

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 10, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Mr. Daniel Scharfman, Secretary
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Ms. Pascha Griffiths

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:35 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougee and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously on a roll call vote to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with Union and Non-union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

The Chairman announced that the School Committee would return to Open Session at the conclusion of Executive Session.

3. OPEN SESSION

3.1 Call to order

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:30 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

4. MAJOR BUSINESS

4.1 Presentation of FY13 Budget

Dr. Kingston gave an overview of the FY13 budget explaining that the formation of a budget is a fluid exercise and that this is still the case with this budget. He explained that there were 3 governing principals used to put together this budget.

Budget Assumption 1:

If the administrators, teachers, and governors of the Belmont Public Schools engage in systematic long-term planning, then the resources, goals, and objectives that emerge will support continuous improvement and overall programmatic and fiscal stability within the system.

Budget Assumption 2

If the Belmont Public School District hires well-prepared and diverse professionals, sustains continuous professional development by means of clear and coherent plans, and implements a successful educator evaluation system in line with new state standards, then students will receive instruction from consistently highly qualified educators who pursue the continuous improvement of their art.

Budget Assumption 3

If the Belmont Public School District ensures continuity of the curriculum and compliance with state requirements, strives for higher standards in accord with community expectations, provides support for educators to experiment and innovate, and articulates, clearly its instructional models, then students will be well-prepared for college and career.

Dr. Kingston explained details about the budget using a PowerPoint presentation which will be posted on the Belmont Public Schools website. He announced that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee have agreed to the creation of a Special Education Stabilization Fund. The Stabilization Fund would have to be voted on by Town Meeting.

Ms. Graham thanked the School Administration and the Finance Subcommittee for all the work that went into developing the budget. She invited members of the audience to ask questions and offer comments.

Audience members expressed concern about issues such as class size and continuous erosion of programs over the years. School Committee members responded that the funds currently made available to the School Committee and School Department make it difficult to sustain the quality of the system. Mr. Cunningham stated that the challenge is to look at the big picture and determine what needs to be accomplished and how to fund it.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Griffiths, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Daniel Scharfman, Secretary