

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

Present: Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair
 Ms. Kate Bowen
 Ms. Amy Checkoway
 Mr. Michael Crowley
 Ms. Tara Donner
 Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
 Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
 Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

Absent: Ms. Andrea Prestwich, Secretary

Superintendent Phelan and Interim Director of Human Resources Judy Malone Neville invited each teacher receiving Professional Status – listed below – to come up to receive a certificate and small gift as a token of gratitude from the School Committee and Belmont School Administration. Superintendent Phelan, along with Interim Director of Human Resources Judy Malone Neville and School Committee Chair Susan Burgess-Cox, congratulated the Professional Status recipients and thanked them for all they do for the students of Belmont.

Patrick Mongeau	Burbank	Grade 2
Samantha Sacco	Butler	Grade 3
Lisa Harteveltdt	Butler	Nurse
Carrie Salvato	Chenery	English, Grade 6
Bei Zhang	Chenery	Foreign Language (Chinese)
Peter Ferraro	Chenery	Grade 5, ELA, Social Studies
Nicole Hynes	Chenery	Grade 5, ELA/Social Studies
Lindsay Culver	Chenery	Music
Jaclyn Viscardi	Chenery	Music
Natlaie Blake-Weber	Chenery	Social Studies, Grade 8
Elizabeth Eichenberg	Chenery	Special Education
Theresa Milstein	Chenery	Special Education
Meghann Remick	High School	Art
Rachel Porter	High School	Foreign Language (Spanish)
Brittany King	High School	Guidance Counselor
Matthew Ruane	High School	Guidance Counselor
Christina Phillips	High School	Math
Corinne Jackman	High School	Nurse
Erin D'Alleva	Wellington	ESL
Marielle Benanti	Wellington	School Psychologist
Joann Frankhouser	Wellington	School Psychologist
Angelina Giorgetti	Wellington	Special Education
Heather Rabinovich	Wellington	Speech & Language Pathologist

Sarah Daggett	Winn Brook	Grade 1
Brittany Tedesco	Winn Brook	Grade 3
Charesh Agha	Winn Brook	Special Education

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Susan Burgess-Cox called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Susan Burgess-Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizen’s Concerns

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

1.5 Chair’s Report

Susan Burgess-Cox announced several upcoming events and encouraged everyone to check the website for detailed information.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Phelan congratulated the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) for another successful Apple Run. Over 700 people took part in this fundraiser for the schools.

Superintendent Phelan expressed thanks for Commissioner Riley’s presentation at Chenery Middle School on Deeper Learning. Commissioner Riley is a Belmont High School alumnus.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Library Presentation – Exhibit A

Belmont Library Trustee Chair Kathy Keohane, Trustee and School Committee Liaison Corinne Olmsted and Belmont Public Library Director Peter Struzziero updated the School Committee on work they have been doing to serve the Belmont students as well as the community at large. There was discussion on the summer reading program which 950 children took part in. The Belmont Public Library has between 60 and 70 different databases for students and teachers to access. The group discussed the successful grade 5 library card program and plans to offer it to Kindergarten students as well. There will be a public forum on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. where the schematics for the new library will be presented.

3.2 MCAS Accountability Presentation – Exhibit B

Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias presented the 2019 accountability data which shows all schools in Belmont are classified as not needing assistance or intervention. Belmont schools are meeting or exceeding the targets set for all students and the lowest performing students.

The Butler Elementary School received the designation of a School of Recognition for high achievement, high growth, and for exceeding targets. This is the second year in a row Butler has received this honor. Burbank Elementary School also received the designation of a School of Recognition for high achievement.

Assistant Superintendent Darias explained the following state data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The overall accountability classification for schools – 76% designation as “not requiring assistance or intervention”.

The overall accountability classification for districts – 92% designated as “not requiring assistance or intervention”.

The accountability category for schools – 21% “meeting or exceeding targets”. There were 67 schools who received a “school of recognition label for high achievement, high growth or exceeding targets”.

The accountability category for districts – 16% categorized as “meeting or exceeding targets”.

This is the second year of the New Generation MCAS accountability system for grades 3-8.

Assistant Superintendent Darias explained the results of the testing in various grades which will be posted on the Belmont Public Schools website.

3.3 MASC Articles – Exhibit C

The School Committee reviewed the following resolutions to be voted on at the November MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

Resolution 1: Banning Polystyrene from Schools

Resolution 2: Pertaining to Educator Diversity and Professional Licensure

Resolution 3: School Transportation

Resolution 4: Climate Change

Resolution 5: Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care

Resolution 6: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts

Resolution 7: Poverty and Children

Resolution 8: Resolution for Access to Menstrual Supplies

Resolution 9: Charter School Reform

After some discussion on the resolutions and in particular, resolution 2, the School Committee took a vote.

On a motion offered by Michael Crowley and seconded by Tara Donner, the School Committee **VOTED** 4-0-1 in favor of all resolutions except resolution 2.

