

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
October 4, 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 7:00 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

1.2 a. Recognition of Teachers with Newly Granted Professional Status

Ms. Pederson welcomed the 24 teachers who were being honored for achieving Professional Status. She presented each one with a certificate of appreciation and small gift.

1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda

The Chairman's report was moved to 1.5.

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston explained the enrollment numbers which are the official numbers submitted to the State for the 2011-2012 school year. He updated the Committee on the new online substitute system which the School Department will begin using on October 11. It is hoped that the new system will be easy for teachers as well as economical. Mary Pederson has been interviewing teachers who are in the sub bank and training has been provided for staff and substitutes.

Dr. Kingston attended the Foundation for Belmont Education board meeting which was held on Monday, October 3rd. He praised the FBE for all it has done for the schools.

Dr. Kingston told the Committee that he has been having conversations with students and citizens as often as possible. He has found that the common concern people seem to have is the budget. On Oct 16<sup>th</sup> a budget forum sponsored by the Vision 21 Implementation Committee will be held at the Beech Street Center to discuss the budgeting process. Clayton Christenson will speak and Dr. Kingston and Laurie Slap will be on the panel for the discussion that follows the presentation.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham adjusted the agenda moving the Chairman's Report to 1.5. She announced that Anne Lougee was elected as the new School Committee member at the joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and School Committee on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. She thanked all of the candidates who applied for the position and stated that the Committee would have been well served by any of them. The Committee is looking forward to working with Ms. Lougee.

1.6 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

FY12 School Budget Update Report 1 – Exhibit A

Mr. DiCologero presented his FY12 Budget Update Report. He explained to the Committee the amounts and why adjustments are made. His report reflects payroll and expenses up to this time. He will be providing updates on a quarterly basis.

Mr. DiCologero updated the Committee on the building rentals. In 2011 the School Department made \$208,520. The income from building rentals is used to pay utilities. He explained that some organizations are exempt from building rental fees per school committee policy.

1.7 Citizen's Concerns

Mr. Patrick Whittemore spoke about his concerns with the safety and maintenance of school playgrounds particularly at the Butler. Ms. Graham said that someone from Buildings and Grounds will check the playgrounds and see what type of remediation can be done. Ms. Vose stated that if the intent is to inspect the Butler Playground she suggests that Glenn Clancy, an engineer from Community Development accompany someone from the Buildings and Grounds Department to determine if the playground is safe. Ms. Graham stated that the Committee will get back to him as soon as they have some information.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Memorandum of Agreement – Belmont Department of Public Facilities – Exhibit B

Ms. Vose explained the draft of the Memorandum of Agreement. She recommended that the Committee endorse the document with the understanding that it is not the final agreement. Some details may change once the Board of Selectmen reviews it.

There are some operational items that are not reflected in the current agreement that will need to be worked out with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Scharfman suggested approving the document pending legal review. Ms. Lougee expressed concern about giving the new Department the responsibility of coordinating building use. Ms. Vose explained that the building principal will be the manager of the building and will have control over the use of their space.

Mr. Cunningham suggested removing the statement "prior to submission to the Warrant Committee".

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

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0) to approve the School Committee Revised Draft 10-2-11 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Town Administrator for presentation to the Board of Selectmen and review by Town and/or School Counsel.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0) to amend the Memorandum of Agreement by removing the words "prior to submission to the Warrant Committee from Article VI.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0) to approve the School Committee Revised Draft of 10-2-11 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Town Administrator, amended to remove the words "prior submission to the Warrant Committee" in Article VI, for presentation to the Board of Selectmen and review by Town and/or School Counsel.

### 3.2 School Committee Delegate to MASC

Ms. Graham announced the M.A.S.S. / M.A.S.C. Joint Conference is in November and the Committee needs to vote on a delegate and alternate. There are resolutions to by- laws of M.A.S.C. and the Committee will need a representative to vote.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0) to appoint Mr. Dan Scharfman as the School Committee representative to the M.A.S.S./ M.A.S.C. Joint Conference in November, 2011.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (6-0) to appoint Ms. Laurie Graham as the alternate representative to the M.A.S.S. / M.A.S.C Joint Conference in November, 2011.

Mr. Scharfman requested that the motions he will be required to vote on at the conference be discussed at a future School Committee meeting so he can represent the entire Committee.

### 3.3 School Committee Goals and Sub-committee Assignments – Exhibit C

The Committee reviewed the draft of the goals chart that Mr. Scharfman prepared. Ms. Graham suggested taking more time to define the goals before voting on the chart. Mr. Cunningham stated that it is important to have groups begin their work even though the document has not been voted on.

There was discussion on what goals need sub-committees and Ms Graham suggested creating assignments and then looking at the document again within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Graham announced that a School Committee member will be appointed as a liaison to each of the PTOs.

## 4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

### 4.1 Wellington Building Committee

The building is still being worked on but staff and students are happy and safe. The modular units located at the high school will be moved around mid October.

### 4.2 Long Term Financial Planning Sub-committee

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Committee continues to meet with community members and they are working on a draft report.

### 4.3 Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities Task Force

The subcommittee will meet on October 5<sup>th</sup>. One topic they have been working on is why there are changes in participation of activities. Mr. Scharfman announced the resignation of two members but does not feel there is a need to replace them at this time. Ms. McDevitt, Director of Social Studies will look into having student representatives join the Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities Task Force.

Mr. Scharfman reported that he attended the EDCO Legislative Forum and will report out at a later date.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

### 5.1 Consent Agenda

Approval of Eastern Division Honors Choir Trip to Providence, RI – Exhibit C  
On a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

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

### 5.2 Personnel Items - Informational

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### 5.2 Personnel Items - Informational

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

- ❖ Personnel Status Updates – Exhibit D
- ❖ Extra-compensatory Assignments – Exhibit E

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

- ❖ September 13, 2011
- ❖ September 27, 2011

Ms. Vose asked that the minutes of September 13<sup>th</sup> be revised in the last paragraph of the Chairman's report to say Laurie Graham instead of Laurie Slap.

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

**VOTED** (5-0) with Ms. Lougee abstaining to approve the minutes of September 13, 2011 and September 27, 2011 as amended.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

**Upcoming Meetings:**

October 18, 2011  
Central Boston Elder Services  
2315 Washington Street  
Boston, MA

7. ENCLOSURES

Teachers Recommended for Professional Status  
National Merit Scholarships  
October 1, 2011 Enrollment

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougee and seconded by Ms. Vose, it was

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

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Vose  
Rebecca Vose, Secretary