



2021
TOWN
ELECTION



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

DANIEL H. BROSGOL

INCUMBENT

FINAL STATEMENT ~ MARCH 5, 2021

Citizens of Bedford, Last year we held our Town Election just as Covid-19 arrived in Bedford. I'll never forget that day at JGMS, as everyone took their first stab at social distancing and nobody could really believe what was happening. It's hard to believe that a full year has passed, and we find ourselves about to have municipal elections again.

For many of us, it's been a year that has felt like a decade. The changes and disruptions to every facet of our lives have impacted all of us in profound ways, and forced us to change much of how we go through our days.

The same can be said for the work of the School Committee.

Never before have our meetings been so well-attended. Never before have we received so much feedback, email, or public comment. Never before have we had to drastically change our model of educating our children. Never before have we been so fearful cognizant the health, safety, and well-being of our students and our staff during the school day. Never before have we met so often, and until such a late hour, to face the challenges presented by a public health emergency.

Balancing the weight of the pandemic and the responsibility of providing a world-class education for the 2700 children in our school district has been a delicate task this year, but I am very proud of the course that our committee has steered and that I have helped chart as chairperson. We have consistently moved forwards, and not backwards, on the path towards bringing children back safely, we have engaged in constant dialogue with our staff, our families, and Bedford's other appointed and elected boards, and we have done so in a process that has been completely public and transparent.

At the same time, our role in the education of our children is minimal compared to the incredible

work of our superintendent and principals, and the dedicated efforts of our faculty and staff, who have committed themselves to our children in ways that are really impossible to put into words. Our committee has the luxury of taking votes and then watching what happens, but the implementation of our vision has been nothing short of remarkable. Bedford's educators are truly exceptional, and without their partnership and buy-in, this year would not have been possible.

Year after year, and especially this year, the Town and its citizens continue to voice their full-throated support for our schools and our children. The past several years of unanimous approvals for our building projects and budgets still give me goosebumps, and this year, as we have made additional budget requests in the face of Covid-19, we have always received the funds that our children need. I take great pride in being a part of that process and remain humbled and amazed by how this town always works together to support the needs not just of the schools, but of all its departments.

I look forward to serving Bedford and our children as we shepherd them through the gradual end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy. Thank you for supporting our schools this year, and thank you for considering casting your vote for me on March 13.

Be well and stay safe... better days are coming soon.

VIDEO PSA, THANKS TO BEDFORD TV

[Click this link to watch Dan Brosgol's video PSA](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AS OF MARCH 8, 2021

- [Lauren Dorn-Jones](#)
- [Erica Callahan](#)

QUESTIONS ~ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

What do you identify as the key determinants for the mental and physical health of students to return to a classroom setting? What resources inform your position?

Data and evidence shows that the risk of in-school transmission of Covid-19 is negligible in the Bedford Public Schools and that our safety protocols have effectively limited the spread of Covid-19 in our buildings. The School Committee has affirmed its commitment to a full in-person return for all students this fall and has continued with a deliberate, phased reopening of school buildings since late Fall in partnership with our faculty and staff. This position is informed by research and guidance issued by the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

What additional resources does the School Department need to address any lingering issues in student academic growth as a result of pandemic?

The School Committee has proposed a Covid-19 recovery budget for FY22 that is a 7.2% increase over FY21- substantially higher than the 3.5% guideline that the School Department received from the Finance Committee. This request allows for a full K-12 in-person return in September with a particular emphasis on reduced class sizes in our elementary schools to allow for more individualized and small-group instruction. This request also adds additional staff at JGMS and BHS to support English, Math, and Special Education instruction for our older students and introduces a new mathematics curriculum at the Lane School.

INITIAL STATEMENT

Citizens of Bedford;

I am pleased to announce my intention to run for re-election this March to the Bedford School Committee for another three-year term.

I have had the privilege of serving on the School Committee since 2015, during which time we have tackled meaningful issues including building additions, enrollment growth, the ongoing development of in-house special education programs, the rollout of second-generation MCAS, and more. While that was interesting and challenging, since the arrival of Covid-19, the intensity and complexity of our work has increased significantly. Since March we have concluded a search for a new superintendent, made cuts to our budget when the Town's financial position required them, pivoted to hybrid learning in August, and continuously reviewed our model since we opened school in September. We have tackled these challenges head-on and in partnership with our exceptional district leadership to ensure that we continue to do our best in the face of a raging pandemic.

Given these challenges, we take great pride in the successful re-opening of school in September in a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning, the overall success of our cohort model across the district, and our recent votes to bring back more than 200 additional students for four-day/full-day instruction in early 2021. But make no mistake- our work is far from complete. We are currently evaluating budget scenarios for the 2021-22 school year and are endeavoring to bring back more children safely into our schools between now and the end of this year. There are countless questions to answer about these matters, and I look forward to helping guide that conversation over the course of the next few months. To that end, the School Committee has taken the unprecedented step of scheduling weekly meetings from November to February to stay on top of these matters.

For those of you who attend our meetings, you know that I frequently take time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in Bedford, for our town is truly unique in the way that we work together to support our children's educations. This year, more than ever, it has taken an incredible amount of collaboration and coordination to make that happen. Without the

partnership with, communication between, and support of the parent community, the Finance Committee, the teachers' union, the central office staff, the Town Manager, the Health Director, our representatives in state government, and the voters and residents of Bedford, we would not be in the position that we are right now. Make no mistake- most towns do not work together as Bedford does, and we should never take that for granted.

It has been one of my greatest honors to have served Bedford on the School Committee since 2015, and especially now as Chair during this time of unprecedented challenge. I humbly ask for your vote on March 13 and hope to be able to continue this work for another three years.