

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
February 7, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Vose, Secretary
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Dan Scharfman
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) on a roll call vote to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining with union and non-union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

The Committee announced that it would return to Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

3. OPENING BUSINESS

3.1 Call to Order

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

3.2 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

3.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham presented the Chair's report. She announced that February 12th is shop at Wilson Farm Day. If people shop at Wilson's on that day and present the flier that has been distributed, 20% of what is spent will be donated to Belmont Public Schools. Fliers have been distributed to all the schools and sent out over the list serve. She encouraged everyone to take part.

Ms. Graham announced that there will be two budget forums – Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m. Both will be held in the Selectmen's Board Room – Town Hall. The purpose of these forums will be to talk about the budget and solicit input from the public.

On March 17th the Foundation for Belmont Education will be holding its annual dinner and auction at Belmont Hill School from 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Ms Graham encouraged Committee members to attend the annual Day on the Hill which will take place on March 27th. She stated it is a great event for networking and listening to interesting speakers at the Massachusetts State House. There will be a briefing on education regulations and a great lunch hosted by vocational schools.

3.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston stated that chair person Graham and he attended an organizing meeting at the Winn Brook School which was run by the Winn Brook Parents Group. A committee will be created to organize fundraising events for the rebuilding of Joey's Park.

Dr. Kingston announced that fundraising for the Butler Playground is proceeding well. Construction should begin in the spring. Principal McAllister has sent out notices to parents saying that all five contractors listed on the State Bid List have been contacted and invited to submit proposals. Dr. Kingston stated that the French Company did a wonderful job of preparing the ground so it has been decided to leave the temporary fence in place to protect it. There would otherwise be traffic on that site which would disturb the ground as well as cause mud to be tracked into the school if the fence were taken down.

Dr. Kingston announced that in accord with the Unit A contract, a small committee is being formed to study the rationale for stipends. Dr. Michael Harvey, Principal of BHS; Mr. Jim Davis, Director of Athletics; and Mr. Bill Pappazisis, Director of Fine and Performing Arts will be School Committee delegates for this group. The Union has designated Bob Antonellis, John Sullivan, and Mike Bruno. They should have recommendations before the end of the year.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will be conducting an evaluation of Belmont High School next month. They have established a committee and members of the Central Office will be meeting with the chair of the committee next Wednesday.

3.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero provided an update. He has been meeting with the School Committee Finance Subcommittee and other stakeholders to continue discussions on the FY13 budget and to find processes to increase transparency.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second reading of policy 6015 – Exhibit A

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy Subcommittee is in the process of working in conjunction with Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services, and Colby Brunt, Special Education attorney, on the procedural parts of the Policy.

On a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the amendment of Policy 6015 designated as Exhibit A.

5. MAJOR BUSINESS

5.1 Update on Grade 8 Trip

Ms. St. George, Principal of Chenery Middle School, presented an update on the grade 8 trip to Washington D.C. She stated that it is anticipated that 250 students will take part in this trip from June 4th through June 8th. She explained the itinerary which was detailed in a handout. The class will be riding on six coaches and will be divided into smaller groups during their stay in Washington. World Strides is the organization arranging the trip. Fundraising efforts are planned to help defray the significant cost of the trip. About 50 students are not taking part in the trip, and they will be provided with dedicated special activities.

5.2 Elementary Math and the New State Frameworks

Janet Carey, Principal of Winn Brook School; Patty Soliozy, Director of Mathematics; and Katie Contario, Elementary Math Coordinator, presented a report outlining the new math programs they have been studying. In an effort to increase competency in math, it was decided to go back and review math curriculum. The current curriculum was found to be less than adequate. They are focusing on two new products. When a final recommendation is ready for the new math curriculum, teachers will be provided professional development lessons to learn the new curriculum.

Discussion and adoption of Goals- Exhibit B

Ms. Graham led a discussion of the School Committee Goals. The goals have been re-organized and put in proper context. The Committee members expressed general support over the revisions and thanked Mr. Scharfman for his work on them.

On a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the School Committee Goals.

5.3 Discussion of Joint Board of Selectmen/School Committee Meeting – Exhibit C

Ms. Graham stated that the School Committee will be meeting jointly with the Board of Selectmen tomorrow, February 8th. This will be the third joint meeting to discuss the budget. Details were provided in a power point presentation produced by Mr. Cunningham. The intent of the meeting is to be an exchange of information between the School Committee and Board of Selectmen.

6. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS

6.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham provided an update on the Wellington Building Committee. The question of fans was forwarded to the Wellington Building Committee. They have requested that Mr. DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance, and Operations, and Mr. Fred Domenici, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds attend a meeting.

6.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Finance Subcommittee met this morning and has started discussing line item detail of the budget. He stated that some common threads have been identified which will be shared with the Warrant Committee and Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee.

6.3 Student Representative Update

The student representative announced that the Student Advisory Council will be meeting with the School Committee at the next meeting on February 14th.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Consent Agenda

There were no items for the consent agenda.

7.2 Personnel Items – Informational

7.3 Business Items – None

7.4 Approval of Minutes

January 31, 2012

On a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of January 31, 2012.

8. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

February 8, 2012

Joint Meeting of School Committee and Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Board Room

8:00 a.m.

February 14, 2012

Regular School Committee Meeting – Student Advisory Council

CMS Large Community Room

7:30 p.m.

February 15, 2012

Budget Forum

Selectmen's Board Room

7:30 p.m.

February 16, 2012

Budget Forum

Selectmen's Board Room

9:00 a.m.

9. ENCLOSURES

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Rebecca Vose, Secretary