days a week
- Can we expand Cohort C, yes as long as we understand that:
- numbers are always changing
 - IEP numbers increase as a result of testing
 - ELL Placement increase as a result of testing
 - In- Movers
 - 149 moderate education learners need to get back to in person learning
- More capacity to accept students at some schools and not others
 - All students at Davis could return to in person learning
 - Lane would need to add additional staff and two classrooms to accommodate more students in person
 - JGMS and BHS could welcome all students
- Budget for all of this is \$122,000 from now until June.
- Hiring difficulties as Bedford would be in competition with other districts
 - Potentially bring back retirees without penalty
 - Use TA/EA's in teaching rolls

Question was raised about which group of students are not currently included in the plan to bring back more students in Cohort C to which that answer was: students with mild disabilities, seniors in danger of not graduating, ELL and other learners. A many number of students could include more than just Special education students.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to support expansion and implementation of Cohort C

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago Yes

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Mr. Conrad also briefed the School Committee on recent updates to the proposal for full day in person Kindergarten four days per week. Community is not set up for half days.

- Davis would need to hire three teachers and one assistant
- Borrow or purchase furniture

- Students will need to change classrooms and teachers
 - This would affect both in person and remote students
 - Some would need to physically change rooms but not teachers
- Change Wednesday schedule
- Change to specials would also be necessary
- Dismissal would be affected for K-2
 - Kindergarten dismissal would be 2:40 PM
 - Coverage would need to be put in place for the 16 students that would need to wait for an older sibling
- New classroom instructional supplies would be needed for new staff
- Work with BEA
- 75% of families wanted students in school four days a week, but only half of those families wanted their student in four days a week if it requires changing classroom and teachers.
- Teachers are very eager to get more kindergarten students back to in person learning.

Mr. Conrad stated that the total cost for this proposal to get all the Kindergarten students back in the building is \$284, 455. That cost includes transportation, needed materials, teachers, EA's. The funds for Cohort C and Kindergarten would come from reserve funds and COVID-19 related expenses from the town of Bedford but that a Town Meeting is not required to appropriate the funds needed to the school district. This proposal is being done to get more of our youngest learners back into school.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to support all day, four days a week in person Kindergarten

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago Yes

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

6. Job Description- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent- 2nd Read & Vote.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago Yes

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

7. School Committee Bylaws and Policy Manual

Mr. Brosgol opened the discussion around the Town Bylaws relating to the School Committee. The Town of Bedford Charter and Bylaw Review Committee is reviewing and revising the Town Bylaws. Mr. Brosgol asked members of the School Committee if they have any questions or recommended changes to the four Bylaws relating to the School Committee. There were none.

Mr. Brosgol then opened a discussion about the potential review and revision of the School Committee policy manual. Other members asked why this item was being brought forth with many other urgent matters at hand. All members participated in a discussion around the need to tackle this topic at this time given there is no urgency and many more pressing issues called for their attention right now. Some suggested that a subcommittee be formed to go over the manual while others suggested perhaps just one or two members read through the material and report back to the group. The final decision around this topic was to have each member review the policies and identify policies which might require revision. In a future year, the School Committee may revisit the process of updating the full policy manual.

8. Minutes

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from September 22, 2020

School Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from October 13, 2020 School

Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes
Ms. Guay	Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes
Ms. Scoville Yes

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from October 27, 2020 School Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

9. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:03 PM, not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

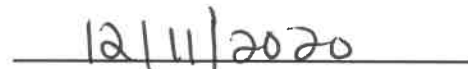
Ms. Santiago Yes
Ms. Guay Yes
Mr. Morrison Yes
Ms. Scoville Yes
Mr. Bosgol Yes

Exhibits/Documents

- Executive Assistant Job Description
- Field trip- Ecuador
- Draft Minutes



School Committee Secretary



Date