

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Laurie Slap
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Ms. Pascha Griffiths
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony DiColohero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Absent: Mr. Daniel Scharfman, Secretary

Student Rep. Tomas Reimers

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 announced the following events:

- o Belmont High School Swim Team placed third in Division 2 Championship.
- o Leah Brams came in seventh in Cross Country State Championship.
- o Massachusetts Music Educators Association held auditions for their high school honors group.
- o Annual Singarama at Belmont High School.
- o National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

- o Dr. Elizabeth Englander of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) presentation on bullying prevention and intervention

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston reminded everyone that Bandorama would take place on December 12.

Ms. Darias updated the Committee on the Earth Watch Trip. She stated that applications had been received from students interested in attending and five students had been selected. Ms. Suzanne Lijek will accompany the students to Nova Scotia. The group will work with scientists studying the mammals who are present in the area during that time of year.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero distributed the budget calendar which he received from the Town. He explained that he and Dr. Kingston had attended a meeting with other town administrators today, November 20. Some of the dates listed on the budget calendar are firm but others are tentative. The budget timeline will be similar to previous years except that the delivery dates to the School Committee and Warrant Committee will be mid-February instead of mid-January. This will allow town and school departments to have more firm numbers with regard to state revenue.

Dr. Kingston noted that he and the School Committee Chair met with Town Administrator David Kale and Selectman Mark Paolillo. They set up joint meetings between the Board of Selectmen and School Committee for December 10, January 14 and February 4.

Mr. DiCologero stated that the Leadership Council has completed its non-salary requests and is working on requests related to personnel changes.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2.1 There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Solar Panel Presentation and Motion to Approve Project – Exhibit A

Mr. Roger Colton, Energy Committee Co-chair reported on the Solar PV installation at Belmont Public Schools.

Mr. Colton explained that the solar procurement is being done through a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) which means that solar is procured using an investment of the developer. The town will receive the solar output from the panels on the school roofs and will continue to buy the remainder of electricity needs from the Belmont Municipal Light Department.

The Wellington School was chosen as the location for the solar panels because the roof is new and "solar ready". The roofs of the other schools are too old and not in good enough condition to handle solar panels but they are not in bad enough condition to warrant replacing them.

Mr. Colton explained that Solar PV will produce between one fifth and one quarter of the electricity used at the Wellington School (23%).

Dr. Kingston explained that upon School Committee approval of the motion, coordination with the Wellington Building Committee will begin for scheduling of solar panels.

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

VOTED unanimously that the School Department enter into negotiations with Broadway Electric of Boston, Massachusetts, for the installation of Solar electric generating panels on the roof of the Wellington Elementary School.

3.2 Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston provided an update on the results of the 2012 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. He stated the copies will be available at the Central Office and the report will also be posted on the Belmont Public Schools website. The survey is done every two years. This survey was administered last April to students in grades 7 and 12. What has been discovered in conversations with students is that three quarters of them take the survey seriously and try to provide honest answers. Dr. Kingston highlighted some concerns about results at the Middle School such as one third of the students reported having been bullied. He noted that the schools are aggressively addressing any accusations of bullying. Dr. Kingston also stated his concerns about the number of students who have considered suicide and the number of students who claim to have used alcohol.

Dr. Kingston explained that there are plans for some community forums to discuss ways to prevent or intervene in destructive behaviors.

3.3 MASC Update

School Committee members who recently attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference recently provided updates from the conference.

3.4 EDCO Update – Exhibit C

Ms. Graham explained the report provided by EDCO. The report included EDCO's entry plan, goals for 2012-2013, and quarterly report for FY13 quarter 1. Ms. Graham noted that there has been a smooth transition of the EDCO Board and programs in compliance with recent state legislation.

4. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)**

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

There was no report from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy Subcommittee has been working on updating the Policy Handbook.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee had an organizational meeting last week and selected Dan Scharfman as the Chair. The members decided to appoint rotating secretaries. Ms. Darias shared information regarding the timeline of when items of business need to be completed. The members studied documents that are used by teachers to review the two different math programs being piloted in schools and anticipate further review before a recommendation is brought to the full School Committee for approval.

4.4 Student Representative Update

Tomas Reimers noted that life at Belmont High School was going well. He stated that the first quarter has closed and students are looking forward to the upcoming pep rally which will include some new events.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Slap explained that David Kale, Town Administrator attended the last Capital Budget Meeting and discussed time lines for the library project.

4.6 Warrant Committee

There was no Warrant Committee update.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the Wellington Building Committee will meet in 2 weeks. The punch list is still in process.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational - None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

October 23, 2012
October 26, 2012
November 1, 2012
November 2, 2012

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of October 23, 2012, October 26, 2012, and November 1, 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 2, 2012 as amended. Ms. Griffiths abstained as she was absent from the meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

November 27, 2012
Finance Subcommittee
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

November 29, 2012
Policy Subcommittee
SAB Conference Room – 9:30 a.m.

December 4, 2012
School Committee
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

December 10, 2012
Joint Meeting – Board of Selectmen and School Committee
Selectmen's Board Room – 8:00 a.m.

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

7. **ENCLOSURES**

NESDEC Projection

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Mr. Cunningham, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Daniel Scharfman, Secretary