

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 10, 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 7:05 pm, Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Morrison, Ms. JoAnn Santiago. And Ms. Scoville, Student representative Ryan Doucette, Ms. Guay arrived at 7:08.

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.

Ms. Katie O'Connor
Radcliffe Circle

Part of Bring Back Bedford Safely ~ Due to low transmission and Governor Baker's statements to bring students back- what is the plan for safe return to in person learning without compromising safety guidelines?

3. BHS Advisory Presentation

Principal Galante, along with student representatives Ryan Doucette, Mya Brewster, Annata Budhathoki, Alethia Chan, and Prakhar Gupta presented to the school committee an overview of the newly implemented BHS Student Advisory. During the presentation it was communicated that given the unique and challenging school year it was necessary to foster an adult and student connection. All staff participated in the 25 minute sessions with students to connect in a safe space to "check-in" on students that has little to do with academics and more to do with giving students a safe space to talk. Students expressed positive experiences with Student Advisory saying that they may not have had the chance to meet certain students if it were not for the program. They also stated that they often find themselves engaging longer than the allotted time and like that students of all grade levels are included in the groups.

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad gave the following report: BHS will be back to in person learning on Friday, November 13, 2020. Davis, Lane, JGMS are still in Hybrid status although BHS is in remote learning mode. As a community we are out of the Red Zone and back to green per the Governor's revised mapping system. The proposed FY2021 State Budget includes a larger budget line item for the METCO Program, the new State Impact Aid Program is moving forward. Also, the state Circuit Breaker Reimbursement rate for extra ordinary special education costs will be 70% which is slightly less than expected but still good news. Term 2 started today. The play She Kills Monsters will be performed by the BHS Performing Arts Department via ZOOM on November 20-21. State Impact Aid moving forward, Circuit Breaker Report states we are at 70% reimbursement which is slightly less than expected but still good news. Lastly, plan are underway to provide free COVID Testing to all town and school employees through the Fire Department.

5. Personnel Report

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

Resignations:

Shirti Joshi

4 Day COVID Substitute (1 Year)

JGMS

Transfers:

None

Retirements:

None

Appointments:

None

6. Hybrid Update

In response to questions asked at the October 27, 2020 meeting about opportunities to increase in-school learning of getting more students back to school in person the following was presented by Mr. Conrad, Special Education Director Ms. Marianne Vines, Davis Principal Ms. Benoit and Lane Principal Mr. Ackerman. All students at Davis and Lane would not be able to be back in person unless the 6ft guideline was not adhered to. In addition transportation and staff would be an issue as is available space at Lane. Cohort E was newly created for 17 student's districtwide to offer a full 5 day in person learning experience for those students. Five new staff members would be needed at Lane, two SPED teachers and two assistants, to be able to bring back more students into Cohort C. Cohort C not only comprised of SPED students, also has to

include ELL, students in difficult home situations etc. Some students would have to change classrooms and teachers. Davis could handle the increased number of students returning to in person learning. However, more staff members would need to be hired to accommodate newly created classrooms. JGMS would need to change 10 students from their current classrooms. Lane would incur the bulk of disruption. Other issues are:

- Inequity of bring some students back at one school but not another
- Maintain staff space for breaks/lunch
- Change to arrival/dismissal at Davis & Lane
- Teacher Burnout
- Parents being upset at multiple students moving in the middle of the year
- If Cohort C increased, potentially having no room to accept new students
- Change to Specials
- What to do with siblings if time of school/dismissal changed
- ½ day options

7. Bedford Energy Policy and Guidelines

Mr. Dan Bostwick presented an update to the Town Energy Policy. Mr. Bostwick gave the following summary: The Energy and Sustainability Committee made two minor updates to the Town Energy Policy one was to purchase 100% renewable electricity and the other new design and renovation of municipal buildings to minimize fossil fuels being used for building operations. Both of these items were previously approved in March by the Select Board and the School Board. The School Committee approval would also be needed

8. Data Wise Presentation

Postponed

9. Minutes

Postponed

10. Adjournment

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 PM. With the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020

MOVED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison.

Exhibits/Documents

- BHS Advisory Presentation
- PR Report
- HR Coordinator Job Description
- Executive Assistant Job Description
- Bedford Energy Policy and Guidelines Presentation
- Data Wise



School Committee Secretary

Date

12/11/2020