

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 9, 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 7:03 pm, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Santiago (joined at 7:05), Ms. Scoville (joined at 7:11) and student representative Ryan Doucette.

Note: Superintendent Conrad dropped from the screen at 7:27 PM due to technical issues. Although he couldn't be seen he could be heard and continued to participate in the meeting until the technical issues were resolved.

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.

Kelly Cornack

South Road

Ms. Cornack wanted to know in returning more students effects the budget? Ms. Cornack also commented that routine is important at home and that her child wants to return to more in-person learning days but not if that meaning changing teacher- too disruptive for everyone. Teacher in another district and hopes that teachers are being consulted as plans are being developed to bring more students back in person. Are METCO family's needs being included in these decisions? Is concerned the Bedford will lose teachers and families as a result of these changes

Stephanie Keep

Great Road

Ms. Keep wanted to thank the school committee for listening to requests for a public forum and for assisting in putting one together. Ms. Keep also thanked everyone for continuing to think of ways to bring students back to school this year and not just saying good is good enough and let's move on to September.

Brenda Kenahan

Caribou Street

Ms. Kenahan thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication thus far in the school year. Ms. Kenahan is a parent of a Lane student and is concerned about the survey Lane parents had recently received and was surprised that only two options were presented- all in (4 days) or all remote with no other choices. She is willing to send her child in for 4 day in-person learning but not if it means

changing teacher. Ms. Kenahan also expressed concern about the caliber of teachers the district would be trying to hire at this point in the school year.

Susan Ploret

Liberty Road

Ms. Ploret is a parent of a Lane student and is concerned about the recent survey she received. She is not happy with students having to change teachers. Says her child is upset at the possibility of having to change their teacher. Doesn't feel it is fair to teachers to have to make these types of changes this close to the end of the year. What are the health issues related to the increase in students returning to school? Would like hybrid option to remain in place for the remainder of the year.

Karen Morrissey

Wildwood Drive

Ms. Morrissey is parent of a Lane student and is in support of a 4 day in-person option for those families that want to send their child back for in-person learning. Can we lessen the 6ft restriction? Why can't we just go to 5 days in-person? Can cleaning be done on nights and weekends?

Leah Walton

Concord Road

Ms. Walton would like students to have a more normal school year. Would like to know how the school day changes with increase of students- change of classes- students lose classmates with these proposed changes.

Mark Bailey

Woodland Road

Mr. Bailey asked that the current hybrid model be maintained for consistency, teacher's health, inclusiveness for the students. Concerned with losing staff.

Meredith Wascko

Benjamin Kitter Lane

Ms. Wascko is supportive of more in-person learning model. Her child just went through the Kindergarten transition and it was a very smooth transition. Child is happy to be in school more and looking forward to the remainder of the school year.

Nick Howard

Daniels Drive

Mr. Howard voiced his concern for the current hybrid option. Stated that he doesn't believe it is working and asked the committee to please think about making changes to it.

Katie O'Connor

Radcliffe Circle

Ms. O'Connor stated that she is happy with the Kindergarten transition that recently happened. Her Kindergarteners are very happy to be in school for 4 days. Her other children want to be back in school more and she supports changing classes/teachers to get the children back in school

3. BPS Family Survey Response Review

Mr. Conrad gave a brief overview of the survey data that was recently collected. All four schools conducted multiple surveys to include parent, teacher, other staff and students at BHS. All hybrid families were asked if they would be willing to send their child back to school for more in-person learning.

Davis

- 91% of Davis families felt it was safe to have students return to school for 4 days of in-person learning.
- 56% said that they were ok with students coming back even if changing teachers was necessary.

Lane

- 76% were in favor of returning to 4 day in-person learning
- 27% were not in favor of returning to more in-person days regardless of the impact
- 36% were willing to come back even if some impact to students was necessary
- 37% did not want to come back regardless of the impact to students
- Overall 63% of families are willing to send student back to school even if some or significant impact was necessary.
- 84% of 3rd grade families want students to return to more in-person learning.

JGMS

- 60% of 6th grade families are in favor of returning to 4 day in-person learning
- 49% of 7th grade families are in favor of returning to 4 day in-person learning
- 58% of 8th grade families are in favor of returning to 4 day in-person learning

BHS

- 44% overall in favor of returning to 4 day in-person learning.
- Breakdown by grades:
 - 48% 9th grade
 - 47% 10th grade
 - 38% of 11th grade
 - 43% 12th grade

School committee members also voice concern with regards to student attendance at BHS. As it seems from the data and survey that parents and students are apprehensive about returning to school. More needs to be done to help students and families transition back to school.

4. EDCO Update

Mr. Conrad presented the school committee with a copy of the annual report. Mr. Conrad drew the committee's attention to the financial statements of the audit that was conducted at the end of June 2020. As is stated in that report EDCO is having financial difficulties due in part to low enrollment and impending lease payments to the facility on Middlesex Turnpike. Which raise concerns from the audit company. As of yesterday Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee took two actions, the first was to send a letter to EDCO stating that it intends to withdraw from the collaborative as of July 1-2021. And they also asked the EDCO Board of Directors to dissolve the collaborative. Students currently enrolled will need to find a new program to attend.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad jokingly shared that we had school today so that the Kindergarten students could get their valentine's in on time to quarantine then in time to distribute at the end of the week. Mr. Conrad stated that 1st & 2nd grade transition back to in-person learning would be handled much like the Kindergarten transition was handled. During that transition 161 students returned and 34 of these students needed to change class/teacher. Kindergarten students were excited and happy if they needed to change class/teacher. In order for 1st & 2nd grade students to return to in-person learning Davis will need to move furniture, 15 minutes will need to be added to EA schedule, 3 teachers will need to be hired for Mid-March until June at the cost of \$69K. All safety protocols will remain in place, Administration and staff will recommend any/all changes necessary for students to return to school including changing teacher/classrooms where appropriate. Lane is investigating all possibilities for returning students. Current survey data indicates that 50% of parents not concerned with changing class and 50% of parents not willing to change teacher or classroom to bring students back to 4 day in-person learning. Lane has a few scenario options: only bring back grade 3, only bring back students that are struggling, bring all students back. Seven teachers would need to be hired at Lane. JGMS/BHS are maximizing space and invitations have gone out to families to invite them back to in-person learning. So that all space can be utilized to get students back into school families will need to commit to one learning model and stick to it. Each school's needs are different.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Authorize expansion of 4 day in-person model at Davis school from mid-March through June 2021.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

6. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:53 p.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Exhibits/Documents

EDCO Presentation



School Committee Secretary

4/9/21

Date

