



2021
TOWN
ELECTION



CONTACT

617-771392

[Dan's email](#)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

DANIEL H. BROSGOL

INCUMBENT

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.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- [Lauren Dorn-Jones](#)