

## **BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**January 12, 2021**

### **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 7:00 pm, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Scoville 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.*

##### **Jen Puhle**

###### **Thompson Farm Road**

Ms. Puhle commented on the rising number of BHS students choosing remote over hybrid and noted that in person class sizes have significantly been reduced. She wonders what the reason is (i.e. rise in COVID cases, student comfort being at home, sleeping later, no camera on). Students need to be in the classroom. She asked what happened to the weekly counselor checking in with students that was in place in the fall? She requested that this weekly check in be reinstated? Ms. Puhle asked that the school committee please offer marching band to students.

##### **Stacy Chandler**

###### **Brooksbie Road**

Ms. Chandler stated that the bringing back more hybrid students in the spring is a mistake due to the rise in COVID cases and that not enough of the population will be vaccinated. Ms. Chandler recommended that plans to bring back students be for the fall and that the teachers and administrators should be make decisions based on student needs on a case by case basis, and not as a result of survey and home fatigue.

##### **Molly Almasetti**

###### **Thompson Farm Road**

Ms. Almasetti is both grateful and nervous about all kindergarten students returning to school and urged the school committee to use caution and maintain safety guidelines to keep students and staff safe when making decisions to return students to the classroom.

**Elizabeth McClung**  
**Winchester Road**

Ms. McClung is a BHS parent and a teacher in another district. She stated the students need more academic work and more class time. Currently a math course at BHS meets for 170 minutes per week as compared to other district. Ms. McClung works in; that same math class meets for 200 minutes per week. She said Bedford students are missing out on 18% of learning per week Ms. McClung commented that according to the state dashboard Bedford is near the bottom of the list compared to other districts with regards to actual time learning. Ms. McClung recommended that students have more instructional time this year if it's not too late.

**3. PR Report**

**Resignations:**

None

**Transfers:**

None

**Appointments:**

Michelle Jachowicz	Elementary Teacher (LOA Coverage)	Davis
Nicole Dello	1.0 BCBA	Davis
Jacqueline Nunes	1.0 TA	BHS

**Substitutes:**

Kelly Sullivan	Substitute Nurse	District
Julia Doucet	Per Diem Substitute	District
Christina Solitro	Per Diem Substitute	District
Thomas Greaney	Per Diem Substitute	District
Joseph Greaney	Per Diem Substitute	District
Dan Greaney	Per Diem Substitute	District
Savanna Fox Tree-McGrath	Per Diem Substitute	JGMS
Filippo Tazzi	Per Diem Substitute	JGMS

**4. FY22 Budget Update**

Ms. Kirrane presented a budget update to school committee and provided a memorandum which outlined the revisions to the previous budget proposals. Ms. Kirrane explained during her presentation that the 200k in lost revenue was due in part to low enrollment and a reduction in tuition collection from the preschool, school rentals and no ticket collection at athletic events. Ms. Kirrane explained that the state has shared some news on new stimulus bill that if passed will provide some relief to the budget. Ms. Marianne Vines, Director of Special Education also gave a presentation to the school committee to address specific questions raised at the previous meeting.

Ms. Vines provided an update on the SAIL Program, Extended School Year and related special education services provided to students throughout the district.

Superintendent Conrad explained that Governor Baker had just proposed pool testing for COVID 19 for all K-12 schools and that costs associated with it not included in any budget scenarios at this time. Details included:

- Volunteer program
  - 6-week program funded by DESE
  - Weekly testing
    - Students, teachers, staff
  - Focus on early detection
  - Identify asymptomatic cases
- Cost
  - \$120-150 estimated cost for pool testing for the period from the end of the 6-week state financed pool testing program to the end of the school.

Ms. Kirrane, Ms. Vine and Mr. Conrad answered as many questions/concerns raised by committee members regarding to the budget presentation.

#### **5. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with the following information as part of his Superintendent's Report: Breakdown of COVID cases per school in 2020 were as follows - Davis cases (5 staff/3 students), Lane (3 staff/3 students), JGMS (3 staff/1 student), BHS (15 staff/7 students) for a total of 40 (26 staff and 14 student). Only one case was deemed a possible school transmission by default based on inconclusive information through contact tracing guidelines. Mr. Conrad also spoke about proposed pool testing program

#### **6. Minutes**

postponed

#### **7. Adjournment**

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m., not to reopen.**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago**

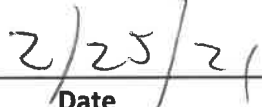
**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

<b>Ms. Santiago</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Guay</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Scoville</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Brosgol</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>

## Exhibits/Documents

- FY 22 Budget Update
- PR Report
- Special Education Presentation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
School Committee Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date