

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 29, 2011

Present: Ms. Ann Rittenburg, Chair
Ms. Laurie Graham
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 of Schools
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1.1 No Executive Session

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rittenburg at 7:38 p.m. in the CMS Community Room.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Rittenburg led the pledge of allegiance.

2.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Entwistle shared with the Committee the announcement he sent to staff regarding his intention to return to Maine at the end of the school year to become Superintendent of Scarborough Public Schools.

Dr. Entwistle announced the date for the upcoming second Community Dialogue on May 4, 2011 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm in the BHS Field House. The event is open to civic and business leaders, parents, students, staff, School Committee members as well as other elected officials and all community members

2.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Rittenburg thanked Dr. Entwistle for his service to the Belmont Public Schools and stated the Committee is very sorry to see him leave. The Committee looks forward to their continued collaboration with ongoing projects for the remainder of the School year.

Ms. Rittenburg announced that as part its membership in the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS); the School Committee will be using technical assistance in the search for an interim superintendent. The job has been posted internally and externally with applications due to MASC by April 22nd. A more involved search will begin in the fall for a permanent Superintendent.

Ms. Rittenburg made note of the fact that the School Committee budget vote will not take place until things are better defined with respect to available funds,, including those from the state.

She thanked the FBE for the gala that they hosted on March 19th. Ms. Slap announced that over \$120,000 was raised at the gala this year.

2.6 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizens concerns

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 None

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 Motion to vote on Belmont Public Schools participation in School-Choice

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to withdraw from our obligation to enroll non-resident students, through the School Choice Program, due to a lack of capacity for the 2011-2012 school year.

4.2 Update on Strategic Leadership Team (School Committee/Leadership Council) work ongoing

Ms. Rittenburg updated the Committee with regard to ongoing discussions with the Board of Selectmen and Warrant Committee.

The Selectmen are considering the decision to placing an override by April 28th.

The Warrant Committee has not made a decision on the School Department's reserve fund transfer request.

A. Labor Negotiations

Ms. Rittenburg updated the Committee on Unit A negotiations; a session was held this afternoon and will meet again next week.

She explained the work of the Leadership Learning Teams (LLTs) which has been ongoing. Results of a survey on will be reviewed at a later meeting.

B. Local, State Federal Funding

Four members of the School Committee spent the day at the state house advocating for funding, legislative change and regulatory relief.

The EDCO Legislative Forum is postponed until the fall.
The Suburban Coalition legislative breakfast will be held April 26 in the state house.

C. FY12 School Funding/Budget Development

Ms. Rittenburg announced School Committee plans to create a task force to explore alternative funding sources for extra-curricular activities and athletics. It is anticipated that the team will look at means to continue to provide fee supported activities. School Committee members of the task force will be Mr. Scharfman, Ms. Parmett and Ms. Rittenburg; it is anticipated that membership will include Leadership Council members, as well as representation from the Recreation Department, Belmont Boosters and others. An initial proposal will be brought to the School Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Quality Assurance for Curriculum Structure for FY12

Dr. Entwistle announced that the Leadership Council has come up with a plan to broaden quality assurance without using additional resources. The current Director of Math will be overseeing Math and Science for grade 5-12, the Director of English will oversee English and Social Studies for grades 5-12. Specialists will provide curriculum support and oversight for grades K-4. The current Literacy RTI position will have responsibility for the English Language Arts and Social Studies curricula. The Math RTI position slated to be hired for September will be reallocated to oversee the Math and Science curricula. Both specialists will be housed at the Winn Brook School and will report to the principal, but will work in all four elementary schools.

Online Learning

Mr. Scharfman provided an update to the School Committee on research regarding on-line learning. He has met with Dr. Harvey and Mr. Mazzola to discuss what is currently being done in Belmont, the fundamental finding is that the models that are seen today do not save money but can offer additional education opportunities and meet individual learner needs. Mr. Scharfman and David Stievater are working together to identify options and plan to report back to the School Committee in the Fall.

Arlington Watertown Collaboration

Dr. Entwistle reported that he has met with Superintendents from Arlington and Watertown to discuss way in which they might share online learning resources. Watertown has seats available to sell to other districts with students interested in on line learning classes.

Program Expansions EDCO and LABBB

Dr. Entwistle explained LABBB's plan to expand their physical space in order to generate additional program options. EDCO has identified a couple of program expansions which include students with disruptive behaviors and an evening academy for school refusers.

Maintenance/Buildings and Grounds Consolidation

Ms. Rittenburg introduced Michael Libenson who is the chair of the Consolidation Committee. He updated the committee on the work he and his colleagues have been doing in finding the appropriate way to consolidate the Maintenance and Buildings and Grounds for the School

Department and Town. A warrant article will be presented at Town Meeting in April to see if the town will accept a consolidation of Maintenance/ Buildings and Grounds.

4.3 Butler Green Boiler-Project Update, Review and Action

Mr. DiCologero has been working on obtaining a grant from the MSBA to replace a boiler at the Butler School. After initial bids were discussed with the Project Committee, it was determined that the project would be more expensive than originally thought. In addition, the project would need to start right away in order to meet MSBA guidelines. The updated estimate is \$387,000 and if the School Department goes forward with the project it will inhibit them from doing other projects. The current boiler is working and not in imminent risk of failure.

On a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously (6-0) not to continue with the Butler Green Boiler Project.

5. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

5.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham reported that the Wellington School project is on time and anticipated substantial completion will be by July 18th.

5.2 Communications and Community Outreach

No report-out

5.3 Other Report-outs (as needed)

No report-outs

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Consent Agenda

Surplus Items for Disposal – Exhibit A

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the Consent Agenda

6.2 Personnel Items – Informational

- ❖ Instructional Assignments – Exhibit B
- ❖ Non-instructional Items – Exhibit C
- ❖ Change of Instructional Assignments – Exhibit D
- ❖ Maternity/Extended Leave – Exhibit E
- ❖ Resignations – Exhibit F
- ❖ Retirements – Exhibit G
- ❖ Extra-compensatory Assignments – Exhibit H

6.3 Approval of Minutes

- ❖ February 15, 2011
- ❖ March 1, 2011
- ❖ March 3, 2011
- ❖ March 5, 2011
- ❖ March 15, 2011

Approval of the minutes was postponed to a later date.

At 9:25 on a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

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

7.

FUTURE BUSINESS

7.1 Next Meeting Dates

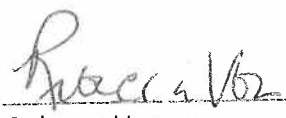
April 1, 2011
Work Session
SAB Conference Room
9:00 a.m.

April 5, 2011
Regular Meeting
CMS Community Room
7:30 p.m.

April 8, 2011
Work Session
SAB Conference Room
8:30 a.m.

April 15, 2011
Work Session
SAB Conference Room
8:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted


Rebecca Vose
Secretary