

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
MAY 1, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair  
Mr. Daniel Scharfman, Secretary  
Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
Ms. Pascha Griffiths  
Ms. Anne Lougée  
Ms. Laurie Slap  
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
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 6:30 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School Community Room.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:35 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Scharfman and seconded by Ms. Slap, the School Committee

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

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

3. **OPEN SESSION**

3.1 Call to order

At 7:30 p.m. Ms. Graham announced that the School Committee was in Open Session.

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the pledge of allegiance.

3.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

3.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

### 3.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham announced the following upcoming events:

- April 30 was the start of Butler Screen Free Week which is a national celebration where children, families, schools and communities spend seven days "turning off entertainment screen media and turning on life." It's an opportunity to spend time with family and friends.
- May 1 is the kickoff of Golden Shoes which is an annual event that is sponsored by the Belmont Department of Health and Youth and Family Services. The program encourages Belmont residents to walk as a family and get to know Belmont. Golden shoes with prizes inside are placed along the walk.
- May 2 is Massachusetts Walk or Bike to School Day. The Wellington and Burbank schools are both participating.
- Grade 9 course recommendations are due before the end of the week.
- May 4 is the annual Burbank Math Night from 6:30 – 8:00.
- On May 4 the Belmont High School Performing Arts Review will be held in the Little Theatre at 7:00 p.m.
- On May 10 there will be a briefing for Town Meeting members on the Budget Articles at the Beech Street Center at 7:00 p.m. One of the articles will be the School Department Budget.
- Opening next week and running through May 20 will be the Belmont Elementary School Art Show at the Belmont Art Gallery in the Homer Building. This will be followed by the Chenery and High School Art Shows from May 29 through June 10.
- On May 15 the Belmont High School PTO will be sponsoring a Social Host Liability Training for parents and community members. This is intentionally scheduled as part of preparation for the upcoming Prom and other year-end events.

### 3.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston updated the Committee on the following upcoming events.

- On May 5 and 6 the Sound of Music will be performed by the Belmont Dramatic Club in the Town Hall Auditorium. The Belmont Dramatic Club is the second oldest continuously operating community theatre in the country.
- May 23 will be the annual presentation of the findings of the Professional Learning Teams (PLTs). This will be held at Belmont High School from 12:30 – 3:00.
- Massachusetts Association of Business Officials has awarded Belmont Public Schools with the Donald D. Johnson Cost Efficiency Award. The award is in recognition of extraordinary efforts to improve operational efficiency and to achieve significant cost savings for the betterment of education.

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

Dr. Kingston stated that Mr. DiCologero would not be providing a report tonight but would defer to the Finance Subcommittee later in the meeting.

## 4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1 There was no unfinished business.

## 5. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

5.1 Middle School Math Update and vote to approve the New Curriculum – Exhibit A

Ms. Patty Soliozy, Math Curriculum Director provided a report on the new math curriculum.

The objectives are :

- to provide a standards-based math program to meet the needs of all learners in order that all students will demonstrate grade level proficiency or above on Common Core Assessments, and
- all students will build a strong foundations in mathematics at a pace which develops mathematical understanding and ability to apply concepts to problems."

Ms. Soliozy used a PowerPoint presentation that will be included as part of the School Committee Public documents which will be available for review on the Belmont Public Schools website. More information on the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics can be found at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/math/0311.pdf>

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

VOTED                unanimously to adopt the new Middle School math curriculum as presented.

5.2 Policies – Second Reading and Vote to Adopt

- a. Introduction – Exhibit B
- b. General Policies – Exhibit C
- c. Community Relations – Exhibit D

Ms. Graham explained that the policies to be voted on were reviewed and revised at the previous School Committee Meeting.

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

VOTED                unanimously to adopt the Policy Manual updates dated 5-1-12.

## 6. **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS**

6.1 Wellington Building Committee

Mr. Graham explained that there were some leaks at the Wellington School after the April vacation. The leaks have been addressed.

## 6.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Finance Subcommittee met today to prepare a presentation to Town Meeting and to discuss long-term planning.

## 6.3 Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

The Task Force will provide an update at the next School Committee meeting.

## 6.4 Student Representative Update

There was no Student Representative in attendance.

## 7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

### 7.1 Consent Agenda

#### 2012-2013 Field Trips

- a. France Trip Proposal – Exhibit E
- b. Italy Trip Proposal – Exhibit F
- c. Rugby Spain Trip Proposal – Exhibit G

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

### 7.2 Personnel Items – Informational

There were no personnel items.

### 7.3 Business Items

### 7.4 Approval of Minutes

April 3, 2012  
April 6, 2012  
April 10, 2012  
April 24, 2012  
April 27, 2012

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1 with one abstention to approve the minutes of April 3, 2012.

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 6, as amended, April 10, and April 24, 2012.

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

**VOTED** 5-0-1 with one abstention to approve the minutes of April 27, 2012.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

May 2, 2012  
Task Force on Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities  
Conference Room 2 – Town Hall

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

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

May 15, 2012  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room  
8:00 a.m.

May 22, 2012  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room  
8:00 a.m.

May 22, 2012  
School Committee Business Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room  
7:30 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

Invitation to Bill Pappazisis' Retirement Dinner

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:05 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

**VOTED** unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Daniel Scharfman, Secretary