3.4 Presentation on Finance by Senator Will Brownsberger – Exhibits D1, D2, D3

Senator Will Brownsberger and State Representative Dave Rogers presented an overview of some positive changes related to Chapter 70 funding. The Student Opportunity Act helps districts that serve a high percentage of low income students but will also benefit districts across the state. The bill implements the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission to ensure the school funding formula provides adequate and equitable funding to all districts across the state. It will provide \$1.4 billion in new Chapter 70 aid over and above inflation when fully implemented over the next seven years. It will increase funding for English learners as well as address the needs of districts with higher numbers of students from low income households. The Senate has voted for these changes, and it is expected the House will do the same. The funding numbers will be rolled out over time and are dependent on the state economy. School Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions of Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers.

3.5 Minuteman Update

Superintendent Phelan provided some follow-up information on the steps that would be involved if Belmont left the Minuteman district. Jim Gammill with a working group of the Warrant Committee has provided a financial model. There is agreement on facts regarding costs under basic enrollment scenarios. There is concern about Belmont not finding space for its students in the event enrollment at Minuteman continues to grow. Since the time that Belmont made the decision to withdraw from Minuteman, there have been some changes related to cost. If Belmont chooses to remain a member district, there will be a capital fee payment that will be required. Jim Gammill was in attendance and joined the School Committee at the table. He stated he is preparing a draft document to be distributed to Town Meeting members. The big question is whether or not and how enrollment will change over time. School Committee member Tara Donner asked if there had been any discussion on where the money would come from if the decision is made to remain part of the Minutemen district. It would have to be part of the FY21 budget. School Committee member Mike Crowley suggested that if Belmont does withdraw from the Minuteman district, it might be necessary to hire a district coordinator to help coordinate and locate vocational education for Belmont students which would also incur additional costs. Superintendent Phelan noted it would be in the best interest of Belmont students if the Town remains a part of the Minuteman district.

On a motion offered by Kate Bowen and seconded by Tara Donner, it was **VOTED 5-0-1** in support of rescinding Belmont's withdrawal from Minuteman.

3.6 Enrollment Update – Exhibit E

Superintendent Phelan provided an enrollment update. The data shows that the October 2019 enrollment is consistent with McKibbin and MSBA projections and will continue to increase through 2024. The district continues to struggle to provide and maintain services for all students with the increase in enrollment. A breakdown of enrollment numbers over the last 7-8 years shows a 668 net increase from October 2011 to Oct. 2018. From October 2011 to October 2019, there was an increase of 733 students across the district. There are currently 4633 students enrolled in the district with a net gain of 65 this year. This number does not include out of district or Pre-K students. If those numbers are included, the enrollment of all students in the district would be 4795. If the population continues to grow and eventually stabilize as expected, the new baseline of enrollment averages would be 400 per grade at Belmont High School; 380 per grade at Chenery Middle School; and 370 students per grade at the elementary level.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met with members of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee and worked on the fiscal closeout reports. The Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee plans to continue their work with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee on the town budget.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on October 17th.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

There was no report from the Capital Budget Committee.

4.7 Community Path

The Community Path determined at their last meeting that they would like to engage with the School Committee towards the end of October. They are in the process of identifying major stakeholders and reaching out.

4.8 Financial Task Force II

The Financial Task Force II Committee met last week and discussed the Long Term Capital Planning Committee as it's being formed. There was discussion on what kinds of changes could be made to bridge the gap between now and a potential over-ride vote in the fall. There is an identified gap of \$5 million for FY21. If there is going to be an over-ride vote in November 2020, it will be necessary to determine how to reduce the budget between FY20 and FY21.

4.9 High School Traffic Working Group

There was a Public Hearing on Oct. 17th regarding proposed changes at Goden and Orchard Streets. Going forward, a lot of the issues may fall under the new Transportation Advisory Group once the High School Traffic Working Group completes its work.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

Acceptance of two \$100 donations to Maeve Goulding Fund – Exhibits F1, F2

Superintendent Phelan expressed thanks to the two donors.

5.2 Personnel Items - None

5.3 Business Items - None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- July 29, 2019 School Committee Working Session
- September 9, 2019 School Committee Working Session
- September 10, 2019 School Committee Meeting
- September 17, 2019 School Committee Working Session
- October 1, 2019 School Committee Working Session

On a motion offered by Michael Crowley and seconded by Amy Checkoway, it was **VOTED 4-0-1** to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019 and October 1, 2019.

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Michael Crowley, it was **VOTED 5-0-1** to approve the minutes of July 29, 2019 as amended.

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Michael Crowley, it was **VOTED 5-0-1** to approve the minutes of September 9, 2019 as amended.

On a motion offered by Tara Donner and seconded by Michael Crowley, it was **VOTED 5-0-1** to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings

October 15, 2019

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

October 22, 2019

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

October 29, 2019

School Committee Meeting

Shelburne Community Center

2730 Washington Street, Roxbury – 6:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Strategic Plan

School Committee Goals 2019-20

8. **ADJOURN**

At 9:30 p.m. on a roll call vote, the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The School Committee did not plan to return to Open Session.

Respectfully Submitted by



Susan Burgess-Cox, Chair