

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair  
Ms. Rebecca Vose, Secretary  
Ms. Laurie Slap  
Mr. Dan Scharfman  
Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
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 7:35 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

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston reported that the Wellington School opened on time. There will be an open house on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00. The following dates have been set for back-to-school nights:

- ❖ Wellington – September 26
- ❖ Burbank – September 26
- ❖ Butler – September 19 grades (K-1) and September 20 grades (2-4)
- ❖ Winn Brook – October 5
- ❖ Chenery – September 15 grades (7-8) and September 22 grades (5-6)
- ❖ High School – September 21

Dr. Kingston talked about his entry plan which is a series of conversations about concerns people have regarding Belmont Public Schools and how it operates. The result of these conversations will be a report sometime in November.

Dr. Kingston shared his professional development goals for the year. Dr. Kingston is participating in the Massachusetts Superintendent Induction Program. He invited the School Committee to make suggestions on how to reach goals.

At the last School Committee meeting for 2010-2011, the Committee approved all of the non-contractual salaries except Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists and Lunch Aides. Dr. Kingston stated that there will be no raises for those categories at this time.

Dr. Kingston asked Mr. DiCologero to explain the Final Report of the FY11 Budget. Mr. DiCologero explained the end of the year balance in the general operating funds as well as grants and revolving accounts. The School Committee requested a one-page overview of the Revolving Account Protocols that were developed in 2010-2011.

## 1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham introduced the Student Representative – Rachel Hannah. Rachel stated that she and the other members of the Student Senate are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the process.

Ms. Graham announced the resignation of Karen Parmett and expressed the appreciation of the entire Committee for Karen's service. She explained the process for filling the vacancy and asked that anyone who may be interested in serving submit a letter of interest to the Superintendent's Office. The deadline for submission has been extended to September 27<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. There will be a joint meeting of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to interview candidates.

The School Committee and Leadership Council met over the summer to define goals for the coming year. Meet Belmont was held on August 30<sup>th</sup> and was very successful.

Ms. Graham announced that the Committee will begin the search for a new Superintendent late in the fall or early winter. Glenn Koocher of MASC will meet with the School Committee the first week in October.

Ms. Graham reported that the Community Education sign-up night was well attended. She explained the new online registration process that will be implemented in the near future.

## 1.6 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

## 2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## 3. MAJOR BUSINESS

### 3.1 Butler Playground Update – Exhibit A

Michael McAllister, Principal of the Butler School gave a presentation explaining the plans for the new Butler Playground. The plan to build a new playground began about 4 years ago. Mr. McAllister interviewed parents and community members who expressed support for a new playground. In 2009 a Playground Committee was created and Mr. McAllister began speaking to designers and consultants. In 2010 the PTO and BEDP joined together to pay Miller Design, LLC for design services. Phase I will cost \$66,100 and Phase II will cost \$34,800. All funds will be raised privately with no cost to the Town.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0) to accept the new Daniel Butler Playground proposal dated 9-13-11 – Exhibit A.

### 3.2 FY12 Budget Revision – Exhibit B

Mr. DiCologero explained Draft 4 of the FY12 Budget. He explained the breakdown of various accounts and explained changes in how funds from grants are charged to accounts.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0) to approve the FY12 Budget Draft 4 dated 9-13-11 – Exhibit B.

### 3.3 Surplus Property – Exhibit C.

The surplus property exhibit was removed from the agenda. It will be addressed at a future meeting.

## 4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

### 4.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham reported that the first days of school at the Wellington went smoothly. The intermediate and primary playgrounds are fully complete and the gym is almost complete. There are still punch list items

to be completed. Skanska has people working at night and on the weekends to finish up work that needs to be completed.

It is anticipated that by the end of September the School Department items will be removed from the modular units located at the high school. Items are being distributed among other schools.

The BHS parking lot and tennis courts will be remediated by next spring.

#### 4.2 Long Term Financial Planning Sub-committee

Ms. Slap updated the Committee on the work of the Subcommittee. There seems to be support for creating a Finance Subcommittee of the School Committee. The creation of this committee would help to develop a smoother process for budget preparation. The Subcommittee members found based on conversations with town and community members that there is a lot of complexity in the current budget process and they have identified components that can be improved. One recommendation is more communication much earlier with the intention of having common language.

Ms. Graham established a School Committee Finance Sub-committee.

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

Mr. Scharfman reported on the work of the task force. The task force will be requesting information from various people to see what is working and what is not. A public meeting will be held in October to collect information and opinions. A subsequent meeting will take place to report out.

#### 4.4 Buildings and Grounds Consolidation

A report on Buildings and Grounds consolidation will take place at a future meeting.

### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Consent Agenda

##### ❖ Washington D.C. Trip Proposal – Exhibit D

Ms. Darias gave the Committee an overview of the trip that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking to Washington D.C. There will be 25 chaperones including 2 administrators, Rosemary Peterson, the Director of Nursing Services, and David Coplon-Newfield, Assistant Principal. There will be special programs for students who choose not to take the trip.

##### ❖ Mileage Reimbursement – Exhibit E

Mr. DiCologero explained to the Committee that the School Department will begin using the same mileage reimbursement that the Town is using.

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

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0) 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 F

#### 5.3 Business Items – None

#### 5.4 Approval of Minutes

##### ❖ August 10, 2011

##### ❖ August 15, 2011

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

**VOTED** unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes of August 10, 2011 and August 15, 2011.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

**Upcoming Meetings:**

September 27, 2011 – Workshop  
CMS Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

7. ENCLOSURES

Community Education Brochure – Fall 2011  
Temporary Certificate of Use and Occupancy- Wellington School  
Enrollment as of September 9, 2011  
FY11 Budget Report

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOTED** unanimously on a roll call vote (5-0), at 9:35 p.m., to enter Executive Session for the purpose 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 announced it would not be returning to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted by



Rebecca Vose, Secretary