

**TASK FORCE ON EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM
AUGUST 10, 2011**

Present: Mr. Dan Scharfman, Chairman
Ms. Peggy Eysenbach
Ms. Leigh Lynch
Ms. Elizabeth Pew
Ms. Michelle Dooley
Ms. Megan Pickette
Dr. Jane Ewing

1. Call to order and Introductions

Mr. Scharfman called the Committee to order at 7:55pm. Mr. Scharfman explained that until Task Force members had been sworn in by the Town Clerk, The unsworn members not being present, the meeting proceeded.

2. Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Pew and seconded by Ms. Lynch the minutes, with minor spelling corrections, of June 28 were approved 7-0.

3. Reports

Ms. Pew and Ewing presented draft mission statements for extracurricular activities, which the committee discussed. No action was taken.

Ms. Dooley reported on what she had learned of the activities of two activities run outside the Belmont Public School: Crew and Rugby. Rugby operates a very active program with approximately 65 players, mostly men, paying a fee of \$150. With much fund raising work and much of the coaching donated they are able to keep the fee low. There are no tryouts and no cuts. Belmont Rugby operates as a nonprofit organization with an annual budget of around \$15,000. Scheduling of fields and resources is coordinated through the School Department. School engagement is quite strong and players do not feel that rugby is less a part of Belmont High than other sports. Arlington-Belmont Crew enrolls 50-60 students in fall and up to 120 in spring, mostly women, from the two towns. Boat rentals and as many as four coaches are the main cost drivers behind a fee of \$550. Both Rugby and Crew are vibrant activities that thrive because of substantial adult energy in organizing and operating the programs. Both believe that

they should get more recognition as official activities for things like gym credit.

Ms. Pew presented information from other towns, supplementing the Massachusetts fee survey. Committee members discussed the fees briefly and agreed that patterns are very hard to establish give the range and variety of programs.

Mr. Scharfman walked the Task Force through the finances of the Belmont extracurricular programs – how income is brought in and how it is expended, and how the revolving accounts are used. He agreed to seek more information about participation patterns from the School Department.

4. Public Meetings

Members discussed the need for public input and agreed that at least two forums would be good: one to collect ideas and observations from the public about current programming and structures, and one to present Task Force findings and recommendations for public comment.

5. Adjourn

At 9:25pm, on a motion made by Ms. Pew and seconded by Ms. Dooley the Task Force voted 6-0-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted



Daniel Scharfman, Chair