

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
September 30, 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 joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Finance, Business and Operations joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

1.2

Ms. Graham explained the process for the School Committee and Board of Selectmen selection of the new School Committee member. The selection will take place at the joint meeting of School Committee and Board of Selectmen on October 3rd. Mr. Scharfman announced that he will be recusing himself from the selection process because one of the candidates was involved with his School Committee campaign. The Ethics Commission explained to Mr. Scharfman that it is his choice to sit at the table during interviews although he will not be taking part in the interview process.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of having an open voice vote as opposed to ballot votes and having each candidate answer questions separately or having more of a discussion format. There was discussion on the types of questions that should be asked and what type of candidate they are looking for.

1.3

Mr. Scharfman explained the revision he made of the goals chart that was discussed in detail at the Sept. 23rd workshop meeting. The Committee discussed the revisions and suggestions were made for some more small revisions.

The current categories are:

- Policy
- Finance
- School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
- Collective Bargaining
- Performance Standards and Evaluation
- Professional Development
- School Councils
- Curriculum
- Governance
- Communication and Advocacy

Mr. Scharfman will work on the new revised document and have it ready for the next School Committee Meeting on October 4th.

Ms. Graham announced that Mr. DiCologero met with members of the Warrant Committee and Board of Selectmen to discuss the 2011-2012 budget calendar and budget development.

Dr. Kingston met with Town Department Heads on September 29 for a general budget meeting. There was discussion on how to make the budget process easier for everyone involved. There are currently 70 Committees and Sub-committees within the town.

Mr Cunningham said in terms of budgets; a document with recommendations on what types of budget should be requested and when. Last year the available revenue budget and level service budget showed a gap. Once funding came in from the state, it looked as though restorations were being made. His suggestion is not to have an available revenue budget. Mr Cunningham asked how the School Committee might intervene to help change the budget process. Mr. Scharfman suggested trying to justify why costs change or explain why there are budget changes.

Mr. Scharfman suggested that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee work together so they can inform the Warrant Committee what they feel the town needs to spend next year.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Rebecca Vose, Secretary