

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 5, 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, Ms. Scoville and student representative Ryan Doucette.

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.

Alec Sodberberg

Bedford TV

Stated that he would like everyone to know that the meeting is being recorded by Bedford TV.

Kelly Horton

Evans Ave

Would like School Committee to develop a solid plan for the following: Maximize space so that more or all students can return, send out a district survey to parents asking if they are in favor of bring students back this year or next, if we bring back all students what would that look like. Mentioned that school administration not health department are the ones that have the power make the decisions about students returning to school which was not how it has been presented to parents/community in the past.

Eric Georgette

Lido Lane

Would like to know if money can be allocated in the budget, for next year, so that JV Hockey can take place in the Fall as a large number of students entering 8th grade would be interested and the program would have a strong team.

3. FY 22 Budget Update

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with a budget update. Mr. Conrad stated that not a lot of changes have been made as it has only been three business days since the last meeting and that the budget process for FY 22 is very different than prior years. Mr. Conrad along with Ms. Kirrane presented a Budget Review to the committee of three budget scenarios. The new Federal Relief Bill was discussed briefly by Ms. Kirrane and she explained that it could offer the town and the budget some relief to the recovery budget since a significant amount of COVID expenses are included in that budget scenario such as PPE, Sanitation, Technology and Zoom licenses. More information will be provided to the committee once Ms. Kirrane has obtained it. Ms. Kirrane also referenced the Special Revenue Report to indicate the difficulties in creating budgets per those guidelines. The following is a brief overview of the budget scenarios that were discussed:

FY 22 Proposed Budget Scenario 1: Baseline Budget

- Needs for schools as if we were back to February of last year (normal year)
- 3.7% increase from FY21 budget
- This budget allows for maintenance of effort and programmatic increase that are needed, including student services

FY 22 Proposed Budget Scenario 2: Maintenance of Effort and Recovery Budget

- All students back in with some of the current safety guidelines still in place (unclear which protocols would remain in September)
- Recover by reducing class size in youngest student's classrooms to 16-18 students
- 7.1% increase from FY 21 Budget

FY22 Proposed Budget Scenario 3: Continuing Pandemic Impact Scenario

- All students back in with all current safety protocols in place
- 11.8% increase from FY21 Budget
- Included in this budget are PPE, Sanitation, IT, and Zoom License

After the discussion Mr. Conrad and Ms. Kirrane took time to answer as many questions/concerns that were raised by committee members as a result the presentation.

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with the following information as part of his Superintendent's Report: Cohort C and Cohort G students began 4-day in person learning on Monday at 3 out of four schools. Lane's Cohort C students will be able begin in a few days. Cohort K still being worked on. Principals are going over feasibility report to analyze school space, to be used to explore options of reconfiguring a safe return to in-person learning. Athletic season opened tonight with the boys' basketball. News from state with regards to MCAS. State will allow us some flexibility by changing some windows to the Spring and allowing seniors to pass classes and get competency determined that way instead of retaking MCAS. Also talk of using MCAS data this year for assessment purposes. ACCESS test windows have also been expanded and flexibly given to 9th grader students taking Biology test. This is all good news for the district and students.

5. Minutes

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from December 15, 2020 School Committee meeting

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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|--------------|-----|
| Ms. Santiago | Yes |
| Mr. Brosgol | Yes |
| Ms. Guay | Yes |
| Ms. Santiago | Yes |
| Ms. Scoville | Yes |

6. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 10 :40 p.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Exhibits/Documents

- FY 22 Budget Update
- Draft Minutes for 12-15-2020



School Committee Secretary

2/25/21

Date

