

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 4, 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 Business, Finance and Operations

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham reported on the following events that have taken place:

- 38th Annual Singarama with over 300 students taking part last week
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Belmont High School – 95 students inducted
- December 5 - Anti-Bullying presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Englander of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center
- December 6 – Chenery Middle School hosts author festival with local authors signing books

- o December 10 – Joint Budget Meeting between Board of Selectmen and School Committee
- o December 12 – Chenery Middle School Grade 5 Concert and Bandarama
- o December 14 – Chenery Middle School Lower House Theatre Club
- o December 19 – Belmont High School Winter Concert
- o March 16 - Foundation for Belmont Education Spring Dinner

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston stated that he was pleased with the smooth transition as Amy Wagner retired as Wellington School Principal. Amy Spangler took over yesterday, December 3. Dr. Kingston noted that she has made a wonderful transition.

Dr. Kingston read a resolution honoring Amy Wagner on her retirement., Ms. Wagner was unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Kingston noted the description of an upcoming high school choral trip to New York and New Jersey that was included in the School Committee packet. He also pointed out that the policy regarding out of state trips was included as a reference for the School Committee. Dr. Kingston explained that every out of state trip does not need to be approved by the School Committee. The intent is to provide information about any major trip and to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Dr. Kingston announced that the Foundation for Belmont Education has awarded \$45,000 in discretionary grants for supplemental programs. He stated that the list of grant awards would be posted on the Belmont Public Schools website and he thanked the Foundation for Belmont Education for its hard work. Dr. Kingston mentioned he will be meeting with FBE officers next week to discuss other short term and long term initiatives.

Dr. Kingston stated that he is watching class enrollments, especially at Wellington. He has formed an advisory group with members from PTOs, the Belmont Education Association, and Administrators. They have been meeting weekly to review issues raised by increasing student enrollment in Belmont. The group is also studying demographic projections and looking at possible available space at schools. Dr. Kingston thanked Janet Carey for assuming the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee and asked that public comments be directed to her.

Dr. Kingston acknowledged a December 3, 2012 letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The letter stated that the Statement of Interest submitted regarding Belmont High School will not be considered for the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program or the Eligibility Period at this time. He explained that for the past ten years the Town of Belmont has applied to the program for renovations to Belmont High School. Dr. Kingston explained that he is attempting to arrange a meeting with MSBA leaders to ascertain where Belmont's position in line may be.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero explained that Belmont has filed a request regarding the high school with MSBA every year for numerous years and the request for next year is due January 9, 2013.

Mr. DiCologero stated that meetings have been scheduled to review Leadership Council requests for the FY14 budget. He also explained that he met with the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee recently to discuss out-of-district tuition.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2.1 NEASC follow-up – Superintendent’s Letter – Exhibit A

Mr. Dan Richards, Belmont High School Principal, joined the School Committee at the table. Dr. Kingston stated that he had concerns about inaccuracies in the NEASC Report. He stated that he drafted a letter to the Belmont Community explaining some of the shortcomings of the report. He also explained that it was premature to direct comments directly to the NEASC Board but does not seem premature to express his concerns officially to Town leaders. Dr. Kingston asked Mr. Richards to be sure that NEASC received a copy of his letter which he read to the School Committee and which will be posted to the Belmont Public Schools website.

Mr. Richards explained the process that will take place once he receives the final report card from NEASC. If there are warnings listed, a progress report will have to be sent in two months. If there are no warnings, he will need to map out a plan to address the suggestions made by NEASC.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Policy Review and Adoption:

Policy 0001 – Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination – Exhibit B-1

Policy 0002 – Harassment – Exhibit B-2

Policy 5004 – Open Campus – Exhibit B-3

Policy 6017 – Home and Hospital Educational Services – Exhibit B-4

Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Manager joined the School Committee at the table. She explained a few minor changes to some of the School Committee policies. Ms. Graham stated that normally School Committee policies are presented to the School for a second reading but since the changes were not major and are needed for the upcoming Coordinated Program Review, the School Committee should vote on them.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the following School Committee polices as amended.

Policy 0001 – Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination – Exhibit B-1

Policy 0002 – Harassment – Exhibit B-2

Policy 5004 – Open Campus – Exhibit B-3

Policy 6017 – Home and Hospital Education Services – Exhibit B-4

3.2 Review and Acceptance of District Strategic Plan – Exhibit C

Dr. Kingston explained that the Leadership Council began updating the Belmont Public Schools Mission Statement last year. He explained that the Strategic Plan is a consensus document designed to be an evolving document. The School Committee met approximately three weeks ago to review the

draft document and members offered several suggestions for changes. The Administration and Leadership Council then made revisions based on comments offered by the School Committee. This revised District Strategic Plan presented to the School Committee tonight is endorsed by Dr. Kingston.

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

VOTED unanimously to accept the Belmont Public Schools District Strategic Plan – 2012-2017 – Exhibit C.

3.3 MASC Delegate Assembly update

Mr. Scharfman presented an overview of the legislative initiatives voted on at the M.A.S.C./M.A.S.S. Conference that was held recently.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Slap stated that the Finance Subcommittee has begun discussing long-term planning. They are also discussing the master plan for Belmont High School.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he has begun to touch base with people in the system regarding work flow and how data is obtained and stored.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy Subcommittee is working on an overview of the School Committee policies to determine what pieces of certain policies are missing. She also stated that the non-members of the Policy Subcommittee would be completing their job by the end of the school year and the Policy Subcommittee would be made up of only School Committee members.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Mr. Scharfman stated that the charge of the subcommittee is to review curriculum proposals before the School Committee needs to approve them. The Committee now has the most recent curriculum steering plan for the six curriculum plans. The Committee discussed the selection of the new math program and how it will proceed. They will meet in January for feedback from the faculty regarding the math program, and will learn about proposed changes to the high school programs.

4.4 Student Representative

Tomas Reimers stated that the first quarter is closed and winter sports have begun. He also noted that the Madrigals recently performed at the Arsenal Mall.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee was scheduled to meet on December 5 but the meeting has been cancelled and a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that David Kale, Town Administrator met with the Warrant Committee and reported on the ongoing budget process.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the Wellington Building Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 5. They are still waiting for the permanent occupancy permit and are anticipating another temporary occupancy permit for December.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

Personnel Status Updates – Exhibit D

Dr. Kingston stated that a joint group of administrators is reviewing the stipends and will be making recommendations to the School Committee regarding any suggested changes.

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

November 13, 2012

November 16, 2012

November 20, 2012

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012 as amended.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of November 16, 2012. Ms. Griffiths abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the minutes of November 20, 2012 as amended. Mr. Scharfman abstained as he had not been present at the meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

December 10, 2012

Joint Meeting – Board of Selectmen and School Committee
Selectmen’s Meeting Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 11, 2012
Finance Subcommittee
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2012
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Policy 6006 – Class and School Trips
Roxbury Choir Invitational – Trip Proposal
Fall 2012 FBE Grant

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:18 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougé and seconded by Ms. Griffiths, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Daniel Scharfman, Secretary