

## **BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**December 22, 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 Ms. Scoville, Ms. Santiago, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Guay (joined at 7:17 PM) 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.*

##### **Mark Bailey**

##### **Woodland Road**

Thanked the Superintendent and School Committee and stated they have earned the trust of his family. Thanked for regular transparent communications. Thanked all the teachers for their creativity and hard work. Asked the committee please keep up the current approach to ensure a safe return for all students next year.

##### **Kristen Matson**

##### **Sheridan Road**

Thanked everyone for their diligent work and approach to keep school open thus far. Asked to keep the agreement with the teachers. She likes the collaborative nature of all parties and would like nothing more than to get all children back in school as she faces challenges at home with students with different learning types and would like nothing more than get them back into school only when it's safe to do so.

##### **Erica Callahan**

##### **Woodmere Drive**

She was surprised by the data that was given at last week's meeting with regards to the low number of families (70%) that has accepted the invitation to join Cohort C. She spoke with Principal Beth Benoit and Special Education Director Marianne Vines to get a better understanding of the data. She shared her finding with the committee.

##### **Holly Munsie**

##### **Lexington Drive**

Thank you to all staff at all the schools. Her children are enjoying school. Bedford is making the hybrid model work and teachers are doing a wonderful job teaching while keeping all safety protocols in place.

**Christie Martin**

**Selfridge Road**

Thank you to the Bedford School Committee and Administration for putting safety first. Hard situation for everyone and has full faith in the committee to make safe choices. Teachers are doing an amazing job given the situation. It has been difficult at home with the kids but teachers are going above and beyond to connect with students. It was difficult at the beginning of the year but things have gotten much better with assistance from counselor and teachers. She is eager to send students back to school in the near future provided safety measures are maintained.

**Kevin Dickert**

**Glen Ridge Drive**

Hybrid/remote learning not going well for most but his family has had positive experiences from it. One child with challenging learning issues has gained more self-confidence, is managing her own schedule and classwork and only asking for assistance when needed. She would not have had these opportunities in a regular school year. Thanked everyone for the remarkable job they are doing and wants to make sure all safety measures are followed when making decisions to return more students to in person learning.

**Jennifer Cunningham**

**Middlesex Road**

Thank you to everyone. All three of her students are having a wonderful time. Children having some normalcy this school year. Kids feel connected to peers and teachers. She understands that others may not be having the same experiences and hope that more resources can be brought to more that need it so ever can have a positive experience.

**David Trant**

**North Road**

He has three children in the district and teaches in another district. He believes masks and social distancing are working in his district and in Bedford. Nothing is easy and nothing has been done before yet everyone is doing the best they can. Thank you to everyone for all they are doing.

**Nina Tate**

**Glen Ridge Drive**

She has four children in the district. Thank you to all the teachers that are working so hard. She hears the daily interactions of the teacher with their students and it's amazing. Her family had a relatively smooth transition back to school this year. When her student was struggling the team listened and came up with new ways to assist. She is impressed by what Bedford is doing since she knows other area districts aren't doing half of what is happening in this district.

**Anne Caron**

**North Road**

Thanked everyone for their calm and steady leadership and for exploring all the options to bring students back safely to in person learning. This model we are using is working we should not change anything. Please don't give up safety just to get more students back into school.

**Astrid Cruz**

**Battle Black Road**

She is thankful for the collaborative process that has been taking place since last March. She believes we all want the same things: a good education, social emotional health and safety for all our children. Thank you for the focus on education and safety. Let's hold on until the spring. A vaccine is coming.

### **3. Space Utilization Study**

Mr. Alani presented the School Committee with a presentation on full space inventory and classroom demo. He also spoke about the use of nontraditional space stating that although all schools have gym, library and cafeteria spaces that could potentially be used it would not be the best practice to do so for teaching purpose due to sound constraints, including echoing. Mr. Alani also made mention that existing structures in the classroom (i.e. cubbies) could not be removed. Administrators and teachers would need to be included in discussion regarding use of space in classroom. Mr. Alani stated that six feet spacing would be maintained and that increasing students to any classroom would not change procedures already in place with regards to air flow, cleaning and sanitizing.

### **4. FY22 Superintendent's Budget Presentation**

- Mr. Conrad reviewed the budget presentation with the School Committee with three budget scenarios as per their directive from the committee:
- FY22 Proposed Budget Scenario 1: Maintenance of Effort assumes a pre-pandemic school environment
  - Five major expense categories
    - Salaries
    - Operating expenses
    - Out- of- District Tuition
    - Special Education Transportation
    - Regular Transportation
- FY22 Scenario 2: Anticipated Budget for Teaching and Learning assumes a partial recovery with some public health measures remaining and additions to the MOE budget to enhance teaching and learning.
  - Proposed additions and reduction
  - Special Education programs and caseloads
  - Counseling/SEL support

- English Learners
- Human Resources
- **FY22 Scenario 3: Continued Pandemic Impact Scenarios** assumes no change to the current learning model with all students back in school with all safety protocols in place.
  - All-in for student recovery with modified safety protocol
  - All-in for student recovery with current safety protocols

## 5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with the following information: - all four schools participated in the holiday drive. JGMS had a fun spirit week with an ugly sweater, tropical paradise, PJ and dress to impress days. Flu shot deadline for all students was extended to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. Currently 175 students district-wide have not gotten a flu shot. School nurses are working to assist families as to ensure compliance. More students in Cohort C, Cohort K and Cohort G will return to school in January and February. Other cohorts are being considered – criteria and spacing and being worked out. Day to day staff coverage is very thin. We will need to create a plan to creatively utilize raw space in all schools.

## 6. Minutes

Postponed

## 7. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m., not to reopen.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

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

## Exhibits/Documents

- **Space Utilization Study**
- **Superintendent's Budget Presentation**
- **Draft Minutes**

  
 School Committee Secretary

2/25/21  
 Date