

Belmont School Committee Minutes
Long-term Financial Planning Subcommittee
August 16, 2011
Conference Room of the School Administration Building

Present: Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Laurie Slap
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am.

2. Meet with School Administration Stakeholders (specifically Superintendent and Finance Director)

- Discussion of approaches to financial planning (this year/long-term)

Mr. DiCologero reviewed the 2010-2011 budget process, and the group discussed ideas for improvement in 2011-2012. Such ideas included having members of the School Committee (ideally a Finance Subcommittee) meeting regularly with the Finance Director during the early phases of budget development. The group also discussed ideas as to how to improve communication with the Belmont community and how to try to better set expectations re the volatility of state aid projections, etc.

- Discussion of financial metrics, etc.

The group discussed how a "dashboard" of performance measures might be useful to the School Committee and the community at large. Mr. DiCologero and Dr. Kingston volunteered to come up with suggested metrics over the coming months.

- Discussion of SC finance subcommittee possibility

Dr. Kingston strongly endorsed the value of a Finance Subcommittee. He recommended that such a subcommittee meet regularly with the Director of Finance to be kept abreast of budget development progress and any other major financial issues. The Finance Subcommittee would then give regular reports to the full School Committee. Dr. Kingston also suggested that the Finance Subcommittee include the SC representative to the Warrant Committee to facilitate communication with that body.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m..

Respectfully submitted by


Laurie Slap, Co-Secretary