

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 23, 2013**

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

Also in attendance: Tomas Reimers, Student Representative
Scott Stewart, Student Representative

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 asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Marathon bombings.

Ms. Graham explained how the meeting would be run. She asked attendees to direct questions to the chair and to step up to the microphone when they had questions.

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on recent community, school and sporting events that have taken place or will take place in the future.

4.1 Student Report

Student Representative Scott Stewart stated that the high school students are voting on a new representation of the school mascot (the marauder). He and Student Representative Tomas Reimers stated that the students were surprised to come back from spring break to find new chairs in the library. The new seating has allowed more students a place to study. As part of Principal Richards' kindness campaign, a chalkboard has been placed in the hallway for students to write compliments about other students. Tomas and Scott also updated the Committee on the recent high school trips that have taken place and stated that students found them to be fun as well as educational.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that Kindergarten registration will take place on May 2 and May 3. Classes will not be in session on those days so teachers can evaluate students entering Kindergarten.

Dr. Kingston updated the Committee on the progress of the new Butler Playground. Work will continue over the next few weeks. A dedication date will be decided sometime in the near future. The Conservation Committee is donating 3 trees to be planted at the playground.

Dr. Kingston acknowledged the bombing incident that took place over the past week at the Boston Marathon and stated that guidance counselors are available at each school to help students who may be struggling. He also directed the staff and parents to information on his blog that might be helpful.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

There was no report from the Director of Finance, Business and Operations.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Proposal for Learning Service Tour in Costa Rica – Exhibit A

Peter Guellnitz explained that the Learning Service Tour trip to Costa Rica will provide students with an opportunity to get both exploratory and service learning experience. The trip is organized by EF Education and will take place over 9 days during the April vacation week. The students will be helping residents to rebuild part of a coastline that has been damaged by erosion due to the building of hotels. They will then travel to other regions to learn about environmental challenges there. The estimated cost to the students will be between \$2,500 and \$2,600 including meals and all other expenditures. A tour director will be traveling with the group along with Belmont High chaperones.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with 1 abstention to approve the Service Learning Tour to Costa Rica – Exhibit A

3.2 Fiscal Year 2014 School Budget Hearing and School Committee vote – Exhibit B

Dr. Kingston presented the FY2014 budget using a PowerPoint presentation to explain details of the budget. The general fund budget total for FY14 is \$44,349,100. This budget will be presented to the Town after it is voted on by the School Committee.

Dr. Kingston thanked Town Administrator, David Kale for all the help he provided during the preparation of the budget.

Dr. Kingston took questions from members of the audience. The majority of the questions centered on the elimination of 4 grade-level classroom aides at the Wellington School. Some people suggested raising full-day kindergarten fees to help fund classroom aides.

Dr. Kingston's presentation will be posted on the Belmont Public Schools website.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Belmont Public Schools Fiscal Year 2014 Budget of \$44,349,100 – Exhibit B for submission to Town Meeting.

3.3 Motion to recognize the BEA as representative of Belmont Secretaries Union – Exhibit C

Ms. Graham explained that there was request by the Secretaries Association to have representation by the Belmont Education Association (BEA). She stated that it is within the rights of the Association to ask for this representation but it is a requirement that they make the request to the School Committee.

Mr. Cunningham moved that the School Committee voluntarily recognize that the Belmont Education Association is heretofore the sole and exclusive bargaining unit representative for the collective bargaining unit currently known as the Belmont Public Schools Secretaries Association and that the collective bargaining agreement between the parties beginning July 1, 2011 and expiring June 30, 2014 shall be amended solely to reflect the new bargaining representative and that otherwise the agreement shall be amended solely to reflect the new bargaining representative and that otherwise the agreement shall remain in force and intact.

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

VOTED unanimously to recognize the Belmont Education Association (BEA) as representative of the Belmont Secretaries Union – Exhibit C

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

There was no report from the Finance Subcommittee.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy Subcommittee have not met but will be meeting within the next week or two.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet tomorrow to review the Social Studies Mid-Year Exam Schedule.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee will meet on April 29 before Town Meeting.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that the Warrant Committee will meet on April 24. She mentioned that the Finance Subcommittee had received 3 more questions from the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that she, Dr. Kingston and Mr. Domenici had met with the Wellington community to discuss the noise issues. The additional noise testing that was scheduled for April 19 was postponed due to the shelter in place order but will be rescheduled at a later day.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items - None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one abstention to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013 as amended.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of April 9, 2013 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 24, 2013
Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 9:30 p.m.

April 29, 2013
Town Meeting
BHS Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

May 1, 2013
Town Meeting
BHS Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

May 6, 2013
Town Meeting
BHS Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

May 7, 2013
Town Meeting
BHS Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

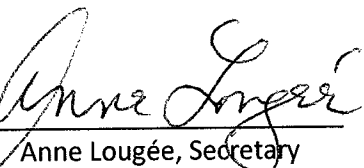
There were no enclosures.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:14 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Mr. Cunningham, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary