

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
September 14, 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. 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 7:38 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.3 Adjustment to the Agenda

There was one adjustment to the agenda:

Item 6.4, a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2010, was moved to occur between items 4.1 and 4.2.

2.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle reported that the opening of school went smoothly. He thanked the custodians and maintenance staff, teachers and school leaders for getting the year off to a great start.

Dr. Entwistle explained the PLT (Professional Learning Team) training – 70 teachers will take part in the graduate level course taught by Dr. Entwistle which starts on September 22nd entitled “Teacher Leadership in Professional Learning Teams.”

Belmont was chosen as a finalist in the Race to the Top Grant Program. If Belmont does receive the grant money it will mean a total of approximately \$75,000 over 3 – 4 years.

Dr. Entwistle, Ms. Rittenburg and Mr. Antonellis (BEA President) will take part in an RTTT webinar on September 15th.

Dr. Entwistle talked about implementation of recommendations from last year’s Return on Investment (ROI) reviews (instrumental music, high school science). He also talked about the budget development meeting that took place with the Warrant Committee representatives. He reminded the Committee that the next Community Dialogue will take place on May 4th, 2011. Belmont Savings Bank has generously offered to supply food for the event.

2.5 Chairman’s Report

Ms. Rittenburg thanked the Leadership Council and staff for the smooth opening of school. She introduced Tony DiCologero, the new Director of Finance, Business and Operations and welcomed the new Student Representative.

Ms. Rittenburg reported that the library trustees are preparing to submit a grant to the Board of Library Commissioners. This is a matter that may involve the schools in that the library project may require a land transfer from the School Department.

The Warrant Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, and will elect new officers. The Board of Selectmen have tentatively scheduled November 15th as the date for Town Meeting. The BMLD warrant article will be on the agenda.

2.6 Citizen’s Concerns

There were no citizen’s concerns

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

School Committee Organizational Assignments 2010-2011

The Committee discussed whether they should revisit the question of the way the Chair is selected. Should they continue with the same model or change? They committed last April to hold another election at the first meeting in the fall, and they agreed that they needed to continue discussing

criteria used to elect officers in order to apply any new practice in time for the April town wide elections.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to elect Ann Rittenburg as Chair of the School Committee.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to elect Laurie Graham as Secretary of the School Committee.

Ms. Rittenburg passed out committee assignments for 2010-2011.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 Second Reading – 5000 Policy – Exhibit A

Kathy Miller joined the Committee at the table to explain the 5000 Series Policy which is the final section to be revised. If approved, the manual will be fully revised. Ms. Rittenburg invited committee members to ask questions. Ms. Miller explained legal statutes regarding children attending school. She also explained policies regarding student records, handbooks and bullying.

Ms. Rittenburg mentioned that all policies except this one have been put on the website.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adopt the 5000 Series Policy as amended.

6.4 (Adjustment to the agenda) Approval of Minutes

July 12, 2010

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of July 12, 2010 as amended in red.

4.2 Consideration of request from Friends of Belmont Athletics

Ms. Rittenburg introduced members of the Friends of Belmont Athletics who have now reached their goal of raising the money to fund Freshmen Sports for 2010-2011. They are asking the School Committee to forgive the \$10,000 advance which was given in July.

Ms. Rittenburg invited two of the members to come to table to update the Committee on what has been done. The Friends of Belmont Athletics has raised \$42,000 in 8 weeks and expressed appreciation to the Belmont community for supporting them. They asked to be forgiven the \$10,000 advance in order to move forward and work on other things.

MOVE that the School committee amend that section of its motion regarding acceptance of donated funds for the benefit of athletics, made and passed on July 12, 2010, stating "that up to \$10,000 may be advanced from the Student Activities revolving account" by striking out the words "Student Activities" and inserting the words "BHS Athletic", such that the section shall hereafter read "that up to \$10,000 may be advanced from the Athletic revolving account" and all other sections of the motion remain in full force and effect as made and passed on July 12, 2010.

On a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Ms. Graham to amend the July 12 motion, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to amend the July 12 motion.

MOVE that the School Committee rescind that section of its motion regarding acceptance of donated funds for the benefit of athletics, made and passed on July 12, 2010, and amended on September 14, 2010, that requires funds up to \$10,000 advanced from the BHS Athletic revolving account "be reimbursed from anticipated donations" such that funds, which have been donated for the benefit of the athletic programs in the Belmont Public Schools for the FY2010-2011 year to the School Department do not have to be reimbursed to the BHS Athletic revolving account and all other sections of the motion remain in full force and effect as made and passed on July 12, 2010 and amended September 14, 2010.

