

DRAFT

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 2, 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 7:01 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.

The School Committee observes a moment of silence in observance of Davis second grade student Sydney Mirick, who passed away over the weekend

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.

Phil Prince

South Road

Mr. Prince thanked everyone involved for supporting the social and emotional health of all students. He is impressed with the remote option that Bedford is providing. He and his family have had great success with remote learning but he understands that not all families feel the same. Mr. Prince would like to Bedford to continue with the Bedford to Bedford option and not the LMS option if remote learning is to continue.

Sanjay Raja

Robinson Drive

Ms. Raja is grateful for the 20/21 remote Bedford learning option and understands the need to get students back to in-person learning but stressed that not all families can send students in to school for a host of reasons and the Bedford remote learning option needs to remain in place for the coming school year. Ms. Raja feels that if Bedford were to select the LMS remote learning option it was cause issues for those students that remained remote when reentering Bedford.

Sara McGinley

Wilson Road

Ms. McGinley thanked the committee and administration for continuation of Bedford remote learning option as not all students are able to return to in-person learning at this time; especially without a pediatric vaccine being available now or in the near future. Not in favor of a remote option that is not a Bedford option.

Side note: Ms. Santiago dropped from camera between 7:29 PM-7:31 PM

3. Open Budget Hearing

Mr. Conrad gave a brief overview of the three proposed budget scenarios and then left time for public comment:

- Scenario #1- Baseline Budget
 - Proposal for an increase of 3.8% assuming normal operations
 - Proposal is within \$127K of Town guideline
 - Proposal continues to rely upon \$450 K Town reserve for out-of-district tuition
 - Baseline Budget is unable to fully address educational recovery students
- Scenario #2 & #3
 - In-person instruction for all
 - Includes a continued remote option
 - Support student recovery from learning losses, as well as social and emotional challenges
 - Plans for some amount of social distancing by having smaller classes

Doug Horton

Evan Ave

1st comment: Clarification on Scenario 2- Students will be in school for 5 days. Will the remote option, Bedford for Bedford, remain in place? Are the numbers being presented in scenario 2 inclusive of these two learning options?

2nd comment: Is there any information if/when a pediatric vaccine will be available?

Sara McGinley

Wilson Road

Comment: If Bedford were to collaborate with “other district” on a remote option what communities might we work with?

4. FY 22 Budget Discussion and Vote

Mr. Conrad suggested that the school committee should present its budget “ask” of the town to include the Baseline Budget and additional cost of the Recovery Budget as a way to be proactive in the planning for FY22. FY 22 Recovery Budget additions would include- 10 FTE Teachers K-5 to achieve class size of 16 students at Davis and 18 students at Lane; add 4 FTE English/Math Teachers at JGMS and BHS and adds 2 FTE Special Education Teachers. Also adds furniture and supplies for additional class sections. Adjusts Paraprofessional staffing levels and substitutes, includes continued access to online and remote learning tools. We need to find best use for funds, Chapter 70 money, Student Opportunity Act and tax payer money which is always used last not first.

Lastly, Mr. Conrad asked the committees approval on the second scenario budget in the following format. A vote was take on each section individually by the School Committee.

- Approval of the baseline budget request of \$43,630,038 for the maintenance of effort (MOE) and additional needs, an increase of \$1,598,557 and 3.8% - including a net of 6.1 FTE in new positions

- Approval of additional salaries and expenses outlined in the Recovery Budget up to an additional \$1,444,957 and 17.0 FTE professional teachers
- A Town Reserve of \$450,000 for extraordinary special education costs (as was done in FY21)

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve to approve baseline budget request of \$43,630,038 for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and additional needs

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve to approve budget for additional salaries and expenses outlined in the recovery budget up to an additional \$1,444,957 and 17.0 FTE professional teachers

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve to approve Town Reserve of \$450,000 for extraordinary special education costs (as was done in FY 21)

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

5. Kindergarten Return to School Update

Mr. Conrad shared that on 2/1 the Cohort K students returned and all was well even with the shortened day due to impending weather on Monday and snow day today. Teachers prepped the students very well for the transition. Students were happy and knew precisely where they were going. It felt like the very first day of school. Mr. Conrad expressed thanks and gratitude to all the counselors, Riverside Trauma Center the Leadership team and St. Paul's Church for all the support during the difficult time at Davis due to the loss of second grade student Sydney Mirick. Although Mr. Conrad was not presenting his Superintendent's report he did share the following information

with the committee. Survey data will be ready to share at next week's meeting and Bedford has been accepted into the DESE Pool Testing Program. Bedford is working closely with the school physician, school nurses on preparing a letter to families explaining the process as well as sending out permission slips. Bedford Fire Department will continue with testing. Pool Testing Pilot program should be ready to start next week at one school. School nurses will be leading the testing.

6. School Choice Discussion & Vote

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with the option of participating in the School Choice Program which if approved would allow students from outside of Bedford to attend school here. He recommended that Bedford not participate in the School Choice Program. Note: Bedford participates in METCO and the agreement to educate students from HAFB is not part of the School Choice Program. The District that chose to participate are reimbursed at the state average. It's a blind choice- we don't get to choose students- so we incur cost for services. Ms. Guay abstained from the vote.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion elects to not participate in School Choice.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 4-0-0

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

7. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., not to reopen.

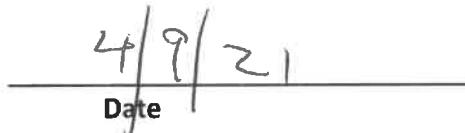
MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Exhibits/Documents


School Committee Secretary


Date