

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
May 11, 2010**

Present: Ms. Ann Rittenburg, Chair
Ms. Laurie Graham
Ms. Becky Vose
Ms. Karen Parmett
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Dan Scharfman
Dr. George H. Entwistle 3rd, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Janice Darias, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Gerry Missal, Director of Finance, Administration and Capital Planning
Ms. Julie Silverman, Human Resources Manager

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1.1 None

2. OPENING BUSINESS

2.1 Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rittenburg at 7:37 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Large Community Room.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were not adjustments to the agenda.

2.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle spoke about the Teacher Learning Teams and the introductions at faculty meetings. The Leadership Council is preparing the 6 month update to the 18 Month Improvement Strategy. There will be a presentation to the School Committee in an upcoming meeting. Dr. Entwistle highlighted three trips on the consent agenda: an exchange with China, a Latin trip, and a new trip to the Dominican Republic. Students who participate in that trip will complete a project on language, history and culture or the ecosystem. The exchange group that comes from the Dominican Republic will be newly graduated elementary school teachers who will work in our elementary schools and offer opportunities around the study of Spanish at that level.

2.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Rittenburg shared an update on the budget presentations that have been taking place, yesterday and today, and the forums planned for May 13 and May 20.

2.6 Citizens Concerns

There were not citizens' concerns.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 There was no unfinished business.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 School Calendar 2010-2011 (second reading) – Exhibit A

Ms. Rittenburg presented the 2010-11 school calendar, which was presented and explained at the May 4 School Committee meeting, and asked for a motion to approve it.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the 2010-2011 calendar.

Ms. Rittenburg asked that the calendar be distributed to families and staff.

4.2 Crofts Policy – Instruction 6000 Series (second reading) – Exhibit B

Ms. Rittenburg presented the 6000 Series of the policy. There were no questions about the policy. Ms. Silverman noted that the revised document includes the changes recommended by the School Committee members

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the Instruction 6000 Series Policy

4.3 3rd Quarter Report – Exhibit C

Ms. Rittenburg asked Dr. Missal to summarize the 3rd Quarter Report, which he did. Dr. Missal will update the School Committee again in June.

4.4 Final School Committee Budgets for Fiscal Year 2011 – Exhibit D

Ms. Rittenburg asked Dr. Entwistle to present the override and non-override budgets for approval. Dr. Entwistle gave the presentation about the FY11 budgets "Needs and Choices" that he previously gave for the PTO/PTA groups. Dr. Entwistle noted the revision that added the elementary

librarian to the override list and moved the ½ of the grade 8 team to the definite cut list. Ms. Rittenburg thanked Dr. Entwistle for the work creating the budgets and the presentation explaining it to the citizens.

School Committee members discussed the budgets. Ms. Rittenburg noted that it is important for the School Committee to be clear what actions will or will not be taken (for example: freshmen sports, middle school cross country, elementary library program) if the override does not pass. Ms. Rittenburg asked if any member wanted to make a motion to do anything other than what is recommended by the Leadership Council. No motions were made. Therefore, the School Committee is adopting the Leadership Council's recommendation to cut freshmen sports, middle school cross country and close the elementary libraries if the override does not pass.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the revised budgets for the Fiscal Year 2011 commencing July 1, 2010, the amount out \$39,702,570 for the Available Funds Budget, and if an override vote scheduled for June 14 is approved by the Town voters, the amount of \$40,702,570 for the Override Budget.

4.5 FY11 Full-Day Kindergarten User Fee - Exhibit E

Ms. Rittenburg asked Dr. Missal to explain the FY11 Full-Day Kindergarten User Fee. The recommendation is \$2,200; however, it may need to be re-visited if the State grant changes or is eliminated. Ms. Rittenburg noted that only the half-day part of the kindergarten program is included in the operating budget; the addition of the full-day program is covered by the combination of the fee paid by families and the State grant. Ms. Graham asked if this fee includes the increased need for waivers. Dr. Missal affirmed that this is the case, and that the figures are based on current year data.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the full-day kindergarten fee of \$2,200 subject to the conditions noted in Exhibit E regarding the State grant funding, for Fiscal Year 2011.

5. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

5.1 Communications and Community Outreach

Ms. Graham updated the School Committee on the work of the subcommittee and the presentations to the public. The subcommittee will meet Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 a.m.

5.2 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham updated the School Committee on the work of the Wellington Building Committee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Consent Agenda

- a. Proposal for China Exchange Trip – Exhibit **F**
- b. Proposal for Latin Trip – Exhibit **G**
- c. Exchange with the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE)
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – Exhibit **G-1**

6.2 Personnel Items – Informational

The following items were presented for the School Committee's information:

- a. Career Leave – Exhibit **H**
- b. Instructional Assignments – Exhibit **I**
- c. Resignations – Exhibit **J**
- d. Family Illness Leave – Exhibit **K**

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes – None

7. FUTURE BUSINESS

- 7.1 Next Meeting Dates:** May 18, 2010 – Workshop (Student Advisory Council)
CMS Community Room
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. CANCELLED

June 1, 2010
CMS Community Room
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Reception and Recognition of Retirees
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Recognition of Students receiving Service Awards
8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

June 22, 2010 - Workshop
CMS Community Room
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

8. ENCLOSURES

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Laurie Graham', written over a horizontal line.

Laurie Graham
Secretary