On a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Ms. Graham to forgive the \$10,000 advance from the BHS revolving account to Friends of Belmont Athletics, it was

VOTED (5 in favor - 1 abstained) to forgive the \$10,000 advance from the BHS revolving account to Friends of Belmont Athletics.

4.3 Adoption of School Committee Goals 2010-2011 – Exhibit B

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adopt the School Committee Goals for 2010-2011 as amended.

4.4 Adoption of School Committee Protocol – Exhibit C

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adopt the School Committee Protocol.

4.5 Report-out on AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)

Ms. Darias provided a report on AYP which included information on MCAS test scores. All schools received performance rating of very high. Ms. Darias told the Committee that the district, high school and 4 elementary schools have met AYP requirements however the middle school met requirements in aggregate but not in all subgroups.

4.6 Report-out from the Leadership Council on the Education Jobs Funds for 2010-2011

Dr. Entwistle explained the Education Jobs Funds Grant using a Power Point presentation. Grant funds will be used to create jobs and accelerate programs. The money can be used in FY11 and FY12.

The Leadership Council tried to focus on the following priorities recognizing that it is short term money:

- Improve results of sub groups of learners
- Better structure students' time
- Meet increasing needs for ELL
- Services to supply additional support to classrooms with larger class sizes
- Improve system quality and sustainability, and not create more "funding cliffs"

- The grant summary total for 2010-2011 is \$168,838
- The grant summary total for 2011-2012 is \$162,803

Dr. Entwistle explained that the numbers are estimates, but the expenditures will not exceed the total allotment of the grant.

The School Committee strongly endorsed the Leadership Council's planned expenditures and grant allocations for FY11 and FY12.

4.7 MSBA Statement of Interest – Exhibit C-1

Mr. DiCologero explained the MSBA Statement of Interest for Green Repair Program which advises the MSBA that the district may like to request funding for repairs for certain items such as boilers. If the Committee recommends submitting the Statement of Interest, it will still need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. He stated that Mr. Martin recommends looking at boilers at the Butler School to be replaced with high efficiency boilers. The MSBA is accepting Statements of Interest until September 22, 2010.

Mr. Scharfman made the following motion, which was seconded by Ms. Slap:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 the School Committee of Town of Belmont, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated September 10, 2010 for the Daniel Butler Elementary School located at 90 White Street, Belmont, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Town of Belmont, Massachusetts may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

There are currently two boilers in the building. One is a fire-tube boiler installed in 1964. The other boiler was installed in 1975 and uses an oil-fired burner. In addition there is a single ten thousand gallon underground oil tank on-site. These older systems are less efficient than new systems and result in higher costs for fuel consumption and maintenance;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The Committee VOTED unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion.

Mr. DiCologero will ask the Town Manager to add the Statement of Interest on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

5. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

5.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham reported that the Wellington Building Committee has met 10 times over the summer. The Wellington School project is still on schedule. Underground utilities are currently being done.

A Topping Off Ceremony was hosted by Skanksa who held a luncheon for construction workers and teachers on August 31, 2010.

5.2 Communication and Community Outreach

Report deferred to next regular business meeting of the School Committee.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Consent Agenda

a. Spring 2011 Fifth Grade Trip – Exhibit D

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

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

6.2 Personnel Items – Informational

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

- a. Administrative Assignments – Exhibit E
- b. New Teachers – Exhibit F
- c. Instructional Assignments – Exhibit G
- d. Instructional Assignments (Sped Summer Programs) – Exhibit H
- e. Non-Instructional Assignments – Exhibit I
- f. Change of Non-Instructional Assignments – Exhibit J
- g. Change of Instructional Assignments – Exhibit K
- h. Maternity Leave – Exhibit L
- i. Resignations – Exhibit M
- j. Non-contractual Assignments – Exhibit N

6.3 Business Items

There were no business items.

6.4 Approval of Minutes (moved to before item 4.2)

7. FUTURE BUSINESS

7.1 Next Meeting Dates: September 28, 2010 Workshop
CMS Community Room
7:30 pm

8. ENCLOSURES

- 8.1 July 2010 Issue of Board & Administrator
- 8.2 August letter from Liz Brown re: Summer Enrichment
- 8.3 Internet Acceptable Use Policy (to be signed and returned to Supt.)
- 8.4 Enrollment as of 9-1-10
- 8.5 Responsibilities of the School Board

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:59 p.m., on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

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

Respectfully submitted



Laurie Graham
Secretary