

BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 10, 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 12:05 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. There was no student representative present.

Ms. Guay lost connection at 12:08 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

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. Sills will invite the panelist into the webinar and each person is allowed five minutes to comment.

*Mr. Richard Doherty
Elm Street*

Accepts budget reduction, urges third grade World Language to be the last reduction. Should not make decisions without Literacy Committee recommendations.

*Ms. Sheila Mehta-Green
Glenora Drive*

Wondered how teachers would be prepared to teach virtual learning with cuts in professional development

*Mr. Ron Yaniv
Wilson Road*

Believes special education students have suffered the most losing face-to-face services and thinks that the special education staff should be increased. Suggested that pro-rated cuts should be made to all departments including police department.

*Ms. Susan Andelman
Redcoat Road*

Asked if there was a consideration to reduce busing for the school year. Believes most parents will not want their children on the school bus with the pandemic.

Ms. Carolyn Weber
Old Stagecoach Road

In reference to the Bedford Police Department renovation, 6M+ bond authorization out of 23M available funds. Believes the schools and student education is more important than a new police station.

Ms. Nancy Wolk
Daniels Drive

Agrees that special education students are suffering the most during the remote learning. Very concerned about the cuts.

Ms. Ann Caron
North Road

All students, not just special education students, are finding the remote learning difficult. Does not think EAs and TAs should be cut, they are too important for the needs of students.

Ms. Pam Nelson
Liberty Road

Supports all previous comments. Looking at the overall budget for town and school, believes that the schools are absorbing most of the cuts which will have an impact on all students.

3. New FY21 Budget Numbers

Ms. Santiago started by mentioning that cuts to the budget have been made in conjunction with other committees of the town and that the schools do take up a disproportionate share of the budget. She mentioned that there is a 608K cut to the FY21 budget on the Town side as well.

Mr. Sills stated that the vote that will take place today is only for the final FY21 budget number due to the timing of the Select Board's meeting and that specific details on the cuts will follow at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Sills requested a motion to reduce the present budget by \$1,278,000.00

Mr. Morrison had questions on the true number of the budget reduction. He believes that it should be \$996,379.00 and went on to ask for clarification.

Ms. Santiago explained that the additional \$281,621.00 is lost revenue for the school.

Mr. Sills believes that the number is \$1,278,000.00 plus the \$200,000.00 loss.

Ms. Kirrane agreed with Mr. Sills and said that in every town, the schools take more than half of the town's annual budget. She said that it is usually a 60/40 split.

Mr. Brosgol accepts the cuts and believes that this is the first step in a multi-year recovery. He feels it is impossible to speculate at this time and that the vote today is only for the budget number.

Ms. Guay, Ms. Scoville and Ms. Santiago also agree with the agreed budget number.

Mr. Sills would like a 450K reserve fund transfer for special education to be included in the vote.

Mr. Brosgol made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to reduce the FY21 Budget of \$43,308,918.00 and adjust it to \$43,309,459.00 with a \$450,000.00 Reserve Fund transfer after FINCOM approval, a reduction of \$1,278,000.00

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

4. Adjournment

Ms. Guay made the following motion:

MOVED: Motion to adjourn at 12:52 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

6/10/20

Date

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Exhibits/Documents