

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE – DEDICATION OF THE DARKROOM AT BHS TO THE MEMORY OF PAULA LERNER, BELMONT PHOTOJOURNALIST

In the winter and spring of the 2012 – 2013 school year, the Photography III Honors class worked with equipment donated by Paula Lerner, the late Belmont photojournalist, and funds donated by the Foundation for Belmont Education to create an exhibition of photographs in the style of Paula Lerner. The resulting images were displayed at the Belmont Media Center and featured in a promotional feature broadcast by the Belmont Media Center in conjunction with the opening of the show (portions of the work along with student artist interviews were also published in the Belmont Patch). The opening reception was attended by members of Ms. Lerner's synagogue, members of the community, members of the school committee, parents, and students. Ms. Lerner's donation of equipment represents the single largest donation to the photography program in over ten years, and Thomas Dunlap, the husband of Paula Lerner and father of two former Belmont Public Schools students, continues to support our program with additional donations of books and equipment. There has been so much positive outcome from Ms. Lerner's generosity and my students have truly benefited in ways far more significant than the material gifts and financial support.

As part of the Foundation for Belmont Education grant proposal, I had originally suggested that the darkroom in Room #241 of Belmont High School be dedicated in Ms. Lerner's memory. I was told that this would require approval by the School Committee. I have approached Principal Dan Richards and asked him to forward my request to begin this process of application for School Committee approval to Superintendent Thomas Kingston. While the money from the grant has already been spent, I am hoping I can work with my current Photography III Honors class to raise funds for a small plaque bearing Ms. Lerner's name and the date of the dedication. I have spoken with Mr. Dunlap, Paula Lerner's widower, and her daughter and the family supports my request and gratefully acknowledges the tribute made by Belmont students to their wife's and mother's memory. I ask that you please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and I thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Thank you,

Andrew Roy