

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
October 5, 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, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

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

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rittenburg at 7:01 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

Ms. Darias welcomed the teachers and guests and thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Pederson announced the names of teachers who were being honored for achieving professional status and congratulated each one.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

1.3 Adjustment to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle announced all 59 Professional Learning Teams are off and running. He is teaching a graduate level course to prepare facilitators and the first class took place on September 22nd. The focus for the first meeting was to establish working norms and to evaluate and hone the inquiry question.

Dan Richards, Assistant Principal at Belmont High School has been training facilitators for the NEASC process. NEASC is the body for accreditation for school and colleges.

Dr. Entwistle announced that there is schedule for Veteran's Day exercises and invited everyone to attend.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms Rittenburg mentioned that the Vision Implementation Committee is sponsoring "Making Tough Choices" on October 24th at the Beech Street Center. Information can be found the Town of Belmont website. "Belmont Serves" will take place on October 11th beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Parish Hall. Information can be found at www.belmontserves.org. The Selectmen decided Town Meeting will be on November 8th and are moving forward with opening a warrant .

1.6 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 Protocol for examining Revolving Accounts

Discussion began last week and a School Committee work session is scheduled for Friday October 15th. Dr. Entwistle explained the protocol which will allow us to move through an analysis of the dozen or so accounts. The outcome hoped for is for better and clearer articulation of accounts. He sees this as pre-work to getting a handle on student fees. Ms. Rittenburg mentioned that some accounts have only about a two year history. The Leadership Council has found that the use of protocol makes more efficient work with things that seem daunting. Mr Scharfman suggested looking at the other side of revenue and seeing which costs are being charged to each side.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 MASC 2010 Delegates

Ms. Rittenburg explained that the Committee can nominate and send 1 delegate to the MASC Conference in November if they choose to do so. Ms Rittenburg explained a little about the MASC Conference and what takes place.

Mr. Scharfman offered to serve as a delegate. Ms. Graham said she will be attending the conference and served as a delegate last year and would be happy to have Mr. Scharfman serve this year.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to elect Dan Scharfman as School Committee delegate for MASC

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to elect Laurie Graham as alternate delegate for MASC

4.2 2009-2010 Year End Report-Out – Exhibit A

Mr. DiCologero presented the 2009-2010 end of year report. He explained each quarterly report and its impact on the school department budget. The school department ended with a positive balance at the end of the year which was then turned over to the town.

Mr. Scharfman praised the leadership team for their budget work. Ms. Parmett also acknowledged the hard work and Dr. Entwistle said it was a credit to the Leadership Council and Mr. DiCologero for all the work that has been done.

4.3 Consideration of a proposal from Library Trustees for the transfer of School Department land.

Ms Rittenburg explained that Matt Lowrie, Chair of the Library Trustees, attended the School Committee meeting last week to explain to the School Committee about the Library Construction Grant process. They discussed some of the issues that will need to be resolved. Since last week Ms. Rittenburg has asked the Board of Selectmen to convene a meeting to discuss the land transfer. The Chair of the Board of Selectmen will gather several of the committees together to discuss the project.

The School Committee feels it needs more information about replacement of athletic fields before the plan can go further. Mr. Scharfman agreed that concerns about accreditation and traffic safety are valid. It is his understanding that the Library Feasibility Study Committee will develop plans to build a new library somewhere in Belmont, so the decision of the School Committee will only affect whether the project will be done on school land. He feels that to avoid delaying the Feasibility Committee's work the School Committee needs to take specific action in the next two weeks on whether the land transfer could take place. Mr Scharfman asked whether it would be possible to ever transfer the parcel of land for any use by the town. Ms. Rittenburg observed that the Capital Budget Overview Committee report suggested that the plan needs to be reviewed by professionals

to see if it is viable. Ms Vose said she did not want the School Committee to be viewed as obstructionists but the plan to move the library needs more assurances before the School Committee can make a decision. Ms Slap suggested the Committee be specific and come up with a plan like saying the need for the high school has to come before the library. Ms Parmett said she is uncomfortable with the land transfer because of the impact it may have on students. Mr. Scharfman said in theory it may be possible to exchange land but without knowing the implications it would be very hard to agree now. He is willing to do whatever it takes to help Belmont have a better library and the Committee should do what it takes to make the transfer work. Particular issues that need to be addressed are:

- Basic facts: size, position, value of parcel of to be transferred
- Legal questions (things like the MBTA right of way at the other end of high school site)
- School department obligations for cleanup, condition of property, etc?
- Replacement of facilities lost when field house is removed
- Mandated space requirements for accreditation, state assistance with building projects, etc.
- Review of why a joint HS/public library does not make sense (not a re-study, but bringing key players up to date since this question continues to surface)
- Time and level of engagement needed from school department staff

Mr. Scharfman suggested coming up with language over the next week that could be voted on and take no action right now. Dr. Entwistle said he does not feel that the school department has the time or resources to take on the responsibility of researching what needs to be done to accomplish the transfer but if the library trustees wanted to do it they could. Dr. Entwistle offered to draft a statement of land transfer conditions and concerns based on the School Committee's discussion

5. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

5.3 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham spoke about the Wellington construction project being on target for completion by July 1st. They are working on studding out the Orchard Street side and then the brick and wood. The faulty concrete has been fixed. The project is on budget. The Board of Selectmen will be having a tour of the facility sometime in the near future.

5.4 Communication and Community Outreach

Ms Graham said there will be a meeting on Friday to work on language for an IT report and to prepare a discussion with the PTA/PTOs. Dr. Entwistle added that a recommendation was made to create a task force on communication. He has spoken to three members of the community and will be ready by next week to report out how it is going. He suggested that there may be a training session for the Leadership Team but does not have all of the details yet.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.3 Consent Agenda

6.4

Proposal for out-of-state field trip

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the consent agenda.

6.5 Personnel Items – Informational

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

- a. Instructional Assignments – Exhibit B
- b. Change of Instructional Assignments – Exhibit C
- c. Non-instructional Assignment s – Exhibit D
- d. Maternity Leave -- Exhibit E
- e. Maternity Extended Leave – Exhibit F
- f. Resignations – Exhibit G

6.6 Business Items

No business items.

6.7 Approval of Minutes

September 28, 2010

The Committee agreed to defer the minutes to the next business meeting.

7. FUTURE BUSINESS

7.1 Next Meeting Dates: October 12, 2010
Workshop
CMS Community Room
7:30 p.m.

October 19, 2010
Workshop
Central Boston Elder Services
7:20 p.m. – Meeting with METCO Parents

8. ENCLOSURES

- 8.3 Teachers recommended for Professional Status
- 8.4 Schedule for Veteran's Day Exercises
- 8.5 Education Week Article *The Misuse of Professional Development*
- 8.6 Proposal for out-of state field trip

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:56 p.m., on a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Ms. Parmett, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing strategy with regard to collective bargaining and not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted



Laurie Graham
Secretary