

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 15, 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. Guay, Ms. Santiago, Mr. Morrison was not present and student representative Ryan Doucette.

Mr. Brosgol opened the meeting by reading a joint statement from Select Board Chairperson Mr. Ed Pierce Board of Health Chairperson, Ms. Sarah Thompson and School Committee Chairperson Mr. Dan Brosgol addressing issues/concerns from the Town of Bedford, December 14, 2020 Board of Health Meeting. Mr. Brosgol made it clear the School Committee would not address or take questions in regards to comments made at that meeting stating it was not appropriate to do so as the School Committee has no power to govern over other committees.

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.

Corrine Garrett

Reed Lane

Huge thank you for expanding Cohort C and K to allow more moderate SPED students back to in-person learning. Ms. Garrett also expressed the need to work on getting students in grade 1-5 with the same criteria back into school as well. Cautioned governing bodies not to close out of panic but to utilize data.

Sheila Mehta Green

Glen Ora Drive

Thanked everyone for coming together in bringing students back for in-person learning. Also, wanted to make sure that more thoughtful planning for end of the year celebrations are being considered and not rushed at the end of the year. Would like all students to feel happy and excited when making transition between school next year or those going off to college. Hopes

the committee will look into utilizing all possible school and town spaces for the fall to have a more traditional school experience for students.

Kelly Horton

Evans Ave

Upset to learn all town officials don't seem to be informed about decisions being made that affect students. Would like a more efficient and collective effort by all town officials when making decisions. What is the plan for the remainder of this year and next year with regards to space?

Nicholas Howard

Daniels Drive

Glad about Cohort C & K students being able to return to in-person learning while maintaining safety protocols.

Katie Guerino

Bonnievale Drive

Losing faith in the system like many other parents. Echo's points made by Kelly Horton. Would like better communication between town officials involved in decision making.

Melissa Lynch

Caribou Street

Excited about Kindergarten students getting back to in-person learning for four days a week. Would like to work on getting more of the older students in-person more days. Her children are struggling with the Hybrid model and would benefit from being in school more than two days. Suggests that more survey's go out to family to see what is working and what is not. Feels that although COVID numbers are increasing they aren't increasing at the K-2 level so all students should be able to return.

Stephanie Keep

Great Road

Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to get kids back in school. However, asked if their might have been a more effective/efficient way to go about it. Stated that after 9 months of confusion it would have been nice to have a public forum put together to have all town officials that had a hand in decision making in a group to do a question/answer session to ensure the best and most qualified people are in fact making the decisions. As parents we need answers and we aren't getting them. Current hybrid model can't stand in the fall.

3. FY22 Budget Update

Ms. Kirrane presented the School Committee with a brief update on the FY22 Budget progress.

Preliminary budget will be presented by Mr. Conrad on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 to the Finance

Committee. This is the start of the budget conversations and we will work until we get everything where it needs to be to get the students back to in-person learning. Everyone needs to keep in mind that we are working blindly due to unknown factors and we need to be flexible when putting the budget together. Understanding that what we can and cannot do while looking at all possible avenues. We are hopeful for a full return to in-person learning yet we need to plan accordingly for all possible scenarios that may arise.

4. Personnel Report

Mr. Conrad reviewed the Personnel report with the members of the School Committee, which included the following:

Resignations:

None

Transfers:

Jessica Matel	Gr. 3 Classroom Teacher (LOA Coverage)	Lane
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Appointments:

Karin Kenney	Teacher of the Visually Impaired (Contract)	District
Jay Sunder Rajan	1.0 Teaching Assistant 12 weeks (LOA Coverage)	Davis
Tanya Scott	1.0 Phys Ed Teacher (LOA Coverage)	Davis
Kristen Murphy	1.0 Behavior Technician	Lane
Nicole Merola	1.0 TA/BY (ESY 220 Days)	Lane

Substitutes:

Cody Allatt	Per Diem	District
Camilla Tazzi	Per Diem Sub	District
Sungyu Han	Per Diem Sub	District
Cameron Shelmire	Per Diem Sub	District

Coaches:

Dennis Mitchell	Assistant Varsity Swim Coach	BHS
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5. Superintendent's Goals

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with his personal goals for 2020-2021. Mr. Conrad shared the three goals he will be focusing on as best he can given the current situation with COVID-19 as that is taking priority to all else. The goals are:

- Professional Practice Goal
 - Participate in New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP)
- Student Learning Goal
 - Support effective instructional practices
 - Regularly visit all schools
 - including visiting remote classrooms

- District Improvement Goal
 - Support the implementation of the districts literacy plan
 - Vision/Leadership and Communication
 - Assessment
 - Intervention Processes
 - Core Curriculum and Instruction
 - Professional Development/ Coaching
 - Commit to providing resources needed to prioritize the teaching of literacy in all areas at all levels in all schools.
- Support all three diverse communities (Bedford, Boston, Hanscom) so the district becomes more culturally responsive.
 - Engaging in culturally sensitive conversations of diversity, acceptance and inclusion
 - Collaborate with existing community groups, i.e., Bedford Embraces Diversity (BED), Parent Equity Council (PEC) and Boston Bridges Initiative (BBI) on diversity issues to find new ways to partner together.

6. Superintendent's report

Mr. Conrad presented the following to the school committee. All four schools doing Operation Holiday gift card drive. BHS doing a sock drive. JGMS public address system continues to be worked on. Some classrooms have been fully fixed while other are still being worked on. Spirit week will take place next week. Lane is conducting an Ugly Sweater Design Session – virtually.

Cohort C update is as follows: All four schools will be able to bring back Cohort C students on January 4, 2021. Lane will not have as much disruption as anticipated in bringing students back to in-person learning. Students in the Pilot program from BHS/JGMS are included in the students returning in Cohort C in January. Additionally, ELL students were able to be included in the Cohort C number due to the fact that some families declined the invitation to have their child join Cohort C.

Cohort K update is as follows: Thoughtful planning is taking place with all aspects of the transition being considered, i.e., transition communication with families, follow-up before, during and after moves have been made to ensure everyone has a smooth transition to new classroom/teachers. Furniture has been purchased and is due to arrive by the third week in January. The hiring should be concluded by January. February 1st is the target date to have all Cohort K students start four day in-person learning. If families do not accept invitation to join Cohort K their student would have to join a remote class.

Creation of Cohort G. This cohort would support upperclassman that are struggling and in danger of not graduating. Students in the Lighthouse Program would also be included in the cohort. Principal, assistant principal and counseling staff would work to identify students to invite into Cohort G. No additional cost to create Cohort G. Space Study Analysis will be forthcoming in the coming week.

7. Minutes

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from December 8, 2020 School Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Guay

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

8. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0

Ms. Santiago Yes

Ms. Guay Yes

Ms. Scoville Yes

Mr. Brosgol Yes

Exhibits/Documents

- Superintendent's Goals
- Personnel Report
- Draft Minutes



School Committee Secretary



Date

