

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
January 17, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Vose, Secretary
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Dan Scharfman
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
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 8:04 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

1.2 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.3 Professional Learning Team Report

The seven members of the K-12 Art PLT made a presentation of about their 2010-2011 PLT findings. The members of the PLT are: Cathy Larkin (facilitator), Ashley Crusco, Nicole Pond, Regina Kalajian, Kathleen Byrnes, Mark Milowsky, and Andrew Roy. Their inquiry question was: What factors or techniques in pre-visualization lead to stronger 21st century skills in problem solving for elementary through secondary aged students. Each art teacher studied the use of these techniques with a control group and a study group, and found their use improved the students' process for creating art, their confidence, and their individual growth as an artist from project to project. The members of the School Committee asked them questions about their work, and how this professional development model made it possible for them to accomplish it.

1.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the model Educator Evaluation system on January 10, 2012. There is a group of administrators and educators who will review the model presented by the DESE, and determine whether to adopt, adapt, or revise the system for implementation in September 2012. The group will meet to begin the work of reviewing the model system on January 24, 2012, and will attend a DESE workshop on January 25, 2012, along with Ms. Graham, representing the School Committee.

1.5 Chairman's Report

The School Committee has decided to change the format of the meetings, adding Citizen's Concerns to all meetings, whether they are classified as a business meeting or a workshop meeting. This opportunity is included in this agenda.

1.6 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2. MAJOR BUSINESS

2.1 Discussion of FY2013 Budget and School Committee Goals - Exhibit A

Note: there is no exhibit A for this meeting; that was a misprint in the agenda. There will be an exhibit at the next meeting when Mr. DiCologero gives a quarterly update of the FY2012 budget.

Ms. Graham invited School Committee members to ask questions about the budget.

Mr. Scharfman asked about the proposal in the initial budget that involved reallocating general fund dollars to the athletic revolving account. Dr. Kingston explained that approximately \$43,525 is proposed to be moved to the revolving account. Having just received the recommendations of the task force, these were not incorporated into the initial budget proposal. He noted that the differences between the Task Force's recommendations and the initial budget proposal will need to be reconciled by the School Committee.

Ms. Graham noted that the Finance Subcommittee has been working since the summer of 2011 to develop a process for developing the budget. They neither develop the budget nor make decisions for the entire School Committee. It is the job of all the members to review the budget and discuss its impact. There will also be discussions of the budget with the Education Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee. The School Committee is setting dates for a joint School Committee/Board of Selectmen meetings in early February and early March. There will be public budget forums during the week of February 13. Mr. Cunningham spoke about the idea of having additional public meetings on special topics, such as health insurance, SPED during February and early March. The dates will be publicized as soon as they are finalized.

Mr. Scharfman explained the document he drafted, which links goals to outcomes, outputs, and a dashboard to measure their accomplishment. This would also provide a platform for communicating with the public about how the school system is performing. Ms. Graham asked everyone to read the document and prepare to adopt some version of the document at next week's meeting.

Ms. Slap asked for a structure to guide the School Committee's review of the budget. She also noted that the public should be made aware that there will not be a full-day budget review meeting on a Saturday in March.

Mr. Cunningham spoke about the outcomes and how to measure them, and the need for a subcommittee to focus on this work and help set the direction of this work. Ms. Graham asked the members to think about the vision of the School Committee in the accomplishment of the goals. She also asked members to think about how a curriculum subcommittee might work. She asked them to email ideas to her.

2.2 Proposal for Rugby Trip to Connecticut in March 2012 – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston noted that this proposal is presented to the School Committee for approval because it is a trip out of state. Mr. Scharfman noted that the Rugby Club is not a school-sponsored club, but run by a private 503c organization. Dr. Kingston agreed that the School Committee does not need to approve this trip because it is not a school-sponsored trip. He will confirm with the high school administration.

3. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

January 24, 2012
CMS Large Community Room

7:30 p.m.

4. ENCLOSURES

Professional Learning Team Report

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:29 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

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

Respectfully submitted by



Rebecca Vose, Secretary