

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 13, 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.

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.

*Helen Pulizzi
Evans Ave*

Ms. Pulizzi spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples Day being recognized on the district calendar. Ms. Pulizzi stated that as a graduate of BHS she was taught to be an up-stander not a by stander and was concerned that at the last school committee meeting the vote was no unanimous of this issue. Ms. Pulizzi feels education about the truth in history is critical and asked the school committee to take a stand in support of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and be part of the solution not part of the problem.

*Lucia Drench
Wayte Rd*

Ms. Drench, a current JGMS student, spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples Day. Ms. Drench read a passionate prepared statement about inclusivity and the importance of not overlooking peoples pain and culture by continuing to recognize Columbus Day. Ms. Drench stated that we need to recognize Columbus for who he was and what he did to Indigenous People. Ms. Drench stated that as a student at JGMS she is taught to have, Honor, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect and Tenacity and that we should be accepting of other people’s cultures and the pain that some may feel by continuing to celebrate Columbus Day.

Anne Caron
North Road

Ms. Caron spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples Day being recognized on the district calendar. Ms. Caron expressed concerned that school committee members seemed to be hesitant on this vote at the last school committee meeting. Ms. Caron asked that the school committee take another public vote on the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples Day on the school calendar. Ms. Caron also commented that the school committee should speak for all students and families that attend school in Bedford and send a clear message of inclusivity.

3. METCO- Year in Review

Mr. Mondesir presented a review of how METCO has been going thus far in the school year. Mr. Mondesir reported that 89 students K-12 are currently in the METCO program, with the largest amount of students enrolled at Davis/Lane, 60 students are enrolled at BHS, 27 of those are attending in-person. Mr. Modesir stated that COVID had affected everyone. Families want students to be in school but are concerned about contracting the virus and/or being blamed for bringing COVID to Bedford, as Boston is seen as a hot spot. Families don't want to be subjected to that stereotype/stigma. Mr. Mondesir stated that METCO families have been recently surveyed and 62% would return to in-person learning in the fall. Surveys will continue to go out. METCO parents had concerns about the bus, teachers being able to get vaccinated. Busses were an issue students and the monitor over the winter with windows being open and the frigid weather. METCO was able to provide each student with blankets for the ride as windows were open all winter. Mr. Mondesir stated that with all the challenges parents were appreciative of all that was and continues to be done for them and their students.

4. Updated CORI Policy- 2nd Read & Vote

Mr. Conrad asked school committee members if they had any further questions or concerns about the updated CORI policy that was updated with the assistance of Bedford's HR Department and legal counsel to bring the policy up to current standards. No school committee member had any further questions and a vote was taken to approve the updated CORI Policy.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve the CORI policy

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

5. District Plans for Summer Services

Dr. Clifford presented a district plan for summer services. During the presentation Dr. Clifford stated that summer services were necessary to assist students with learning loss and to ensure most important concepts and skills are understood. This was brought about by the DESE guidelines that came out on March 9, 2021. Dr. Clifford stated that students in grades 1-5 would be invited to attend based on assessment data. Math, reading and writing will be the main focus. Summer session will begin on July 6th and run through August 5, 2021. Students/families will need to commit to attending all three days, this is different than Extended School Year (ESY). Staff hiring is currently taking place and materials for this program have already been ordered. Other summer learning opportunities are: Calculus Project, Extended School Year (ESY), online applications such as Dreambox, Lexia, Razkids will be available.

6. Midyear FY21 Superintendent Goal Update

Mr. Conrad presented an update to his goals that were presented back on October to the school committee. Mr. Conrad highlighted a few areas: New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP) has been very valuable to Mr. Conrad as he has been able to gain knowledge from other districts about issues that they have come across or not that maybe be similar to issues Bedford has come across. Mr. Conrad stated he has attended a vast majority of content meetings and completed a wide array of readings. He consults with his coach on a regular basis. Continues to work with leadership teams and is continuing literacy work with Dr. Clifford. Mr. Conrad has met with Program Administrators and Program Directors and has yet to have an opportunity to meet with Assistant Principals. Mr. Conrad stated that the goal that has been most challenging to meet, due to COVID, has been the Student Learning Goal and has been working on building a relationship, listening and looking at what teachers and students are going through in hopes of next year really being able to tackle this goal.

7. Superintendent Report

Mr. Conrad started off his presentation to the school committee recognizing BHS student and school committee student representative Ryan Doucette on receiving the Citizenship Award. Mr. Conrad stated that JGMS and BHS are finalizing their five-day in-person transitions to be ready to welcome students back on Monday, April 26th. The film and discussion for "I'm not a racist am I" was very well received. Mr. Mangan will be present at the next school committee meeting to provide an update on Spring sports. Lane traffic is still slow going and asks that everyone be patient and go slowly. Still working with DPW and Bedford Police Department about traffic. Possibility to use Middlesex Community College auxiliary lot for drop off and pick up at Lane. Mr. Conrad thanked all parent group leaders for their assistance this year. BEST is hosting a virtual Color Run this year. Diversity Parent Council has been hosting a book club. MCAS update: modified competency in Math, ELA, Science, students can take courses and not a test in these areas. Parents please check with your child's school for MCAS dates. Pool testing participation is still low. More participants are needed as free testing continues through the end of the year. Mr. Conrad asked that families adhere to the Governor's travel advisory during the upcoming vacation week. Please get tested if you are traveling.

8. Minutes

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve minutes from February 23, 2021

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

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to approve minutes from March 9, 2021

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

9. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 9:11 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

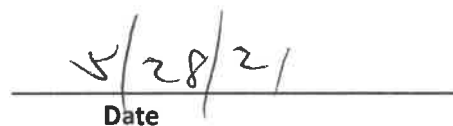
Minutes

CORI Policy

District Summer Services

Midyear FY21 Superintendent Goals


School Committee Secretary


Date

