

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Belmont, Massachusetts

Welcome to this meeting of the Belmont School Committee. Observers are most welcome to attend as the School Committee conducts its business.

The School Committee is a policy-setting body. Since education is a State function, the six elected members of the School Committee serve as officers of the State. At the local level, the School Committee is a legislative body responsible for establishing local policy for seeing that the schools are properly run in accordance with State law and regulations. Copies of the Policy Manual are available in the Office of the Superintendent.

The Belmont School Committee is composed of six citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. At the end of a term, a Board Member wishing to continue unsalaried service to the community must be reelected to an additional three year term. State law does not limit the number of terms a member may serve. Voting for School Committee positions takes place at the regular Town Elections on the first Monday in April. The list of Committee members and the expiration of their term is:

Ms. Ann Rittenburg	2011
Ms. Laurie Graham	2011
Ms. Becky Vose	2012
Ms. Karen Parmett	2012
Ms. Laurie Slap	2013
Mr. Dan Scharfman	2013

The Committee hires an administrative staff to oversee all of the daily operations in the schools and to do the work necessary for the Committee both to act on policy matters and to evaluate, in a general sense, the overall functioning of the school system.

Thus, the Committee asks the administrative staff to do a variety of tasks involving data collection and analyses and to make recommendations where appropriate. In many instances, the law requires from the Superintendent a recommendation upon which the Committee can act.

The Administrative staff consists of Dr. George H. Entwistle 3rd, Superintendent, Ms. Janice Darias, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations.

School Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday evenings and generally follow a sequence of having a regular business meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month and a workshop meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Adjustments have been made to accommodate school vacations.

Regular Business Meetings:

The regular monthly business meetings will allow the School Committee to efficiently conduct all of the various transactions required by law. These meetings will allow the School Committee to take action (vote) on both routine and non-routine motions. Discussions will be kept brief and both presentations and public input, if allowed at all, will be very limited. Regular meetings will not last more than 2 hours.

Workshop Meetings:

The monthly workshop meetings serve a much broader purpose than the business meetings. Workshops create the opportunities for the School Committee to explore specific issues in greater detail, to listen to more extensive presentations and public input on topics and to engage in School Committee development (learning) activities. Public forums on key topics may be scheduled for workshop meetings.

School Committee agendas and public documents can be found on the Belmont Public Schools website www.belmont.k12.ma.us.

The public is invited to speak at School Committee meetings during the Citizens' Concerns section of the meeting and throughout the meeting after members of the School Committee and the

Administration have had an opportunity to express their views. The following procedures for public participation will be followed:

1. All comments/questions should be directed to the School Committee Chair.
2. During Citizens' Concerns, comments should be limited to three minutes and should be on issues of school policy rather than on personnel or individual problems which should be addressed administratively.
3. Individuals should not expect an immediate reply since this is a time for questions or concerns to be heard and not the time for decisions to be made. Generally, the Administration will return to the next meeting with a response or the item is placed on the agenda for a following meeting for further discussion.

If need be, the School Committee may vote to go into closed session to discuss items permitted by law such as those of collective bargaining strategy.

The School Committee appreciates your interest in attending this meeting. We strive to discharge our responsibilities properly and welcome any of your comments that would serve to improve School Committee procedures.

ADOPTED: January 13, 1987