

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

June 7, 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 7:30 p.m. in the Large Community Room at Chenery Middle School.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

It was agreed to move the consent agenda before the report of the subcommittees so that Leadership Council members could answer questions.

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle shared information about the installation of aggregate wireless data collectors to be mounted on three schools: Chenery, Winn Brook, and Butler. Steve Mazzola and representatives from the BMLD explained the purpose of the project to read the new "smart meters" for measuring electricity usage. School Committee members asked questions about safety and security of data and received assurances that neither were compromised. The School Committee gave their endorsement to the project.

Dr. Entwistle informed the School Committee on the results of the May 25th PLT Conference. The conference was well received by all staff. Each PLT created a final report that includes findings and recommendations. These will be posted on the website and used to improve learning across the district.

On June 5th, 280 students graduated from Belmont High School. Mr. Scharfman thanked everyone involved in planning the All Night Party which was a great success.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the committee on the search for an Interim Superintendent. The two finalists are Dr. Michael Harvey, Principal of Belmont High School and Dr. Thomas Kingston, Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools. The Committee will make their appointment on June 14th.

1.6 Citizen's Concerns

Mr. Donald Mercier spoke about using online learning as a way to lower costs. Ms. Graham informed everyone that there is a group being led by Will Brownsberger investigating the pros and cons of online learning. They will have a report for the School Committee sometime in October.

Mr. Jerry Shapiro and Ms. Jenny Altshuler expressed concern about cuts to the science program at BHS.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Amendments to BPS Policy 5000 Series – Students – **Exhibit A**

Ms. Kathy Miller and Ms. Elizabeth Gibson updated the Committee on changes that are being made to the School Committee Policies. Committee members offered suggestions for some language changes. The policies will be revised and submitted for a vote at the June 14th meeting.

3.2 Leadership Council Update on Development of the New 18-Month Improvement Strategy

Members of the Leadership Council shared highlights of the initiatives for the new 18-Month Improvement Strategy.

At the elementary level:

- Align curriculum with common core standards, implement social competency programs and RTI interventions for behavior.
- Evaluate the new K-4 english/language arts curriculum specialist and K-4 math/science curriculum specialist to ensure quality assurance.
- Create a consistent handbook for all elementary schools

At the middle school level:

- Increase specialized instruction – RTI and other interventions

- Advisory time built into master schedule
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Media literacy learning funded by FBE
- Revise handbook

At the high school level:

- Work on common assessments
- Develop a global studies certification program
- Assess the extent to which 21st century learning is being provided in high school
- Evaluate the new Positive Decision Making course

Fine Arts:

- Develop technology based electives in visual arts

Physical Education:

- Administer another Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Implement policy changes due to new state concussion regulations

English Language Arts:

- Align curriculum with new ELA Frameworks and common core standards – 5-12 issue of sequencing
- Implement 21st century assessments that were developed this year

Math Science:

- Align curriculum with new math frameworks and work with a K-4 specialist
- Assess value of web based programs for instruction and explore additional products

Technology:

- Support of 1st and 2nd year teachers in use of district technology
- Reduce administrative burden through the use of technology
- Provide professional development to IT staff

District:

- Support and develop staff – look at promoting/attracting diversity in staff members
- Work on PLTs – evaluate year 1 and improve model in year 2
- Implement new DESE teacher evaluation regulations
- Communicate progress on 18-Month Improvement Strategy – explore ways to keep School Committee and public informed
- Explore ways to keep School Committee and public informed
- Support long term plan initiative – identify adequate funding for School Department
- Work with Town on consolidation of Buildings and Grounds

3.3 Adoption of School Calendar 2011-2012 – Exhibit B

The School Committee tabled the vote on the calendar until June 14th.

3.4 Motion to accept the resignation of Dr. George H. Entwistle 3rd, effective June 30, 2011.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to accept the resignation of Dr. George H. Entwistle 3rd, effective June 30, 2011.

4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS

4.1 Communications and Community Outreach
No report

4.2 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham told the Committee that there are ongoing conversations with teachers about packing to move into the new school.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

- 2011-2012 School Committee Meeting Dates – Exhibit D
- BHS Chorus Concert Tour to Ireland Proposal – Exhibit E
- BHS Foreign Language Students Trip to Spain Proposal – Exhibit F
- Bid Awards – Exhibit G
- Authorization to accept donations – Butler Playground
- Changes to BHS Handbook Policies for 2011-2012 – Exhibit H
- Winn Brook Basketball Courts – Exhibit H-1

School Committee members asked questions and discussed items on the consent agenda.

- Ms. Darias noted that the August retreat date is August 24th. The School Committee meeting date was changed to that date.
- Dr. Harvey and Mr. Pappazisis answered questions about fundraising for trips to provide the greatest access possible to these experiences.
- Mr. DiCologero explained the process for awarding the fresh pizza bid, and agreed to consider adding nutritional requirements to next year's bid specifications.

- Mr. McAllister explained the work that had been done by the Butler Playground Committee and his request for authorization to begin fundraising for the project. He will return to a future meeting to obtain approval for the project itself.
- Dr. Harvey answered questions about the changes to the BHS Chemical Health Policy, noting that the punishment for being “in the presence of” underage alcohol abuse would be the revocation of the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Mr. John Carson explained the plans for updating the basketball courts at the Winn Brook School. Local businesses and individuals have offered to provide their services. Donations may be made to Belmont Public Schools – \$13,000 has been raised so far. The total cost for the project which should be finished by the end of July or beginning of August is \$20,000.

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

The following items were presented for the School Committee’s information:

- Resolutions – Exhibit I
- Non-Instructional Assignments – Exhibit J
- Maternity/Extended Leave – Exhibit K
- Career Leave – Exhibit L
- Resignations – Exhibit M
- Summer Session Assignments – Exhibit N

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the School Committee Meeting Dates (Exhibit D).

5.3 Business Items

None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 26, 2011

May 2, 2011

May 6, 2011

May 10, 2011

May 11, 2011

May 13, 2011

May 24, 2011

The minutes were tabled until June 14th.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS
Upcoming Meetings

June 14, 2011
CMS Community Room
7:30 p.m.

June 21, 2011 – Workshop
CMS Community Room
7:30 p.m.

7. ENCLOSURES

Resume – Tricia Clifford, Burbank Principal
Enrollment as of 6/1/11
Enrollment as of 6/1/11 with changes
BMLD Project Information

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Parmett, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) on a roll call vote to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and in preparation for labor contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

The Committee moved to the Small Community Room for the Executive Session, and announced that they would not reconvene Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

At 10:17 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Mr. Scharfman, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted 
Rebecca Vose
Secretary