

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
DECEMBER 3, 2013**

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

Also present: Belmont High School Student Advisory Council Members: Max Davidowitz, Scott Stewart, Beth Young, and Thomas Zembowicz

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 8:00 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

Ms. Graham suggested an adjustment to the agenda, inviting the members of the Student Advisory Council to speak first.

3.1 Four members of the Belmont High School Student Advisory Council updated the School Committee on crowding issues at Belmont High School. They stated that the lines in the cafeteria are very long making it difficult for students to eat and get to their next class on time. They also stated that there is crowding in the library and class sizes have increased.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town. Regarding the Superintendent search, she stated that the following 3 candidates had been chosen by the Screening Committee to be interviewed:

- Dr. Anne McKenzie, Executive Director of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative;
- Mr. John Phelan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel, Milton Public Schools; and
- Mr. Andrew Stephens, Principal, Duxbury High School.

Ms. Graham stated that each of the candidates have met or will meet with the Leadership Council, faculty, BHS students, and community members. Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources, Director, is collecting feedback forms at each of these forums and will present them to the School Committee on Friday. The School Committee will meet on Monday, December 9th to vote to move two candidates forward. The meeting will take place at 5:00 p.m. in the Chenery Middle School large community room.

The School Committee will hold interviews for the final two candidates on Wednesday, December 13th in the Chenery Middle School community room. The first interview will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the second will conclude by 9:30 p.m. Ms. Graham stated that the School Committee will vote on its choice for Superintendent at the December 17th School Committee meeting.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced that a tentative agreement has been reached with Unit B of the Belmont Education Association (BEA) regarding the new Educator Evaluation System. He explained that if the BEA votes to ratify the agreement on December 9th, he will recommend that the School Committee and Board of Selectmen vote in favor of the agreement as well.

Dr. Kingston reminded the public that when it snows he will be notifying the media as he normally does about the cancellation of school. He stated firmly that if there is inclement weather and he feels it is safe to keep schools open, parents have the right to keep their student at home if they feel transportation to or from school is unsafe.

Dr. Kingston updated the Committee on Belmont Public Schools enrollment stating that he is now tracking on a bi-monthly basis the number of students arriving and leaving the district. He noted that there has been a net increase of 19 students in grades Pre-K–12 since October 1st.

Dr. Kingston mentioned that the Planning Board is meeting this evening to review additional information it requested of the solar installer regarding putting solar panels on the roof of the Wellington school.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero reported that he is fully immersed in the development of the FY15 budget. He has asked the Leadership Council to provide detailed narrative justifications for any non-salary requests. Mr. DiCologero expects to have a draft of the FY15 budget ready for the Superintendent's review in late December.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Student Council

The Student Council update was presented at the start of the meeting.

3.2 PARCC Update

Ms. Darias updated the Committee on the decision Belmont administrators will need to make regarding the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Field Test. She explained some of the differences between PARCC and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). MCAS measures performance against the standards of the MA Curriculum Framework and includes both machine- and hand-scored items. The MCAS covers 3 subject areas: English/Language Arts (March, grades 3-8 and 10); Mathematics (May, grades 3-8 and 10); and Science and Technology/Engineering (May, grades 5 and 8; June, grade 9).

Ms. Darias explained that the PARCC exam measures performance against the Common Core State Standards and also includes both machine- and hand-scored items. It is delivered via computer but there is also a paper and pencil option. PARCC covers two subjects (ELA and Math) with two summative assessments. A performance based assessment (PBA) will be administered in March after 75% of the school year is completed and an end-of-year (EOY) will be administered in May/June after 90% of the school year is completed.

Ms. Darias presented some sample testing to the School Committee and explained the timeline for PARCC in Massachusetts. She explained that Massachusetts participating in the field testing enables districts to choose whether to administer MCAS or PARCC in 2014-2015. The Belmont schools chosen for the field test in the spring of 2014 are the Butler (grade 4), the Chenery (grades 7 and 9), and Belmont High School (grade 9).

Ms. Darias explained that Belmont has chosen not to exempt students taking the PARCC exam from taking the MCAS exam because the data for the two grades for which the exemption is an option (grades 4 and 8) provide critical information necessary to support the individual student's learning and transition from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school. She stated that the next steps are to notify the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of Belmont's decision and to randomly select the classes to participate in the field test as well as communicate with parents/guardians of the selected students. The field tests will be scheduled trying to minimize the impact on MCAS testing.

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

4.1 Student Representative

The Student Representatives presented at the beginning of the meeting.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Slap stated that the Finance Subcommittee will be meeting on December 11th to discuss the Belmont Public Schools fee structure. Mr. Cunningham noted that FY15 budget numbers will most likely be released in February.

4.3 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

Ms. Graham stated that the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet on December 16th to continue to work on updates to the Policy Manual. Any changes will be brought to School Committee in January.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

Ms. Darias stated that the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on December 16th to discuss changes/updates to the Belmont High School Program of Studies.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee has not since the last report to the School Committee.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that the Warrant Committee will be discussing preliminary available revenue numbers at its meeting on December 4th.

4.7 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham stated that the next meeting of the Wellington Building Committee is December 11th.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda

Surplus Property – Exhibit A

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the disposal of surplus property listed in Exhibit A.

5.2 Personnel Items - None

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of November 12, 2013 as amended.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

December 5, 2013

School Committee Interview with John Phalen
CMS Large Community Room – 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

December 6, 2013

School Committee Meeting – Executive Session
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 9, 2013

School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 5:00 p.m.

December 11, 2013

School Committee Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 11, 2013

School Committee Finalist Interviews
CMS Large Community Room – 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

December 16, 2013

School Committee Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting
BHS Conference Room – 11:00 a.m.

December 17, 2013

School Committee Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

December 17, 2013

School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

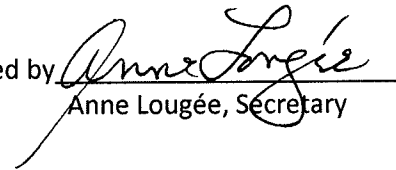
December 1, 2013 Enrollment
December 1, 2013 Enrollment indicating changes

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:28 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Ms. Slap, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary