

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
April 12, 2011

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Karen Parmett
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Dan Scharfman
Ms. Rebecca Vose
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. Graham at 6:30 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:35 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

VOTED unanimously on a roll call vote to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on our bargaining position.

The Committee announced that they would return to open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session

3. OPENING BUSINESS

3.1 Call to Order

The School Committee returned to open session at 7:35 p.m.

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the School Committee in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda. Dr. Entwistle explained that this meeting is a blend of workshop and business meeting.

4. WORKSHOP MEETING

4.1 Progress Report: 18 Month Report

Dr. Entwistle gave an overview of the Long Term Goals and 18 month Improvement Plan, including explaining the values embedded in each of the goals. Dr. Christine Francis, Principal of Burbank Elementary School, shared highlights of the initiatives at the elementary school level. Dr. Harvey, Principal of Belmont High School, shared highlights of the initiatives at Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School. Janice Darias, Interim Assistant Superintendent, shared highlights of the district-wide initiatives, with the help of Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services, who explained the work being done in the delivery of services to students with language-based learning disabilities. Also in attendance at the meeting were Janet Carey, Principal of Winn Brook Elementary School, Michael McAllister, Principal of Butler Elementary School, and Bill Grubb, Assistant Principal of Chenery Middle School. The School Committee members asked questions about the initiatives at each level.

5. BUSINESS MEETING

5.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle shared updates on the recognition ceremony honoring 44 staff members for their years of service to the Belmont Public Schools and the plans for the upcoming Community Dialogue on May 4, 2011. He shared a copy of the letter confirming the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's approval of the Belmont Public Schools Anti-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. He also informed the School Committee of the distribution of Reduction in Force letters to forty five teachers and professional staff resulting from the possible implementation of the Available Revenue Budget and the timeline necessary to meet notification obligations.

5.2 Chair's Report

Ms. Graham explained that information from the state in terms of budget numbers should be available by the end of this week. She also noted that the Warrant Committee is meeting with Town Meeting members on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Beech Street Center to discuss non-budget articles. The budget articles will be discussed with Town Meeting members on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. The Interim Superintendent Search is underway. Applications are due to the Massachusetts Association of School Committee office by the close of business on Friday, April 22. School Committee will vote on the budget on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

5.3 Motion to Adopt School Committee Policies

Ms. Graham explained the need to adopt the School Committee policies now that all of them are published on the Belmont Public Schools web site.

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

VOTED unanimously 5-0-1 (Mr. Cunningham abstained) to adopt the School Committee Policies.

5.4 Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED unanimously 4-0-2 (Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Vose abstained) to approve the March 25, 2011 minutes, as submitted.

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

VOTED unanimously 5-0-1 (Mr. Cunningham abstained) to approve the March 29, 2011 minutes, as submitted.

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

VOTED unanimously 6-0 to approve the April 5, 2011 minutes, as submitted.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Update on the Consolidation Committee

Ms. Graham explained that a vote on the School Committee's recommendation of the Warrant Article related to the Consolidation of Buildings and Grounds would be done at the work session on Friday, April 15, 2011. Ms. Vose noted that there is another meeting of the committee on Thursday. She will update the School Committee at the work session.

6.2 School Committee Assignments

Ms. Graham shared a list of the Bargaining, Sub-Committee, and School Committee Rep. Assignments. School Committee members discussed the different committees and agreed with the assignments. Assignments can be re-visited in September. Mr. Cunningham will replace Ms. Slap as the non-voting liaison to the Vision Implementation Committee. Ms. Graham suggested adding a new committee to begin in September on long-term planning and finance, and she asked Mr. Cunningham to be on that committee.

6.3 Charter Athletics/Activities Task Force

Ms. Graham asked Mr. Scharfman to share ideas that he and Ms. Parmett developed regarding the charge for this Task Force. He also shared ideas of stakeholder groups to include: 2 people from the School Committee, a person from the Leadership Council, representatives from various stakeholder groups (Friends of Belmont Athletics, Performing Arts support groups, a person to represent clubs, a person with the perspective of the Chenery Middle School), someone from the school advisory councils, someone from student government or one of the student reps to the School Community, and someone from the community who has no connection with the schools at all. Mr. Scharfman and Ms. Parmett will meet to finalize the charge and list of stakeholders to vote on it at the meeting on May 10, 2011.

7. FUTURE BUSINESS

7.1 Next Meeting Dates: April 15, 2011
Work Session -- 8:30 a.m.
SAB Conference Room

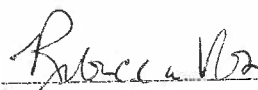
April 26, 2011
Workshop Meeting -- 7:30 p.m.
Chenery Middle School Community Room

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Rebecca Vose
School Committee Secretary