

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY DINING ROOM AND COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**November 16, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Janice Darias, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rittenburg at 6:10 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room of the Chenery Middle School.

2.2 Joint Meeting with the Warrant Committee Sub-committee on Education

The following topics were discussed at the meeting: program budgeting; the format of the budget to be presented; the timeline for the development and presentation of the budget (including opportunities for Education sub-committee members to ask questions); the use of the Federal Education Jobs Grant money; part-time vs. full-time employees; and the process for addressing the issue of consolidation.

3. **WORKSHOP**

3.1 Report-Out – Student Advisory Committee

Four students from the Belmont High School Student Senate spoke about their goals for this year: improve the transition for freshmen, including the new advisory program for freshmen; improve communication between the Student Senate and the student body; implement a “shopping program” to better inform the selection of classes in the spring; publicize BHS sports and the accomplishments of the teams and events at BHS (Belmont Idol, the Thanksgiving Day

Football Game, the Fall Play, and musical performances). The Student Senate is composed of five members from every grade who are elected each year.

Ms. Rittenburg suggested adding a Student Report out at the beginning of each business meeting.

### 3.2 Review of School Committee Goals and Examination of Self-Evaluation Tool:

The School Committee read the five goals for 2010-2011. They discussed the PowerPoint created for the presentations to the PTOs and PTAs, and reviewed the wording of the goals. They discussed the School Committee Self-Assessment and Diagnostic Tools, a draft document developed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, and an earlier version of a School Committee Self-Evaluation Tool created by MASC, and how they could be used by the committee as part of its self-evaluation. They discussed making this the topic for a School Committee Leadership Learning Team (LLT), and also discussed contacting Glenn Koocher from MASC who drafted the document; MASC can offer technical assistance if needed. They will make a decision at an upcoming Business Meeting.

### 3.3 Review of 18-Month Strategy and School Committee Guidance re: Budget Development for FY12

Dr. Entwistle framed the discussion by explaining the Leadership Council's process for budget development, and asked the School Committee to provide directives and guidelines for the work to develop the FY12 budgets (available revenue, level service, and student needs based budget). They reviewed the Belmont Public Schools Long-term Goals and Improvement Targets of the 18-Month Improvement Strategy. The School Committee members each stated their directives/guidelines for budget development.

### 3.4 Class Size Report

Janice Darias shared information on class sizes at each level: elementary, middle, and high school. Actual class sizes were compared with the School Committee guidelines for grades K-8. School Committee members discussed the information and asked that feedback be provided from teachers and administrators on the impact of large class sizes.

## 4. FUTURE BUSINESS

4.1 Next Meeting Dates: **November 19, 2010** – Work Session  
SAB Conference Room – 8:30 a.m.

**December 2, 2010** – School Committee/Leadership Council

Training  
CMS Large Community Room – 10:30 a.m.

**December 3, 2010** – Work Session  
SAB Conference Room – 8:30 a.m.

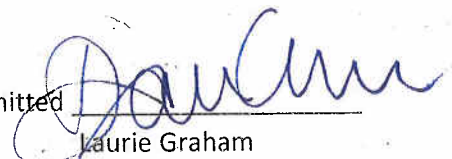
**December 7, 2010** – Regular Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:39 p.m., on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

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

Respectfully submitted

  
Laurie Graham  
Secretary