

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
September 28, 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. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rittenburg at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room.
On a motion offered by Ms Vose and seconded by Mr. Scharfman, it was

VOTED (6-0) on a roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining given that a discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental impact on the committee's bargaining position and to return to open session following adjournment of executive session.

The School Committee returned from Executive Session and resumed Open Session at 7:38 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of September 14, 2010 as amended during the meeting.

3. Workshop Presentations

3.1 Matt Lowrie, the Chair of the Board of Library Trustees, made a presentation to the School Committee about the Belmont Public Library. He gave an overview of the history of efforts to renovate the library or build a new library and spoke of the recommendations of the CPOC report of 2007 and their proposal to move the library across the street from its current location and onto the North side of Concord Ave. He informed the Committee about a new round of library construction grants from the MA BLC and the Trustees' interest in submitting an application. In order to participate, a statement of interest would need to be submitted by October 5, 2010. Mr. Lowrie asked the School Committee how to proceed to determine if the White Field House site still works. Members of the School Committee discussed concerns about the request, including: NEASC accreditation of Belmont High School; encroachment on athletic fields; issues related to Title IX and reduction of locker room space; traffic, safety, and security of students; reduction of the BHS campus and any potential impact on NEASC accreditation of Belmont High School (related to facilities) or receiving state funding from the MSBA for a high school renovation; and impact on the timing of an upgrade to Belmont High School, which is necessary for continued accreditation. Information from lawyers on the issues related to the reduction of the high school campus is expected within the week. The School Committee will take a vote on the question presented by the Library Board of Trustees at its business meeting on October 5.

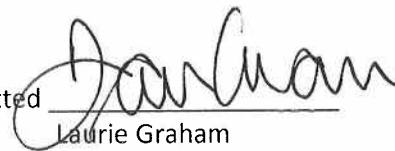
3.2 Steve Mazzola, Director of Technology, made a presentation to the School Committee on updates to technology in the 2010-2011 school year. Projects include: online fee payments; electronic forms for school department procedures; online parent conference registration; SMART Boards installations; online course selection at Belmont High School and Chenery Middle School; Edline Classroom System at Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School; web-based Gradebook; online cafeteria service; automated phone calls to staff for snow emergencies; and the Destiny Library Project. He thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education and the PTOs and PTAs of all the schools for their substantial donations that made the SMART Board, Edline, and Destiny Library Projects possible. He commended the IT Staff for their expertise in all of these projects. Dr. Entwistle thanked Mr. Mazzola for his leadership.

3.3 Dr. Entwistle introduced the topic of revolving accounts, the first in a series of discussions at School Committee Workshop Meetings that will provide the information for School Committee members to create guidelines for revolving accounts. Mr. DiCologero shared two documents with the School Committee: an article about revolving accounts and a spreadsheet of the revolving accounts and balances, which he had received from the town accountant. He summarized the article on revolving accounts and the laws governing them. The revolving accounts listed on the spreadsheet are organized in four categories: Fee-Based Programs, used in conjunction with school general budget; Facilities Accounts; Custodial Accounts – Administered by/with other groups; Donation Accounts; and School Lunch Program. Mr. DiCologero has requested information from other school districts on their management of revolving accounts. School Committee members discussed other data they would like to have in order to create the guidelines, including: data about fee increases, a history of revolving account balances, and the key assumptions for each of the accounts (when the revenue is received, when expenditures are charged to it) in order to determine the prudent balance to maintain in the account. The School Committee ROI Team on fees will also use this data in their work.

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

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

Respectfully submitted


Laurie Graham
Secretary