

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 5, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Ms. Pascha Griffiths
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Absent: Mr. Scharfman

6:30 P.M. – RECEPTION FOR BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' RETIREES

7:00 P.M. – RECOGNITION OF BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' RETIREES

Ms. Graham welcomed the members of the Belmont Public Schools staff who are retiring at the end of the school year and thanked them for their years of service.

Ms. Graham and Dr. Kingston read a resolution for each of the following retirees.

- Ms. Susan Gorman, Chenery Middle School Social Studies Teacher
- Mr. Anthony Guarente, Chenery Middle School 6th Grade Teacher
- Mr. William Pappazisis, Director of Fine and Performing Arts
- Ms. Carolyn Murphy, Wellington Kindergarten Teacher

7:30 P.M. – BUSINESS MEETING

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Mr. Robert Antonellis, BEA President read a statement regarding Unit D collective bargaining issues. Ms. Graham read the following statement in response.

"Since the fall of 2011, the School Committee and Unit D have been negotiating a successor contract. Despite good faith bargaining we have not been able to reach resolution and on May 21st entered into a mediated process to explore settlement possibilities with the assistance of a state mediator.

Mediation requires confidential discussions on the part of all involved. The School Committee respects this process and therefore, will not comment further. There is another mediation session scheduled for June 18th and we certainly hope we can come to an agreement and resolve this dispute in a professional and courteous manner."

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Ms. Graham invited Rachel Hanna, Student Representative to give her report.

Ms. Hannah stated that the All-Night Party was a great success and she thanked all of the junior parents for their hard work in putting it together. She thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to communicate with them over the course of the year.

Dr. Kingston thanked all of the organizations and individuals who contributed funding for the All-Night Party.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on upcoming end of school year events.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that Arto Asadoorian has been chosen as the new Director of Fine and Performing Arts. Dr. Kingston stated that he and Ms. Darias felt that Arto was the best choice due to his experience across all grades levels. He has also been involved in both performing and fine arts activities.

Dr. Kingston announced that there are 2 finalists for the position of Belmont High School Principal. He stated that the names of the finalists will be announced on June 11. On June 12 the community is invited to meet the finalists at the Belmont High School Library from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero announced that last week was the visit from Massachusetts Associations of School Business Officials (MASBO). Mr. DiCologero sat in on meetings while members of the MASBO team conducted a number of interviews with principals, directors and staff regarding finances. The result will be a report submitted by MASBO which will include suggestions for minor improvements. Mr. DiCologero stated that the MASBO team was very impressed with everyone who was interviewed.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2.1 There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Vote to accept the Memorandum of Understanding on Educator Evaluations – Exhibit A

Dr. Kingston announced that a tentative agreement had been reached with the BEA with regard to the new DESE Model Collective Bargaining Language on Educator Evaluation.

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

VOTED 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent to approve the Memorandum of Understanding on Educator Evaluations – Exhibit A

3.2 Vote to accept changes to 8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum – Exhibit B

Ms. Deborah McDevitt, Director of Social Studies and Ms. Kristen St. George, Chenery Middle School Principal gave a presentation explaining the reasoning behind the changes to the 8th grade social studies curriculum.

The 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy includes the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and technical subjects.

In order to meet the goals of the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy which includes the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and technical subjects, teachers will be required to expand the English writing portfolio into an interdisciplinary Humanities portfolio that provides students with mastery of both the Common Core and the Massachusetts Social Studies Frameworks.

Ms. McDevitt recommended removing History Day from the Social Studies curriculum and replacing it with a voluntary, after-school club. This will allow increased opportunities to measure student growth in reading, writing and research over the course of the year and to provide support for students.

The Committee discussed issues related to this proposal.

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

VOTED 3-2 with Ms. Griffiths and Mr. Cunningham abstaining and Mr. Scharfman absent to approve the changes to the Grade 8 Social Studies Curriculum – Exhibit B

3.3 Acceptance of Report from the Task Force on Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities – Exhibit C-1

Ms. Graham explained that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee has reviewed the Belmont Public Schools policies governing advertising in schools. The School Committee needs to consider and discuss matters such as paid advertising on school building, naming rights and fundraising for school related activities before the Policy Sub-committee can suggest amendments to existing policies or draft new ones.

On a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Lougee, it was

VOTED 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent to accept receipt of the report from the Task Force on Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities on the draft recommendations– Exhibit C-1.

3.4 Memo from Policy and Procedures Subcommittee re: Advertising and Fundraising – Exhibit C-2

3.5 BHS Band and Orchestra Chicago Trip Proposal April 2013 – Exhibit D

Ms. Darias explained that the trip to Chicago would allow students to take part in performances. Organizers of the trip will work with students to provide fundraising.

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

VOTED 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent to approve the BHS Band and Orchestra Trip to Chicago in April 2013 – Exhibit D

4. **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS**

4.1 Wellington Building Committee

There was no Wellington Building Committee report.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Slap stated that the Finance Subcommittee met this morning and began discussion of the summer schedule and long-term planning.

4.3 Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

There was no report from the Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities.

4.4 Student Representative Update

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

There were no personnel items.

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent to approve the minutes of May 22, 2012.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

June 12, 2012
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room
8:00 a.m.

June 19, 2012
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room
7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Retirement Resolutions
June 1, 2012 Enrollment
June 1, 2012 Enrollment indicating changes

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:14 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Griffiths, it was

VOTED 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent to adjourn the meeting.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a roll call vote 5-0-0 with Mr. Scharfman absent, the Committee voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position. Ms. Graham stated that the Committee would not be returning to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted by _____


Daniel Scharfman, Secretary