

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 8, 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

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

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on the following upcoming events.

- May 7 was the kickoff to present Belmont's Walking Routes Map which was created with a grant from Walk Boston.
- Last month the Belmont High School Economic Challenge Team participated in the Economics Semi-Final competition and they will be continuing on to the National Finals on May 19 and 20 in New York City.
- May 9 from 2:35 – 3:30 is Wellington Mother's Day Bake Sale to raise funds for their fourth grade send-off.
- May 9 in the evening Chenery is having an incoming parent informational night beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Chenery is a parent information night to learn about the new 7th and 8th grade math curriculum. This will be repeated on May 16 at 9:00 a.m.
- May 10 at 7:00 p.m. is the Chenery Band Concert.
- May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Beech Street Center the Warrant Briefing will be held.
- May 11 at 7:00 p.m. the Belmont After School Education Collaborative (BASEC) will hold an art show at the Beech Street Center.

- This week the Belmont Elementary Art Show begins at the Homer Art Gallery and will run through May 20.
- May 11 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. the Belmont High School Pops Concert will be held in the Belmont High School Cafeteria.
- Town Meeting will be held May 14 and May 16.
- The 14th Annual Lillian Blacker Awards will be held on May 16.
- May 15 at 7:00 p.m. the Belmont High School PTO will host a Social Host Liability discussion.
- May 18 the Junior/Senior Prom begins at 4:30 with the Promenade at Belmont High School.
- May 17 through May 19 the Chenery Middle School will have a production of Once On This Island.
- May 19 is Town Day

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston stated that Mr. DiCologero was not at the meeting due to a family commitment but the Finance Subcommittee would give a budget update later.

Dr. Kingston announced that Dr. Michael Harvey would be taking over as Superintendent of the Hamilton-Wenham School District beginning July 1. He wished Dr. Harvey success in the next stage of his career.

Dr. Kingston stated that he and Chairperson Graham had discussed how to proceed with the High School Principal screening process. Invitations have been sent out to 8 individuals to serve on a Screening Committee. The Committee will look at applications and invite individuals for an initial interview before the Screening Committee. On the basis of their discussions 3 to 5 candidates will be forwarded to Dr. Kingston and Ms. Darias for final interviews. Dr. Kingston stated that he hopes that they can arrive at a decision and make an appointment by June 14.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero was not in attendance.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2.1 There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Update on Solar Panel Initiative – Exhibit A

Dr. Kingston stated that Mr. Colton has been fabulous to work with.

Mr. Roger Colton, Co-chair of the Belmont Energy Committee updated the Committee on the progress of the Belmont Solar Panel Initiative. Mr. Colton stated that his wife, Anne Lougee is a member of the School Committee.

- The RFP is complete
- A template contract has been drafted
- The RFP and template contract have been reviewed and commented on by the Cadmus Group and Solar Design Associates. Both of the companies are leading solar consulting firms.
- The decision has been made to use only the schools and not the Town buildings for placement of solar panels.
- The roofs of most of the school buildings are old so it is important to balance the need to upgrade and repair the roofs and the need to ensure that the solar PPA price will deliver budget savings.
- There is a need to address how, or even whether, to try to arrange to install the solar panels during the school year, especially to insure student safety.
- The RFP and template contract will be sent to Town Counsel for review and sign-off.

- There will be ongoing zoning review of the Belmont Public Schools buildings to determine the impact, if any, of the new solar zoning by-law.

3.2 Earth Watch Presentation and approval of student trip – Exhibit B

Ms. Darias introduced Deb Darlington, Belmont's Curriculum Director for Science, grades 5-12. Ms. Darlington explained the Earthwatch Institute Collaboration.

The program will allow two Belmont educators and a group of high school students to participate in the Earthwatch Science expedition called Mammals of Nova Scotia. They will learn about the impact of climate change. They will study mammal populations which are sensitive to logging, farming and climate change.

During the March expedition, teachers will be able to connect directly with classrooms using internet video calling. Teachers also communicate with classes using daily blogs.

Funding is partially provided by the Foundation for Belmont Education. Two educators will be invited to apply for the program. Final selections will not be made until fall. Applications will be sent out to students, and Earthwatch will help with the selection process.

Ms. Darlington explained the Earthwatch trip using a PowerPoint presentation which will be posted to the Belmont Public Schools website.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to approve the Belmont High School Earthwatch Institute trip to Nova Scotia from June 23 – July 5, 2013 – Exhibit B

3.3 School Committee Sub-committee and Liaisons – Exhibit C

Ms. Graham and the Committee discussed the various School Committee Assignments.

4. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES/LIAISONS

4.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham provided the following update regarding the Wellington Building Committee. A recent leak related to the move of a rooftop unit has been fixed and painting is going to be done after school is out.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Finance Subcommittee has been preparing presentation materials and reviewing the status of the budget.

4.3 Task Force on Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Scharfman stated that the Task Force will meet on May 9 to vote on final recommendations to the School Committee, and plans to conclude its business before the end of the school year.

4.4 Student Representative Update

Ms. Eve Dill stated that the prom preparations are going well.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

There were no personnel items.

5.3 Business Items

There were no business items.

5.4 Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 1, 2012.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

May 10, 2012
Warrant Briefing
Beech Street Center
7:00 p.m.

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

May 22, 2012
President's Service Awards Presentation – 6:00 p.m.
Retiree's Reception – 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

MASBO Award
LABBB Spring Newsletter
PLT Conference Schedule

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:48 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougee and seconded by Ms. Griffiths, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by


Daniel Scharfman, Secretary