

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Vose, Secretary
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Dan Scharfman
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougee'
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston thanked the members of Belmont Against Racism (BAR) for having provided a donation of \$13,000 to support after school programs and transportation for METCO students. The School Committee was pleased to be able to meet with parents at their last workshop which was held in Boston.

Dr. Kingston acknowledged a donation of \$15,000 from an anonymous donor to support instructional technology programming going on at the Butler School. He explained that it is the obligation of Massachusetts General Law for School Committee's to acknowledge donated gifts.

Dr. Kingston updated the Committee on the results of an engineering exam which took place at the Butler, Winn Brook and Burbank playgrounds. He received a draft report on Thursday and will be reviewing the report with the engineer on Wednesday, November 2nd. He will meet with the Butler PTO members to discuss funding for needed repairs. Winn Brook playground stands on property administered by the Recreation Department. Dr. Kingston will provide copies of the report to School Committee members.

Dr. Kingston announced that Belmont Public Schools will be hosting a presentation by Elizabeth Englander who is the director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center and an expert on bullying and aggression. Her organization has become a major consulting point for school systems to learn about anti-bullying.

The School Department website has a full statement on the Belmont Public Schools Anti-Bullying Policy as well as a reporting form for bullying incidents. Dr. Kingston explained that it is not a requirement to complete the form to report an incident. You can talk to any school official to report a bullying incident.

Belmont Veterans will be visiting schools on November 10th in honor of Veteran's Day.

Dr. Kingston announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be conducting their Coordinated Program Review (CPR) next year. The CPR is a compliance review which looks at Special Education, Civil Rights and English as a Second Language requirements.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham announced that Belmont Serves Day was a huge success. There were record numbers of volunteers collecting food for the Food Pantry, clean-up projects, fence painting at Grove Street and cleaning out the mods at BHS. Many residents including students donated their time. Mr. Graham thanked the Belmont Religious Council for organizing this event.

Ms. Graham thanked the Friends of the Belmont Library for inviting teachers to attend their book sale. Belmont Public Schools teachers were able to collect 1,000 books for their libraries

Ms. Graham congratulated Ms. Rosemary Peterson, Belmont Public Schools Nurse Administrator on being named Massachusetts School Nurse Administrator of the Year for 2011. Ms. Peterson was honored at the MSNO fall conference which was held on October 22, 2011 at the Double Tree Hotel in Westborough.

1.6 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero notified the Committee that the end of the year report has been filed for the DESE. This report which is used by the DESE to determine funding for schools is subject to audit in the spring.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) sent a letter notifying the district that they are accepting statements of interest one of which is a new initiative for science labs. It is Mr. DiCologero's recommendation that Belmont does not accept this statement of interest because it would negate the statement of interest that is currently on file the MSBA for repairs or new construction of Belmont High School. He is recommending that Belmont recertifies the current statement of interest.

Mr. DiCologero updated the Committee on two meetings that have taken place with Town Department Heads regarding the FY12 budget. The group is looking into what might make the budget process easier.

Ms. Darias updated the Committee on the district report card which is produced annually by the DESE. It includes data on student enrollment, teacher quality, MCAS scores and adequate yearly progress. A letter will be going out to parents via the list-serv. Ms. Darias provided the Committee with hand-outs and explained where they could find the information on the BPS website.

Ms. Darias announced that this will be the second year Belmont has used the Professional Learning Team (PLT) model for professional development. There are 60 PLTs this year. Ms. Darias was pleased to announce that 33 facilitators are returning from last year. She is teaching a course for new PLT facilitators. There will be a final conference in May where PLTs will share results and they will also attend a future School Committee workshop to share their work with the Committee.

1.7 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 School Committee vote to approve AFSCME contract – Exhibit A

Ms. Vose explained the AFSCME contract which includes Custodial and Cafeteria Workers.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) on a roll call vote to approve the agreement between Belmont Public Schools and AFSCME Local 408 dated November 1, 2011, Exhibit A.

