

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 9, 2013**

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Pascha Griffiths, Interim Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
Ms. Anne Lougée
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Ms. Laurie Slap
Dr. Thomas Kingston, Interim Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Manager

Absent: Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. **REQUIRED MATTERS**

1. Call to order

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

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee would go into their business meeting at the conclusion of the organizational meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Nomination/Election of Chair

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

VOTED unanimously to elect Ms. Graham as Chair of the School Committee.

Dr. Kingston thanked Ms. Graham for agreeing to sit as Chair for another year.

Nomination/Election of Secretary

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

VOTED unanimously to elect Ms. Lougée as Secretary of the School Committee.

B. OPTIONAL MATTERS (at the discretion of the Chairperson)

1. Appointment of Subcommittees for the Year 2013-2014
2. Recommended Subcommittees
3. Recommended Advisory Committees to School Committee
4. Recommended Special Representatives, Advisors, and Liaisons
5. Appointments to ITAC

Ms. Graham announced that the appointments of the various subcommittees would take place at a future meeting in September.

The Organizational Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Graham welcomed Ms. Shuster to the School Committee.

2. BUSINESS MEETING

2.1 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen's concerns.

2.2 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.3 Chair's Report

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

2.4 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston acknowledged the receipt from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) indicating they had received the Statement of Interest for Belmont High School.

Dr. Kingston presented slides of photographs of the new Butler Playground. They photos showed two entry stones. The proposal is to place names of major donors on one stone and on the other it will read Butler Community Playground – 2012. He stated that the final surfacing will be done over the next couple of weeks. The slide will be replaced and swings will be added. Dr. Kingston noted that the playground is already in operation and there will be a dedication ceremony at some point in the future.

Dr. Kingston discussed the April 1 enrollment numbers which have not changed much since March. The total number of students is 4,146. Dr. Kingston stated that he will continue with capping

enrollment at Wellington. He stated that the Class Size Advisory Committee concluded that re-districting is a long term strategy.

Ms. Darias shared with the School Committee the list of Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Learning Excellence Grants that had been submitted for the March cycle. She explained that teachers who will be receiving grants have been notified and stated that she and the staff are grateful for the support and opportunities that the grants provide. Ms. Darias explained that prior to this grant cycle, teachers attended a workshop to learn how the work of the Foundation for Belmont Education is done and how to propose projects to be funded.

Ms. Darias provided an update on the new 8th grade social studies course. A year ago, the National History Day project was removed as a required part of the curriculum to allow the expansion of the Early American History course to prepare students for the new core standards on reading, writing and research. Ms. Darias explained that there has been significant improvement in student writing, since the beginning of the year as a result. Teachers feel strongly that all students are finding success in the project. Ms. Darias noted that there is still a National History Day Club for students who wish to take part and noted their success this year.

2.5 Director of Finance, Business and Operations Report

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

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 2ND Reading of Policies – 4000 Series (Personnel) – Exhibit A

Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Manager, joined the School Committee to explain revisions to the Personnel Policies.

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

VOTED unanimously to adopt the 4000 Series – Personnel Policy – Exhibit A

3.2 Adoption of all Policies

Ms. Graham explained that each year at the organizational meeting, the School Committee votes to adopt the entire Policy Manual.

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

VOTED unanimously to adopt the School Committee Policies.

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

4.1 Student Representative

There was no student representative in attendance.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Slap discussed their recent meeting with the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee. The Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee members had provided questions for the Finance Subcommittee and those questions were discussed one by one. Dr. Kingston stated that there have been good faith conversations about constraints and possibilities and what to do about management and finances. He thanked the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee for their faith and interest in the Belmont Public Schools.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy Subcommittee will be reviewing the use of breathalyzers at Belmont High School to determine if a procedure needs to be included in the School Handbook.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will be meeting within the next couple of weeks to review revisions to the grade 7 social studies geography segment.

4.5 Capital Budget Subcommittee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Subcommittee met on March 28 to review requests from the various departments. They will discuss prioritizations at their next meeting.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that the Warrant Committee would be meeting tomorrow night.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham provided an update on the work of the Wellington Building Committee. The Committee recently met with Jonathan Levy, architect for the Wellington School. A meeting is scheduled for April 10th with the Wellington neighbors to discuss noise abatement and, weather permitting, a 360 sound test will take place the following evening.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items – Informational

Extra-compensatory Assignments – Exhibit B

5.3 Business Items - None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

March 5, 2013

March 19, 2013

March 20, 2013 – The School Committee did not vote on the March 20, 2013 minutes.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of March 5, 2013 as amended.

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of March 19, 2013 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 11, 2013

Joint Board of Selectmen and School Committee Precinct Meeting
Beech Street Center – 7:00 p.m.

April 23, 2013

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
School Administration Building – 8:00 a.m.

April 29, 2013

Town Meeting
Belmont High School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

May 1, 2013

Town Meeting
Belmont High School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

Enrollment – April 1, 2013

Enrollment – April 1, 2013 indicating changes

Schedule for Memorial Day Exercises – May 24, 2013

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary