

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 7:31 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

1.2 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston discussed the incident in front of Belmont High School on Friday, September 16 where a woman was assaulted. He reminded people that it is important to take precautions and be vigilant after dark. Columbus Day, October 10, is Belmont Serves Day. Several Belmont High School students have been selected for the ACDA Eastern Division High School Honors Choirs. At the October 4 Business Meeting we will ask for consent approval for the trip to Rhode to rehearse and perform in February. Dr. Kingston read the names of the eight students selected. Dr. Kingston also read the names of Belmont High School seniors who are semifinalists for or have received a commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Competition based on the PSAT scores.

1.3 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham commented on the Grand Re-Opening Ceremony at the Wellington School on Sunday, September 25, 2011. There were many speakers, and a common theme of all of them was a sentiment of great pride in the accomplishment of the community coming together to make this school possible. The School Committee continues to work on establishing goals and subcommittees to work on these goals. There are four letters of interest for the School Committee vacancy. At the meeting on October 3rd the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen will interview all candidates and select the person to complete Karen Parmett's term on the School Committee. The annual Belmont Public Library book sale will be held on October 15 and 16, 2011. BPS educators are invited to come on Friday, October 14 to select books at no cost for their classrooms. We are grateful to the Belmont Public Library for this opportunity for our teachers. Belmont Serves is sponsored by the Religious Council. There is registration information on their web site. The EDCO Legislative Forum is October 3, 2011. Ms. Graham thanked the student representative, and noted that arrangements have been made to email the School Committee packet to the student representatives in advance of each meeting.

2. MAJOR BUSINESS

2.1 Discussion of Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Consolidation of Facilities Management
– Exhibit A

Michael Libenson, chair of the committee on the Consolidation of Buildings and Grounds, was present to give an overview of the process and details of the memorandum, and to answer questions. After the memorandum is signed, the budgets will need to be analyzed, and a budget for this new department of public facilities will need to be developed. This will need to be voted at Town Meeting.

Questions regarding the details of the Memorandum included the topics of wage scales (currently different for school and town employees), the oversight model, rental rates, and funding for this model. They hope to bring a consolidated budget to Town Meeting in January. The new director could be hired in calendar year 2012.

Ms. Vose will propose some draft changes and share them with the School Committee this week. If the language of the memorandum and motion can be worked out for the October 4 meeting, it can be voted then. If not, it can be added to a Friday work session. Mr. Libenson will begin having conversations with Mr. DiCologero and Mr. Younger on budgets.

2.2 Surplus Items for Disposal – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston explained the Massachusetts General Law that requires that the School Committee declare these items surplus. Mr. DiCologero explained that the memorandum, labeled Exhibit B, lists the items. Ms. Graham noted that prior to putting this list together, all of the principals selected items for re-use in other buildings. Dr. Kingston noted that the surplus will be advertised for non-profit organizations to pick up. If there are items that are not picked up, there may be some cost to the district to dispose of them.

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

VOTED unanimously (5-0) to approve the disposal of surplus items as listed in Exhibit B dated 9-27-11.

2.3 2011 Accountability Data – Exhibit C

Ms. Darias updated the School Committee on the 2011 Accountability data for the district and schools in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind law. She reported that all six schools and the district earned a performance rating of “Very High” with Composite Performance Index numbers between 90 and 100. This indicates that our curriculum is well aligned with the state standards, and the instruction is effective. The NCLB goal is that all schools will have a CPI of 100 by 2014. Belmont’s schools are very close to that target, or have already reached it. She explained that three elementary schools, Burbank, Butler, and Winn Brook, are among the 82% of schools across the state who did not meet an AYP target. Their CPI numbers (94.4, 93.5, 93.9 in English Language Arts and 92.7, 90.2, 93.7 in Mathematics) are also very high. They are considered not to have met their AYP target because they didn’t improve the score over last year. MCAS scores are one measure of how a school is performing – and these scores tell us that the schools are performing well. Ms. Darias noted that the Leadership Council continues to analyze MCAS scores of students in the subgroups. These are measured in the middle school where the subgroups are large enough to be included in the data. This year all subgroups at the Chenery Middle School met the AYP targets in English Language Arts. This is an improvement over last year, and one for which the teachers and district leaders should be proud. The subgroups at the Chenery Middle School did not meet AYP targets for Mathematics. We continue to analyze the data and determine appropriate strategies and interventions to meet the needs of these students.

2.4 Report Out on RTTT

Ms. Darias shared a handout outlining the projects proposed in the Race to the Top Grant for years 2-4 (FY12-FY14). The projects include implementing the statewide educator evaluation framework; aligning our curriculum to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks; participating in the Mass TeLLS survey to obtain feedback to strengthen climate, conditions, and school culture in our schools; strengthening the skills of existing educators by participating in the new superintendent induction program beginning in 2012, and having three district leaders (Michael McAllister, Michael Harvey, and Janice Darias) participate in the National Institute for School Leadership (2011-2012); and implementing the Schools Interoperability Framework that will provide near-real-time access to data in the Educator Data Warehouse by linking our

student and human resources information systems with the Data Warehouse. Some of these projects are completely funded by the RTTT grant; others are partially funded with district funds. The Superintendent, School Committee Chair, and BEA President reviewed the grant, and it was submitted on September 23, 2011. We expect to receive a response by late November or early December.

3. WORKSHOP

3.1 Report Outs

- Finance

There is a forum on Sunday afternoon, October 16, hosted by the Vision Implementation Committee, on the issue of budgeting and finance in the town. Clayton Christensen will be the keynote speaker, and there will be a panel presentation. Ms. Slap will be on the panel, speaking about the budget process from the School Committee perspective.

- Task Force on Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a meeting scheduled for October 5, 2011. Mr. Scharfman has been collecting data from school department officials, and thanked Mr. DiCologero, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Pappazisis for their help collecting the data.

4. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

October 4, 2011 – Business Meeting

CMS Community Room

Reception for Teachers Receiving Professional Status – 6:30 p.m.

Recognition for Teachers Receiving Professional Status – 7:00 p.m.

Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

5. ENCLOSURES

- ACDA Eastern Division High School Honors Choirs
- September 19, 2011 Edition of *Curriculum Center Current*
- National Merit Scholarship Competition – Semifinalists and Commended Students
- Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education September 20, 2011 Update (including information about the development of the Teaching and Learning System)

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED unanimously on to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by


Rebecca Vose, Secretary