

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 9, 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 7:34 p.m., Ms. Santiago called to order the meeting of the Bedford School Committee. Other members present included Mr. Brosgol, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Guay; each member stated their name in a roll call attendance. There were no student representatives present this evening.

2. Comments from Public

None

3. Proposed Change to the 2019-2020 School Calendar/Cancel April Vacation

Mr. Sills sent a survey to concerning the cancellation of the 2019- 2020 change to the school calendar to cancel April Vacation, which was to take place from April 20 to April 24, 2020. The cancellation is to make up for lost school days due to the current Covid-19 crisis. Mr. Sills said that there were over 1700 respondents to the survey and the outcome was 91% of community members in favor of the cancellation of April Vacation for students. Mr. Sills said that Bedford would have school through the 181st day, which does not include snow days or the Governor's closure. He noted that four days will be added back to make up snow days. Mr. Sills proposed June 24, 2020 as the last day of school.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: To amend the 2019-2020 Bedford Public Schools Calendar to reflect the cancellation of April Vacation and the date of June 24, 2020 as the last day of school

MOTION SECONDED by Ms. Scoville

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

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

4. Approve Temporary Authority to Chair as Sole Signatory for MOUs/Contracts Closure

Mr. Sills proposed a temporary authorization for the School Committee Chair to be the sole signatory for contracts, memorandums and warrants during the school closure. He explained that this is for efficiency purposes.

Ms. Kirrane would like to add language to include accounts payable warrants to the motion and suggested that PDF versions of the warrants could be circulated to the members of the School Committee.

Mr. Sills agrees.

Mr. Morrison requested the addition of "PDF versions of the warrants will be circulated to the School Committee" to the motion.

Ms. Scoville made the following motion:

MOVED: To approve the School Committee Chair to act as the sole signatory for MOU's, Contracts, Memorandums and Accounts Payable Warrants during the period of closure due to the Covid-19 with the circulation of PDF copies of the AP Warrants to all School Committee members.

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0

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

5. Approval to Pay Employees during Covid-19 School Closure

Per a memo from Ms. Julie Kirrane, Director of Finance and Mr. Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools, a proposal for a continuation to pay the salary of all part time and full time permanent staff during the emergency closure for the period of March 24 to May 4, 2020 due to Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Stay At Home order.

This does not include day subs and does not limit the rights to vacation, sick days or impede the rights of any employee. If the closure continues past May 4, 2020, the district reserves the right to make necessary changes.

"Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Stay at Home Advisory clarified that K-12 public education staff are essential. Further, school employees are continuing to work remotely to deliver or assist with online learning and enrichment, educational continuity and connection to school for students as well as administrative and operational continuity for the district. Therefore, school employees are paid during the COVID-19 emergency closure through May 4, 2020 and are expected to resume work when the emergency closure is over."

Contracted Services Payments

Consistent with recommendations provided by Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Bedford Public Schools will continue payments to contracted service providers including:

- 1) tuition payments for resident students enrolled in certain public school programs,
- 2) tuition payments for resident students enrolled in out-of-district day or residential special education programs,
- 3) payments for contracted special education related service providers, and
- 4) outsourced required operational services, such as school transportation.

Mr. Brosgol asked if staff members were still accruing sick and vacation time during the closure.

Mr. Sills yes and that the majority of staff are presently working from home.

Mr. Morrison said that he is in full support.

Ms. Guay asked if there were substitutes available if a teacher became ill.

Mr. Sills said that he has not encountered this yet but was confident that a member of that teacher's team would pick up that responsibility. He noted that learning is team based at this time.

Ms. Scoville said that she feels this is a great idea and that she has seen the teacher collaboration first hand and can see how another teacher would be able to pick up another teacher's class if needed.

Mr. Sills mentioned that instructional coaches and team leaders could also become available to help if necessary.

Ms. Santiago asked about the needs of the students in special education classes.

Mr. Sills stated that the Special Education department is working hard and reaching out to kids with phone calls and digitally. He said that he is activating teaching assistants to provide support to students saying that it is a work in progress. Mr. Sills commended Ms. Marianne Vines, Director of Special Education for working on this continuously.

Ms. Santiago thanked the school faculty and staff for their flexibility and hard work.

Mr. Morrison made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion that during the period starting March 16, 2020 to May 4, 2020 closure of all public schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year, hereinafter referred to as the "Closure Period," the Bedford Public Schools, subject to the approved FY20 budget appropriation, shall pay the regular wages for work days during the Closure Period to each employee of the Bedford Public Schools, excluding day substitutes, provided that each such employee to be paid performs work to be requested or required by the employee's supervisor during the work days to be paid in the Closure Period. Nothing in this motion limits any rights that any employee may have to take vacation, sick, or personal leave during the Closure Period. All employee responsibilities remain in place during this Closure Period. Nothing in this motion limits any employer rights.

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

6. Adjourn into Executive Session, Not to Reopen

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. for the purpose of Non-Union Contract Negotiations, not to reopen

MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Morrison

MOTION APPROVED 5-0-0

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


School Committee Secretary


Date

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Exhibits/Documents

April 9, 2020 Memo

- Continuation of Salary Payments
- Continuation of Contracted Services Payments