

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**April 28, 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 7:33 p.m., Ms. Santiago called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Ms. Guay, and Ms. Scoville, each member stated their name in a roll call attendance. Mr. Morrison was delayed and joined the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

**2. Comments from Public**

None

**3. Personnel Report**

Job Descriptions

Literacy Specialist – First Read

A job description for a Secondary Literacy Specialist was presented to the School Committee. The Secondary Literacy Specialist position; formerly called “Reading Specialist”, has been updated to reflect changes in the job description which focus mainly on reading and writing.

Mr. Brosgol commented that the job description usually includes to whom the person reports.

Dr. Clifford stated that the Secondary Literacy Specialist would report to Dr. Jennifer Rabold.

Ms. Guay asked if the person would require expertise and have certification in Wilson or Orton-Gillingham.

Dr. Clifford stated that this is not a requirement but she would prefer that the person specialize in either Wilson or Orton-Gillingham and they must be willing to train.

Ms. Santiago noted that the job description should also include “physical requirements” in the detail in order to be consistent with the other school job descriptions.

Mr. Sills said that he would have it updated to the correct format for the second reading.

Mr. Sills also requested that the School Committee wait on the vote for the first reading of the following job descriptions in order to re-align them to the proper format.

- BPS - Davis Elementary School Art Teacher
- BPS – Lane Elementary School Art Teacher
- BPS – Middle School Art Teacher
- BPS – High School Art Teacher

There will be no votes

#### **4. Rear Admiral Clarke Orzali Presentation**

Mr. Sills introduced Rear Admiral Clarke Orzali, a retired Naval Officer who served 34 years in the U.S. Navy.

Rear Admiral Orzali serves as the Commissioner on the Massachusetts Military Interstate Children's Compact (MIC3), which is a result of the passing of the Valor Act (2012). In accordance with the Valor Act, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides support and assistance to the students of active duty military families ensuring the timely enrollment and graduation of this mobile population.

RADM Orzali was asked to serve on the Compact in 2015. He stated that he is familiar with students of military families having to transfer to different schools as his own children had 17 transfers of their own and he became very familiar with what kind of impact a military career can have on an educational process.

The goal of the Compact is to make sure that children of military families are not at a disadvantage, the Compact works toward ensuring that military kids receive proper course credits, student placement when needed. Their purpose is to serve in a district impacted with military families.

In addition to serving on MIC3, RADM Orzali also serves on the Chair of the Massachusetts State Council along with Representative Gordon, members of the VA, the DOD liaison for Hanscom Air Force base, Mr. Sills and other superintendents from military impacted towns.

RADM Orzali reminded the School Committee members that April is the month of the military child and then went on to further discuss the challenges that military children face.

*The School Committee had some questions and comments:*

Ms. Santiago thanks RADM Orzali and expressed that the members of the School Committee members were honored to have him.

Ms. Guay thanked RADM Orzali and mentioned that she acts as a pro-bono attorney on Hanscom AFB for military families with children who have autism or special needs. She thanked RADM Orzali for his service.

Both Mr. Brosgol and Ms. Santiago thanked RADM Orzali.

## **5. Patrick Morrissey – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Book Presentation**

Mr. Patrick Morrissey, Program Administrator for the Math department at Bedford Public Schools gave a presentation to the School Committee on the adoption of a new textbook for 8<sup>th</sup> graders “Big Ideas in Math”.

Mr. Morrissey stated that the new textbooks would replace a recently piloted program called “Maneuvering in the Middle” and an outdated Course 3 book. He said that the new textbook is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics that was adopted in 2010 and revised in 2017.

Mr. Morrissey said that the current 8th grade curriculum lacks coherence and that the Math department has phased in new textbooks over three years for grades six and seven. . He believes that the “Big Ideas in Math” textbooks will solidify the curriculum in grades 6-8 at JGMS

Mr. Morrissey said that some of the highlights from the textbooks include:

- Rigor of the problems
- “I Can” statements in every section
- Streamlined scope of problems
- Kid friendly language
- Formative assessments layered throughout the teacher edition
- New topics in each chapter

Ms. Guay asked if this text could be used for remote learning.

Mr. Morrissey said that the materials are available for online learning.

Ms. Guay asked if this material will work for students who struggle.

Mr. Morrissey stated that the textbook is on a global level, his team has been working on this for the past few years and it is a widely adopted textbook. He said that he would be working with the Assistant Superintendent over the summer for a smooth transition of the materials.

Ms. Santiago noted that Mr. Morrissey gave a great presentation and thanks Mr. Morrissey and the staff for their hard work.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

**MOVED: Motion to approve the adoption of “Big Ideas in Math” eighth grade copyright 2019 written by Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell**

**MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville**

**MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0**

**Mr. Brosgol                      Yes**

**Ms. Santiago                    Yes**

Ms. Scoville                      Yes  
Ms. Guay                         Yes  
**6. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sills gave an update about remote learning.

He noted that the staff is transitioning to new concepts and skills and that he has met with curriculum leaders to discuss the skills that are essential for students to learn by the end of the year. Mr. Sills talked about what was missed and what will need remediating.

Mr. Sills said what was originally planned for summer curriculum will be dramatically changed and he discussed that the teams of teachers with curriculum leaders will work to plan to flatten the curve over the next one to two years. This plan is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Mr. Morrison joined the meeting at 8:22 p.m.*

Mr. Sills said that there was a dip in morale this past week and this was mirrored by both families and educators. He said that parents continue to be supportive of the efforts by the school and that the teachers continue to do amazing things.

Mr. Sills said that he would continue to work closely with the out of district placements, working with various state agencies on how to meet those challenges. He talked about gathering as much data as possible to help all students.

Mr. Sills said that he is working closely with Ms. Sarah Stanton and he will give a final update on the budget at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Guay mentioned that the guidance from the state has been a little erratic and that the state was talking about making up lost time. She noted that families are facing different challenges.

Mr. Sills said that next week is planned for teachers and staff to enter the buildings and get what is needed to work through the end of the year and he hopes DESE will offer guidelines soon so that Bedford can do what is best for families and staff.

Ms. Guay said that some districts are extending their school year.

Mr. Sills said that 180-181 days must be completed and that he has been asking for clarification and guidelines on this. He is hoping to have the date for the last day of school by next week.

Ms. Santiago acknowledged the unprecedented situation and thanked everyone for being adaptable and appreciates their flexibility.

Mr. Brosgol asked about MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association)

Mr. Sills that spring sports have been cancelled.

## **7. Adjourn to Executive Session – Not to Reopen**

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

**MOVED:** Motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non-union personnel at 8:36 p.m., not to re-open

**MOTION SECONDED** by Ms. Guay

**MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0**

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

  
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School Committee Secretary  
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Date

**BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**April 28, 2020**  
**Exhibits/Documents**

- Job Descriptions
  - Literacy Specialist – First Read
  - BPS - Davis Elementary School Art Teacher
  - BPS – Lane Elementary School Art Teacher
  - BPS – Middle School Art Teacher
  - BPS – High School Art Teacher
- Eighth Grade Math Textbook Adoption Memo
- Eighth Grade Textbook Presentation
- Big Ideas Textbook Sample