

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 22, 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

After Executive Session, at 7:503 p.m., Mr. Brosgol called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Ms. Santiago, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Personnel Report

Transfers:

<i>Amber Loveless-Patterson</i>	<i>1.0 COVID Cares 102 TA</i>	<i>BHS</i>
<i>Kristofor Olson</i>	<i>0.8 Physical Education/Wellness Teacher</i>	<i>BHS</i>
<i>Tara Turner</i>	<i>0.5 BCBA (COVID Coverage – 1 year)</i>	<i>JGMS/BHS</i>

Appointments:

<i>Jalessa Townsend</i>	<i>1.0 Assistant METCO Director</i>	<i>District</i>
<i>Wide</i>		
<i>Francine McColgan</i>	<i>0.4 French Teacher</i>	<i>BHS</i>
<i>Samantha Thyne</i>	<i>1.0 COVID School Counselor (1 Year)</i>	<i>BHS</i>
<i>Gregory Hinz</i>	<i>0.7 Physical Education/Wellness Teacher</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Stephanie Forrest</i>	<i>1.0 Literacy Specialist</i>	<i>BHS</i>
<i>Dieuha "Annie" Hoang</i>	<i>1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Jeffrey Green</i>	<i>COVID 4 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Vidita Patel</i>	<i>1.0 COVID Educational Assistant (1 Year)</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Kristina Gorski</i>	<i>1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Lane</i>
<i>Julie Hunt</i>	<i>1.0 COVID Cares 102 Teaching Assistant (1 Year)</i>	<i>Lane</i>
<i>Kenae Powell</i>	<i>1.0 Educational Assistant/METCO Bus Monitor</i>	<i>Lane</i>
<i>Kenneth Budka</i>	<i>0.8 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Thomas Duggan</i>	<i>1.0 Special Education Teaching Assistant/Beh. Tech</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Taylor Rae Hawkins</i>	<i>1.0 COVID Cares 102 Teaching Assistant (1 Year)</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Cory Jordan</i>	<i>1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Zachary Kaufman</i>	<i>COVID 4 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)</i>	<i>JGMS</i>
<i>Alexander Oleksinski</i>	<i>COVID 3 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)</i>	<i>JGMS</i>

David Foster	1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	BHS
Hayley Katkowski	1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	BHS
Lucy Small	COVID 4 Day Building Substitute (1 Year)	BHS
Florence Wanjiku	1.0 COVID Coverage Teaching Assistant (1 Year)	BHS

Job Description:

Secretary to the School Committee – second read

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee approve the job description of Secretary to the School Committee.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Conrad reported positive feedback from parents as the students returned to school. The staff and students JGMS were entertained with a concert arranged by the Parents of Music Students (POMS), High School students were treated to Bedford Farms ice cream and welcome back messages were written in sidewalk chalk for elementary students. The traffic situation at schools was a little difficult but with the help of the DPW and the Bedford Police department, it is now going smoothly. Mr. Conrad thanked all that were involved with the JGMS paving project and commented on what an amazing job had been done in only six months.

5. District Calendar Updated with Juneteenth – Review and Vote

The District Calendar was revised to reflect the celebration of the Juneteenth holiday, which will be celebrated on Friday, June 18, 2021 if school is still in session on that date. This will depend on how many snow days are needed at the end of the school year.

Ms. Santiago wondered if a decision had been made as to when the two Professional Development days will be used. Mr. Conrad said that the decision had not been made yet but in the event that learning would go to the Full-Remote model, the two PD days could be used at that time.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve 2020-2021 District Calendar as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Santiago

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

Ms. Santiago	Yes
Ms. Scoville	Yes

Ms. Guay	Yes
Mr. Morrison	Yes
Mr. Brosgol	Yes

6. Remote Learning Decision Minimum Time Guideline

Mr. Conrad presented the guidelines for parents and guardians wishing to change students from one model learning plan to another. The Hybrid and Remote learning plans were based on the student enrollment in each of these plans, which was finalized in August 2020. Although parents may still request changes for their student to move from one plan to another, it will depend on staff availability to accommodate the students, class size limits and course enrollments. Students moving from remote to hybrid may be placed outside of their alphabetical cohort.

Ms. Santiago asked if there was a registration form and wondered what the first step for parents if they decided to make a change.

Mr. Conrad said that they would have to contact their school registrar.

Ms. Guay suggested using an application deadline but she also believes that the schools should work with all parents and families as their needs come first.

Mr. Morrison said that he was pleased about the school's flexibility and he believes that a timeline should be implemented for those wishing to make changes.

Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay wondered if many families made the decision to change models.

Mr. Conrad said that some families that had originally chosen remote have since decided that they would like to change to the hybrid model.

Mr. Brosgol asked if there was enough room in classes for new students moving to Bedford. He also wondered if changes could be made to accommodate parents whose work schedules may shift.

Mr. Conrad said that schools are near maximum capacity, the students could be accommodated.

7. Hybrid Learning Update

Mr. Conrad presented the School Committee with an update on the Hybrid Learning:

- Cohorts A and B in school for one and a half days each
- School lunches have happened successfully
- Disinfection and cleaning has taken place daily and in the evenings in the school buildings
- Bedford Charter has been working with the schools, traffic, procedures and processes have gotten better
- Mr. Conrad has gotten positive feedback from parents

Ms. Santiago asked if there has been any feedback from parents and staff.

Mr. Conrad said that staff is very excited to have the students back in school and that they are happy to have their classes back. It has been helpful to have students back to class to get them moving forward academically.

Dr. Clifford noticed that staff is excited to be back and she is impressed by the way that the students have become acclimated so quickly.

Ms. Guay wondered how Cohort C is adjusting.

Mr. Conrad said that he has visited the classrooms and that Cohort C seems to be the most excited to be back in school.

Dr. Clifford agreed and mentioned how impressed she is with the amount of work that the teaching staff is doing.

Mr. Morrison asked if there is enough bike rack capacity for students taking bikes to school.

Mr. Conrad said that the racks are over capacity but the Facilities department is working with the town to get more bicycle racks.

Mr. Morrison asked for an overview of how the classroom teaching was taking place. He asked how a transition to all in-person or all remote would happen and believes a plan should be started now so that the schools are prepared in advance.

Dr. Clifford said that there are very few single teacher classrooms. She agreed with Mr. Morrison and noted that there is some information on hand that was researched by the Reopening Task Force.

Ms. Guay believes that we are off to a good start and that parents are pleased.

Ms. Scoville was excited about the small class sizes and asked what the maximum capacity is for students on the bus.

Ms. Kirrane said that there is no bus capacity but bus registration has been set up on the transportation website. The website is kept up to date and so far, there have been no issues with capacity, including late buses.

Ms. Scoville mentioned that she heard that some families were keeping kindergarten students out of school for the year and have decided instead, to enroll them in the next school year.

Mr. Conrad said that the enrollment is down and believes that there will be an increased enrollment next year.

Dr. Clifford doesn't think that it will be too overwhelming and mentioned that is has happened across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Brosgol feels that the role of the School Committee is to support the students of Bedford in their learning. He understands that the six-foot guideline, the absence of a vaccine and the absence of guidelines are obstacles to returning to an all in-person learning model. Mr. Brosgol understands that it is difficult for working families with students learning at home but he believes that it will take the School Committee, the Board of Health, the Superintendent and school leadership working together to make decisions but at same time believes that decisions should not be rushed to have an all in-person learning model.

8. Annual Report – Review and Vote

Mr. Conrad presented the Annual Report to the School Committee. After review, a few minor edits were suggested.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the Bedford Public Schools Annual Report FY20 (2019-2020) as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

9. District Improvement Plan 2019-2021

Mr. Conrad presented the District Improvement Plan, which outlined:

- Overarching Vision
- Overarching Theory of Action
- District-wide Strategic Objectives
 - Coherent, Higher Order Thinking Curriculum/Student Centered Learning
 - Equity and Diversity: Teaching All Students and Building Community
 - Collaborative Professional Culture
 - Long-term Planning, Communication and Community Support

The School Committee reviewed the plan and had a few comments on changes they may like to see on a future District Improvement Plan but agreed the changes were not necessary at this time.

Ms. Guay briefly lost connection at 8:23 p.m. and was reconnected at 8:24 p.m.

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the District Improvement Plan 2019-2021

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

10. School Committee Liaisons 2020-2021

School Committee Chair	Mr. Dan Brosgol
School Committee Vice-Chair	Ms. Sarah Scoville
School Committee Secretary	Mr. Brad Morrison

Liaisons

Finance Committee	Mr. Brosgol Ms. Santiago Ms. Scoville
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Fiscal Planning and Coordinating Committee	Mr. Brosgol
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Capital Expenditure Committee	Ms. Scoville
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EDCO	Ms. Guay
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Youth & Family Services	Ms. Scoville
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Bedford Community Partnership	Ms. Scoville
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Youth Task Force	Mr. Morrison
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Charter and Bylaw	Mr. Brosgol
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Monthly Community Meeting	Ms. Scoville
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Reopening Committee	Mr. Morrison
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11. Minutes

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 School Committee meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: That the School Committee votes to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 School Committee meeting as amended.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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

12. Adjournment

Ms. Santiago made the following motion:


MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m., not to reopen.

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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


 School Committee Secretary


 Date

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 22, 2020
Exhibits/Documents

- Personnel Report
- Guidelines for Remote Learning Decision
- 2020-2021 Calendar Updated Draft 9-14-2020
- 2019-2021 BPS District Improvement Plan – Final
- Minutes
 - May 19, 2020
 - May 26, 2020