

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Day Two of Two-Day Retreat
Wellington Community Room
AUGUST 21, 2013

Present: Ms. Laurie Graham, Chair
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary
Mr. Kevin Cunningham
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

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

After breakfast and informal conversation, Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

2. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

2.1 Innovation Projects and Prospects

Ms. Darius updated the committee on the status of various innovation projects and the professional development work that occurred this summer to help ensure the success of these projects. In summary, she reviewed the following innovation projects: The 9th grade iPad program, the continuation of the American Studies Program and its use of iPad technology, the development of an Economics MOOC program, the use of iPads in the 8th grade science curriculum, various IT options for the elementary grades, the continued use of iPads in Special Education, and a combined French AP and French Level 5 course using iPad technology for independent work. Additionally, Ms. Darias explained that the English department is prepared to deliver some instruction for the senior thesis using a flipped classroom model.

2.2 Long-Term Planning

Dr. Kingston reported on work that the administration and the members of the Subcommittee on Finance did over the summer to help facilitate the School Department's long-term planning efforts. At a Subcommittee on Finance meeting on July 2nd, the group identified eight areas where modeling and data are necessary to inform overall long-range financial and programmatic plans. The eight modeling groups cover: 1) salary and compensation; 2) Special Education; 3) enrollments; 4) operations and maintenance; 5) instructional modeling and innovation; 6) revenue sources; 7) student life; and 8) instructional technology.

The group discussed the development of these advisory groups, including school committee member assignments were made and members of the District Leadership Council (DLC) and the greater Belmont community who might best serve on them were identified.

3. **LUNCH RECESS**

At 11:25 a.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn for lunch, at which point members of the DLC joined the School Committee.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

Following a lunch recess, the School Committee reconvened at 12:34 p.m. along with members of the DLC.

4.1 Superintendent Search

Upon review of the one-page document announcing Belmont's search for a new superintendent, members of the DLC responded with suggestions for improving it. They also spoke of the qualities they believe our next superintendent should embody.

4.2 Public Service Announcement

The video about the Belmont Public Schools was screened and members of the School Committee and DLC offered suggested edits to strengthen the piece.

4.3 Update on Strategic Initiatives

Ms. Darius facilitated a reporting by various members of the DLC regarding the status of strategic initiatives in the district.

4.4 Discussion: *Classroom Instruction that Works*


The group divided into five groups to discuss the assigned reading for the retreat. At Dr. Kingston's direction, each group focused on using principles presented in the book to evaluate student learning, and then extrapolate their relevance to the educator appraisal system.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:30 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary