MEMO

Re: Library Project

Tom Kingston, Interim Superintendent

In consequence of the likelihood that Belmont in the near future will receive a green light for the new library building project, and in the holistic spirit of Belmont as a coherent community, the School Department vows to be as collegial and cooperative as possible to resolve issues that the siting of the new library raises. We are committed to seeking resolutions to the issues, but we also realize that some of the issues may not be able to find full resolution until and unless the project gets under way. Because the new library site requires taking one active playing field, the following issues are ones we will need to address:

1) The relinquished field is currently in use at the high school as the women's softball field. To ensure continued School Department compliance with Federal Title IX law and regulations, we will need to ensure equal and equitable field space for women's sports by providing space contiguous to Belmont High School.

2) In relocating the playing field, we need to ensure maintenance of our current ability to provide medical (trainers) coverage for multiple home athletic events with current staffing.

3) We need to ensure that any new site provides access to shelter in the event of inclement weather.

4) We will need to maintain a multi-use facility that not only accommodates high school programs but also accommodates the many youth and adult recreation programs that currently use the softball field and the adjacent fields for weekend and evening events.

5) We will need to ensure that the Town and School Department can sustain any recurring costs that arise in consequence of relocating playing fields.

6) A relocated field will need to be reasonably accessible for maintenance staff.

7) A relocated field will have to have access to power for scoreboards, training equipment, and other power-based equipment.

8) Undoubtedly, there are other considerations that will arise as we plow forward and seek resolutions to relocation.

May 18, 2012