

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MINUTES
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 14, 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

Also present: Mr. Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services, Ms. Kathy Miller,
Ms. Elizabeth Gibson and Ms. Deborah Emello, Members of the Policy Sub-
committee, Ms. Rosemary Peterson, Nursing Coordinator

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Conference Room of the School Administration Building.

1.2 Ms Peterson explained that she and Jim Davis as part of the Health, Safety and Security Committee have been working on a policy for brain injuries for approximately one year. In 2010 the State passed a law requiring all school districts to have a policy on head injuries for grades 6 through 12 which has caused school districts to look at the regulations they currently have in place. The State law requires that the policy cover sports as well as clubs and activities. The Mass. Department of Health and MIAA both have their own set of regulations. All of the forms will be online when they are complete.

Ms. Peterson provided handouts of a draft that is being worked on which spells out what activities are involved and what education will be needed for coaches and other staff on what to do when a student has a head injury. Students and parents are now required to complete an online training document which will become part of the students file. Athletes are not allowed to take part in sports unless all forms have been submitted.

The Department of Public Health has promised to provide school districts with a template for their policies. Belmont Public Schools currently makes accommodations for students with head injuries but what they are required to do will need to be spelled out more completely. Coaches in Belmont currently receive training in how to deal with a head injury.

Mr. Ken Kramer, Director of Student Services explained that department is called in if a student needs services as a result of a head injury.

Ms. Graham offered to put all regulations on Edline so the School Committee would have easy access to read through them.

1.3 On Sunday, October 16th Dr. Kingston and members of the School Committee will attend a public forum on how to improve the budget process. Dr. Kingston and Ms. Slap will be part of a panel that will answer questions after a presentation by Clayton Christenson.

1.4 Dr. Kingston updated the Committee about MSBA's announcement of a \$60,000,000 grant program to update science labs. He voiced concern that accepting this offer now would undermine the chance to apply for more major renovations in the future.

1.5 Dr. Kingston informed the Committee that he has asked Mr. McAllister to hire a consultant to do a safety appraisal of the Butler Playground. If the engineer finds that the equipment is dangerous, it is the School Department's responsibility to close it down. Dr. Kingston has proposed having a conversation with the Butler PTO to explore options for temporary improvements to the playground in the event it needs to be closed.

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

VOTED unanimously (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Vose
Rebecca Vose, Secretary