

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 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, Ms. Scoville called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Guay, Ms. Santiago, Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Morrison, Student Representative Prakhhar Gupta

2. Public Comment

No comments

3. Acknowledgement of Bedford Board of Health Letter

Ms. Scoville read, acknowledged and thanked the Bedford Board of Health for writing a letter to the School Committee with regards to recommending the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all staff working in the district. Ms. Scoville further shared that the district is continuing to collect data on everyone that works in the school building. Collaborative work continues to be done so to make a final decision.

4. BHS Musicals

Ms. Nicole O'Toole and Ms. Katrina Faulstich along with student performers Connor McClung, Mary Couvee, Cate Galante and Ben Couvee spoke about the two musicals that the BHS performing arts program will be presenting this year. The first performance will be "The Drowsy Chaperone", which will be held November 18-20th followed by "Mama Mia" in March. These performances will be the first in front of a live audience since COVID-19 started. The students all spoke with excitement and enthusiasm about returning to the stage to perform in front of a live audience. The students also spoke about the commitment it takes to any one production but that it was well worth it. Ms. Faulstich shared a short clip of the rehearsals for "The Drowsy Chaperone".

5. Shawsheen Tech Presentation-Brad Johnson

Mr. Brad Johnson, Superintendent at Shawsheen Tech presented to the School Committee a presentation about the many aspects offered at Shawsheen Tech. Mr. Johnson spoke about the relationship Shawsheen has with Bedford. It was also explained that some students can take and receive college credits through Middlesex Community College through concurrent enrollment. Mr. Johnson also spoke about the hands on experience students receive through the shop portion of the curriculum in addition to older student participating in CO-OP to enhance and expand their knowledge in their chosen area of study. Mr. Jonson also spoke about the similarities in a traditional high school and the differences a vocational curriculum provides to students.

6. MCAS Presentation

Dr. Clifford presented MCAS results to the School Committee. Dr. Clifford presented an overview of the results. Dr. Clifford stated that statewide results showed that many students had gaps in Math knowledge and to a lesser extent, English language arts, as compared to students in the same grade before COVID-19 pandemic with fewer students meeting or exceeding grade level expectations. Students in grades 3-8 went down 16 points in Math, while students in 10th grade went down 7 points from 2019 vs 2021 MCAS. In ELA students on grades 3-8 dropped 6 points while students in 10th grade increased by 3 points from the 2019-2021 MCAS. DESE will not issue updated district and school accountability determinations for the Fall of 2021. The 2022 accountability targets and lowest performing student groups data will not be made available soon. Some of the changes that were made during the Spring of 2021 administration of the MCAS are as follows:

- Competency Determination
 - Class of 2022 was awarded a competency modification in ELA and math upon district certification that students earned full credit for relevant courses in that subject matter
- Participation Rates
 - Statewide participation remained high in 2021 with the focus on utilizing the results for diagnostic and improvement purposes.
 - Students taking a test remotely had to have a similar test to those students that took the test in-person
- MCAS Sessions were given as one section and not two in grades 3-8
- Students in the Class of 2023 are required to earn a passing MCAS in ELA and math in order to meet the state graduation requirements. Students in this class did not take the STE MCAS as they can earn a modified CD in Science by taking a full credit STE class.
- New for the 2021-2022 school year- Students in 6th grade will have a double block of reading and writing
- Math at Davis and Lane will have a targeted tiered intervention with support of Title I

7. Top Level FY23 Budget Presentation

Mr. Conrad presented the following to the School Committee regarding the FY23 Budget. Mr. Conrad did preface his presentation by saying it was very early in the planning stages for the budget and that what he was presenting were talking points as to what is going to possibly be needed. A final budget will not be finalized until early March. The following are some of the areas being discussed for this budget process.

- Adhere to the 3.5% budget guideline
 - Reduce COVID-related expenses
 - Align with district goals
 - Create student-centered budget
 - Meet all contractual obligations
- Identify Unmet student needs
 - Assess K-12 class size/caseloads
 - Capitalize on opportunities for efficiency/consolidate
- Things driving the budget
 - Contractual increases

- Investment in Social Emotional Learning, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Literacy
- Additional needs
 - Preschools need for additional space for mandated services
 - Grant-funded part-time Reading Teacher-Davis
 - Part-time floater nurse due to caseload

8. District Improvement Plan-2nd Read & Vote

Mr. Conrad presented to the School Committee revised version of the District Improvement Plan from the feedback he received at the October 26, 2021 School Committee Meeting. A brief discussion was had around the revised document and the following is the vote as a result of the revisions presented.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the District Improvement Plan for 2021-2024 as presented

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 4-1-0

Ms. Guay	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	No
Ms. Santiago	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes

9. Superintendent's Evaluation Goals-2nd Read & Vote

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee briefly his evaluation goals as he had presented them to the members at the October 26, 2021 meeting. No further comments or questions were raised by any members of the School Committee.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve Superintendent's Evaluation Goals as presented.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

10. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad presented the following during his presentation of his Superintendent's Report to the School Committee. Mr. Conrad congratulated the AFJROTC on its recent inspection- of exceeds standards which is the high mark afforded. BHS accreditation visit will have concluded at the end of the week. The district can expect to receive a report in the early part of the winter with any

recommendations that need to be implemented. This Thursday is Veteran's Day and schools will be closed in observance of the holiday. Heidi Porter has been able to put together a vaccination clinic with 300 doses already claimed. Others wanting the vaccine have been placed on a waiting list. Some of our Fall athletic teams are still competing- Cross Country, Volleyball and Football. METCO conference is upcoming with the focus being equity/diversity goals.

11. Draft Minutes: Review & Vote

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from October 26, 2021 School Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

12. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion at 10:14 PM to adjourn not to re-open in Open Session.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Exhibits/Documents

MCAS Presentation

DIP 2021-2024- 2nd Read & Vote

Superintendent's Evaluation Goals-2nd Read & Vote

Draft Minutes- October 26, 2021

FY23 Top Level Budget Presentation



School Committee Secretary



Date