

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
January 24, 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 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Chenery Middle School.

1.2 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham reminded the Committee that on Sunday Belmont HS will be competing in the WGBH High School Quiz Show. There is an opportunity for people interested to attend as live audience members.

The Committee will meet jointly with the Board of Selectmen on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.

Ms Graham announced that Kellie Hebert has been named Interim Town Administrator. There will be a Screening Committee formed to search for a permanent Town Administrator.

Ms. Graham talked about the plan to create an exploratory committee to look at models for a Curriculum Subcommittee.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston explained that they have looked at the governor's proposed budget. Belmont will receive the same amount as last year, \$5,541,573.

## 1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero presented an update on FY12 budget. He reported that he reviewed expenses year to date and projected that targets are being met. The Principals and Directors will be able to continue budgeted spending through March. He explained how bus routes and stops to determine 2 mile distance from schools are established using MapQuest. He plans to share his report with the Warrant Committee and Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee.

## 2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

## 3. MAJOR BUSINESS

### 3.1 Belmont Solar Project – Exhibit D

Mr. Roger Colton, Co-Chair of the Belmont Energy Committee updated the Committee on the Belmont Solar Initiatives. The proposal is to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on Belmont's municipal and school buildings. The long-term goal of the Energy Committee is to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. It is believed that Belmont could host up to 9 PV systems which would have 1,200 kW of capacity and 1.4 million kWh per year with no capital outlay. Mr. Colton said this is an opportunity to reduce energy costs for the Town and Schools.

The plan is for Belmont to host the PV system and purchase only the electricity. The solar system owner would install at the panels on the roofs of the buildings. The panels would provide a portion of the electricity needs.

Using New England's marginal emissions per kWh, the PV system in Belmont would avoid:

- 1,349,600 lbs CO2 per year – equal to 1,738,393 vehicle miles per year.
- 294 lbs Nox
- 462 lbs SO2
- The town could receive environmental credits for Nox and possibly CO2.

Solar energy is very expensive to produce but having a third party installing the panels and selling the electricity brings the cost down. The federal government also provides a tax credit of 30%. The state provides tax exemptions (such as property, sales and excise).

Mr. Colton proposed the formation of a solar oversight committee with possible members to include Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business and Finance, Mr. Fred Domenici, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Jenny Fallon, ESCO Chair, Steve Klionsky, attorney, Northeast Utilities, Roger Colton, co-chair – Energy Committee, Sami Baghdady, Chair – Planning Board and Warrant Committee. Dr. Kingston would need to authorize the formation of the oversight committee and it is hoped to have it in place by February.

School Committee members made the decision to postpone a vote on requesting Dr. Kingston to form an oversight Committee until they have more information on the project.

### 3.2 Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Presentation – Exhibit A

Mr. Scharfman presented the Committee with the findings of the Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Lougee explained that the committee gathered a lot of information and did a very extensive job coming up with the recommendations. Mr. Scharfman acknowledged the task force for their effort as well as other groups who were involved. The key findings were that despite the fees, enough students participate in programs for them to operate. The fees increased two years ago have reduced participation. The combination of revenues fees, general funds and gate receipts have exceeded attributed costs.

The recommendations for FY13 were as follows:

- Reduce BHS athletic fees by \$25 per enrollment for 2 years.

- Reduce BHS athletic fees to the extent possible.
- Reduce Broadway Night and Improv fees to \$100.
- Charge \$150 for all Middle School athletic and performing arts activities.
- A family cap of \$1500 for all Athletic and Extracurricular programs.

#### Financial

- Report account balances quarterly based on actual and projected charges.
- Create separate accounts for high school athletics, high school clubs, high school performing arts, and middle school activities to correspond to fee structures.
- Establish revolving account target balances for any programs that do not yet have them, and adjust fees annually to reach targets.

#### Communication

- Send clear program and fee information during the summer and at the start of the school year to all families; clarify which fees are due at which times.
- Establish a contact person at the Middle School to handle inquiries about school-based extracurricular programs.

#### Policy

- Clarify policy on activities for which no charge should be assessed.
- Provide general fund support for club advisors at the Middle and High School.
- Develop inventory of fund raising efforts by supporting organizations.
- Review participation by subgroups.

Mr. Scharfman suggested the Task Force remain in place through the remainder of the budget season. He explained that the Task Force feels there is a need to establish a working group to address longer term issues.

The final steps for the Task Force are to update models with accurate expense data, advise the School Committee on alignment of recommendations with FY13 budget and then disband.

Mr. Scharfman invited the Committee to read and offer comments on the report. Ms. Graham thanked the Task Force on behalf of the School Committee for all of the work they put in crafting their report.

#### 3.3 Discussion and adoption of School Committee Goals

The School Committee Goals were held until the next School Committee meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### 4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS

##### 4.1 Wellington Building Committee

##### 4.2 Finance Subcommittee

##### 4.3 Student Representative Update

There were no updates from Subcommittees/Liaisons

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

##### 5.1 Consent Agenda

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

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

- Personnel Status Updates – Exhibit B
- Extra Compensatory Assignments – Exhibit C
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5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

October 28, 2011

January 6, 2012

January 13, 2012

January 17, 2012

The minutes were held until the next School Committee meeting on January 31, 2012.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings:

January 31, 2012 - Workshop  
CMS Large Community Room  
7:30 p.m.

7. ENCLOSURES

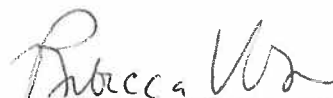
Belmont School Committee Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Vose and seconded by Mr. Scharfman, it was

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

Respectfully submitted by

  
Rebecca Vose, Secretary