3.2 Motion to accept the proposal from the Belmont Youth Baseball Little League Board of Directors – Exhibit B

Ms. Graham invited Mr. Peter Noone and Mr. Steven Rizzuto to join the School Committee at the table. Mr. Noone explained the project which involves removing part of the grass on the Concord Avenue Softball Field. The purpose is to allow Little League players to play on fields with larger distances to home plate than they would have on a regular Little League Field. The field will be usable as a softball and baseball field.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to accept the proposal from the Belmont Youth Baseball Little League Board of Directors as Outlined in the Memorandum of September 29, 2011, to undertake at the League's own expense enhancements to the baseball playing field on Concord Avenue with the following provisions: 1) that the pitcher's mound to be used will be a temporary structure; 2) that the League understands the property is under consideration as one potential site for a possible new Belmont Public Library.

3.3 Superintendent's Contract Status

Ms. Graham explained details of the meeting the School Committee had with Mr. Glenn Koocher from Massachusetts Association of School Committees. They met to discuss options the School Committee has regarding the hiring of a permanent Superintendent. The 3 routes available are: a full search using a Search Committee, appointment of an internal candidate or exploring the option of extending the contract of the current Interim Superintendent for another year.

Dr. Kingston has been widely accepted by Leadership Council, staff and the community.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Thomas Kingston to have him serve as Interim Superintendent for a second year subsequent to his current contract.

3.4 MASC ballot question discussion and vote

Mr. Scharfman is the School Committee delegate to the MASC/MASS Joint Conference this year. He will be voting on the following resolutions. The Committee discussed each one and voted their preference as a Committee.

Resolution 1: Providing greater access for students to exploratory visits to Chapter 74 approved vocational education programs

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to recommend that Mr. Scharfman vote no to resolution 1.

Resolution 2: Teacher Evaluation

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to recommend that Mr. Scharfman vote yes to resolution 2.

Resolution 3: Charter School Funding

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

VOTED (5-1) with Ms. Vose abstaining to recommend that Mr. Scharfman abstain from voting on resolution 3.

Resolution 4: Enactment of a freeze on federal regulations regarding pending the re-authorization of No Child Left Behind

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to recommend that Mr. Scharfman vote yes to resolution 4 only after altered language has been accepted by the MASC delegates.

Resolution 5: State Educator Evaluation Process

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to recommend that Mr. Scharfman vote yes to resolution 5.

4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

4.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham reported that the punch list is ongoing but the students and staff are happy and safe.

4.2 Finance Sub-committee

Mr. Cunningham reported that he is in the process of working on a report with results of the meetings the Finance Sub-committee has had.

4.3 Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities Task Force

Mr. Scharfman announced that a Public Forum will be held on November 9th. The purpose of this forum is to allow the public to comment on what they feel the School Department is doing well regarding Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities and what they feel needs to be changed.

Mr. Scharfman will be attending a future meeting of the Student Government to listen to comments from students.

4.3 Buildings and Grounds Consolidation

No updates

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

In accord with the provisions of MGL 44, Section 53A, the School Committee accepts gratefully an anonymous gift of \$15,000 to support instructional technology, assessment, and Response to Intervention initiatives, and support for the "Speak Type" software and headsets at the Butler Elementary School.

In accord with the provisions of MGL 44, Section 53A, the School Committee gratefully accepts a gift of \$13,000 from Belmont Against Racism (BAR) to support after-school

programming and transportation for students enrolled in the Belmont Public Schools through the METCO program.

Update to Policy 8005 – Exhibit C

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to approve the consent agenda.

5.2 Personnel Items - Informational

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

- ❖ Personnel Status Updates – Exhibit D
- ❖

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

September 23, 2011
September 30, 2011
October 4, 2011
October 14, 2011
October 18, 2011

Minutes will be taken up at another minutes

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

November 15, 2011 - Workshop
Chenery Middle School Community Room
7:30 p.m.

7. ENCLOSURES

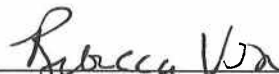
- ❖ October 26, 2011 letter from Mark Bernard re: AFSCME ratification settlement
- ❖ MSNO announcement re: Rosemary Peterson named MA School Nurse Administrator of the Year 2011.
- ❖ Fall 2011 Edition of the Beacon
- ❖ October 11, 2011 letter from DESE re: district selection for participation in 2012-2013 Coordinated Program Review including Web-Based Monitoring for Special Education and Civil Rights
- ❖ October 1, 2011 Enrollment – REVISED
- ❖ 2011-2012 Subcommittee Assignments
- ❖ Thank you letter to J. Jacoby re: BAR donation
- ❖ MSBA FY12 Statement of Interest Recertification

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by


Rebecca Vose, Secretary