

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 24, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Mr. Daniel Scharfman, Secretary
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 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 Chenery Middle School Large Community Room.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Matt Sullivan of Hammond Road asked about an incident that brought police to Belmont High School recently. Dr. Kingston responded that school officials do from time to time call on the Belmont police for support or assistance, and that he had no unusual information to share about recent incidents.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on the following events:

- April 11 the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston hosted a state level economics competition as part of the 2012 Economics Challenge. There were over 130 students who competed from high schools throughout Massachusetts and following a morning session of exams and an afternoon Quiz Bowl, Belmont placed first in the Adam Smith Division. Evan Green, John Lazenby, Robbie Gibson, and Ben Goodman who are students of Brian Corrigan, Social Studies Teacher at BHS. The team will go on to compete in the National Semi-Finals. Ms. Graham congratulated the students who took part in the competition.
- The Wellington Destiny Library Automation Project is complete. The Destiny Library Automation Project enables library collections to be computerized.

- April 26 is the Belmont High School / Chenery Middle School Jazz Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Chenery Auditorium.
- April 26 is the opening of the Ten Minute Play Festival which will be held at the Belmont High School Little Theater.
- April 26, 27, May 4, 5 and 6 the Belmont Dramatic Club will be performing The Sound of Music.
- April 29 Sustainable Belmont will be holding their annual Planning Forum from 1:00 – 3:30 in the Wadsworth Room at Belmont Hill School.
- May 2 is Walks to School Day at Burbank.
- May 3 is the Chenery Middle School Solo Ensemble Concert at 3:00 p.m.
- May 4 the Belmont High School Performing Arts Company Musical Review.
- May 5 is the Butler Talent Show from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- May 5 MICCA Festival will be held at Concord-Carlisle High School

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on a report given by Ellen Schreiber at Town Meeting about a new “friends” organization called Belmont Partners in Play. Ms. Schreiber, along with co-founders of this organization; Coralie DiTommaso, Jane Fox and Crate Herbert seek to bring together community members throughout Belmont to raise the profile of recreation facilities in Belmont and create a private fundraising entity to assist in maintaining and enhancing these resources. Their kick-off event will be a community walk.

Ms. Graham announced that during the month of May, Conley’s Pub and Grille will be donating 15% of their proceeds on Mondays after 5:00 p.m. to the Butler Playground Fund.

1.6 Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Kingston announced that the last day of school will be June 14th. High School graduation will be June 3rd and invitations went out today.

Dr. Kingston announced that the Town Meeting Warrant would include a request to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund. The purpose of the stabilization fund is to have money put aside in the event that unanticipated expenditures arise in Special Education. The Board of Selectmen has endorsed the creation of the stabilization fund and is considering some one time resources to put into the fund. Infusion of monies into the fund and appropriations out of the fund will be under the control of Town Meeting.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations’ Report

Mr. DiCologero provided an update on the FY12 year to date expenditure report. He stated that at this time the School Department is running a positive year -end balance of approximately \$117,000 in salaries. This amount is offset by a projected deficit among the non-salary budget category items in the amount of approximately \$96,000. Mr. DiCologero explained that in the School Department General Fund Budget in the aggregate he is projecting an approximate year-end balance of \$21,000.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2.1 There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 New Food Legislation

Mr. Paul Brown, Director of Food Services provided an update on the new Massachusetts School Nutrition Bill. The new guidelines were created by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Beginning in September 2012, schools will be required to increase the amount of whole grains and fresh vegetables that are sold in the school lunch program. There will be a requirement to provide a half cup portion from each of the five food groups consisting of grains, dairy, meat, yellow and green vegetables.

3.2 Vote on 2012-2013 Budget – Exhibit A

Mr. Cunningham presented an FY13 budget review using a PowerPoint presentation which will be posted to the website. He explained how the budget was developed beginning in December, 2011. He stated that a whole town approach was used in creating the budget.

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

VOTED unanimously that the School Committee recommend to Belmont Town Meeting for Fiscal Year 2013 a General Fund Budget totaling \$43,068,492 and that we request an appropriation to the General Fund of that amount.

Ms. Graham stated that although this budget is a level service budget, there is still concern from parents that a level service budget won't address all the needs of the students in the district.

3.3 Policies – First Readings

- a. General Policies – 0000 Series – Exhibit B
- b. Updates and amendments to Community Relations – 2000 Series - Exhibit C

Ms. Kathy Miller and Ms. Elizabeth Gibson, members of the Policy Subcommittee provided an explanation for the first readings of the General Policies and Community Relations policies.

Ms. Graham explained that the Policy Committee has been updated the School Committee policies for the past several years. Committee members asked questions and provided comment on the policies.

School Committee members offered comments and suggested changes to certain policies.

Ms. Graham explained that the procedures and protocols are separate from the policies.

3.4 Calendar/Schedule

- a. Vote on 2012-2013 School Calendar – Exhibit D

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar.

4. **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS**

- 4.1 Wellington Building Committee
- 4.2 Finance Subcommittee
- 4.3 Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
- 4.4 Student Representative Update

There were not subcommittee reports.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Consent Agenda

There were no items on the Consent Agenda

- 5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

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

Personnel Status Updates – Exhibit F

- 5.3 Approval of Minutes

April 3, 2012

April 6, 2012

April 10, 2012

The vote on the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 27, 2012

School Committee Work Session

SAB Conference Room

8:00 a.m.

May 1, 2012

Finance Subcommittee

SAB Conference Room

8:00 a.m.

May 1, 2012
School Committee Business Meeting
CMS Large Community Room
Executive Session – 6:30 p.m.
Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

May 8, 2012
Finance Subcommittee
SAB Conference Room
8:00 a.m.

May 8, 2012
School Committee Business Meeting
CMS Large Community Room
7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

2012-2013 School Committee Meeting Dates
Last day of school memo

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Slap and seconded by Ms. Lougee, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Daniel Scharfman, Secretary