

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MINUTES  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM  
DECEMBER 16, 2011**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair  
Ms. Rebecca Vose, Secretary  
Ms. Laurie Slap  
Ms. Anne Lougee  
Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
Mr. Dan Scharfman  
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent

Also Present: Mr. Roger Colton  
Ms. Janice Darias – joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1.2 Discussion with Ad Hoc Town Meeting Communications Group

Mr. Roger Colton distributed a sample of the Warrant Article and Resolution which will be presented at Town Meeting. The Warrant Article will change the bylaws to have Town Meeting take place one week later than it currently does. It will also expand the time in which members will have to look at Warrant Articles. The changes articulate the notion that Town Meeting members should have the budget for a certain period of time before Town Meeting is called upon to vote on that budget. It has yet to be determined whether those changes will be offered as an amendment on the floor.

1.3 Budget Discussion

Dr. Kingston distributed some information regarding classroom size projections. The numbers indicate that we are not anticipating a need for more classes with the exception of Pre-K. Mr. DiCologero presented notes that came out of his discussions with the Leadership Council. There is a general concern about cutting any more than has already been done. Dr. Kingston explained that the leadership Council came through a very difficult year and do not want to see any sacrifices of any more programs.

One concern of staff members is that they need to focus so much on academic issues that there is not enough time for addressing all of the social/emotional well being issues of their students. The Committee discussed how to focus on the stability of the system and the need to identify what we want that stability to be.

Dr. Kingston suggested the educator assessment program will help to redesign the way we develop educators and the PLT's can be used as a way to help the process. It will give educators a chance to examine the curriculum and look at how the standards are incorporated into the curriculum.

The Committee agreed that there must be a long term plan that states what the final goal is to help people understand what is happening as well as keeping a cost effective image. Dr. Kingston suggested creating a small report on governing assumptions to present to School Committee on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cunningham suggested the creation of a Curriculum and Instruction focal group sometime in the future.

Ms. Slap updated the Committee on the Finance Subcommittee's meeting with Mr. Sarno of the Warrant Committee. The cost of Special Education was an issue that came up and Ms. Slap suggested that the School Committee meet with the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee to help explain how the Special Education budget works.

At 10:20 a.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Lougee' it was,

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

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Vose  
Rebecca Vose, Secretary