

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
JUNE 18, 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

Absent: Ms. Pascha Griffiths

**6:30 P.M. – RECEPTION FOR BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ RETIREES
7:00 P.M. – RECOGNITION OF BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ RETIREES**

Ms. Graham welcomed the members of the Belmont Public Schools staff who are retiring at the end of the school year and thanked them for their years of service.

Resolutions – Exhibit A

Ms. Graham and Dr. Kingston read a resolution for each of the following retirees.

- ❖ Mr. Paul Browne, Director of Food Service – District Wide
- ❖ Ms. Carolyn Bunyon – Secretary – Belmont High School
- ❖ Ms. Nancy Derderian – Secretary – Butler Elementary School
- ❖ Ms. Jasmine Giromini – Head Cook – Burbank Elementary School
- ❖ Mr. Richard Kleponis – Social Studies Teacher – Chenery Middle School
- ❖ Ms. Donna LaRoche – Grade 1 Teacher – Winn Brook Elementary School
- ❖ Ms. Maura McNiff – Grade 1 Teacher – Winn Brook Elementary School
- ❖ Ms. Alix Pollack – Music Teacher – Burbank Elementary School
- ❖ Ms. Susan Rayner – Grade 5 Teacher – Chenery Middle School
- ❖ Mr. Roy Rivers – Assistant Custodian – Butler Elementary School
- ❖ Ms. Martha Reagan – Head Librarian – Belmont High School
- ❖ Ms. Nancy Smock – Speech & Language Pathologist – Wellington School
- ❖ Ms. Toby Vogel – Reading Teacher – Chenery Middle School
- ❖ Ms. Sara Weiner – Secretary – Administration

7:30 P.M. – BUSINESS MEETING

1. OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

Ms. Margaret Liedler, parent of a rising sophomore, expressed her approval of the new iPad initiative for Belmont High School freshmen. She expressed some concerns about the fact that only the grade 9 students would be receiving iPads and asked that consideration be given to determining a way that upper classes could have access to this program as well. Dr. Kingston explained that the program is an experiment and it's not known at this time how far it will be taken. He explained that the budget does not allow for the purchase of ipads for all students. Ms. Graham suggested that the School Committee be updated at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year on how the program is going and how it may be expanded.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

Ms. Graham stated that the Committee would wait until Merle Kummer arrived at 9:00 p.m. to talk about the gift to the Dan Scharfman Education Fund.

1.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Graham updated the Committee on upcoming community and sports events.

1.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston acknowledged Mr. Dan Richards, Principal of Belmont High School, on being selected by the New England branch of the New England Secondary School Principals (NESSP) to be the Massachusetts State Coordinator. He will be traveling to Washington on occasion to lobby on behalf of the Belmont Public Schools.

Dr. Kingston stated that he, Assistant Superintendent Janice Darias, and Human Resources Director Mary Pederson have been meeting with representatives of the Belmont Education Association (BEA) to review the model contract that was provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the new teacher evaluation system. Dr. Kingston explained that the teacher evaluation system is a mandated topic for negotiation and the BEA and School District arrived at an agreement ten days ago. The modified contract has been sent to the School Committee for their review. Dr. Kingston stated that the teachers will be meeting tomorrow, June 19th to vote to approve or reject the agreement. If the agreement is approved, the School Committee will be asked to vote its approval at a special School Committee meeting on Friday, June 21st.

Dr. Kingston announced that the report from Broadway Electric regarding placing solar panels on the Wellington School was received yesterday. Since it was not received in time to be put on the June 18th School Committee agenda, it will be discussed at the June 21st meeting.

Dr. Kingston mentioned the June 1, 2013 enrollment which was included in the School Committee's packet, would be the final enrollment update for the school year. He noted that the Belmont Public Schools is responsible for 4,151 students.

Ms. Darias updated the Committee on several workshops that will run during June, July and August and stated that there are a total of 187 teachers participating.

1.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero stated that he is in the process of reviewing all of the accounts in preparation for the end of the fiscal year which is June 30th. He stated that the year will end with a positive balance but he has not determined yet what that number will be.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Motion to accept gift – Exhibit B

Ms. Graham invited Ms. Merle Kummer to the table to explain the gift that will be donated in the name of her late husband, Dan Scharfman.

Ms. Kummer expressed thanks for the outpouring of support received after the passing of her husband. She explained that she, Dr. Paul Solomon, State Senator Will Brownsberger, Ms. Graham, and Ms. Lougée discussed ideas for Dan's legacy. It was decided to start a fund which would support education in Belmont. Ms. Kummer stated that Dan was very supportive of the Professional Learning Team model of staff development so it was decided that the money collected in Dan's name should be used to help fund things that needed teacher time to help teachers learn together.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence in accord with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A, the Belmont School Committee gratefully accepts a gift of \$4,000 in memory of Dan Scharfman. The funds are to be used in support of teachers who explore and create innovational instructional models and who develop programming in consequence of the work of Professional Learning Teams.

3.2 Paris Trip Proposal – Exhibit C

Ms. Darias explained that the trip proposed is the same Paris trip that is run every other year. Students who have been involved in AP Drawing and Painting are able to visit Paris to view the many pieces of art they have studied. The proceeds from the Bi-Annual BHS Art Auction are used to reduce the cost of this trip for students.

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

VOTED 4-0-2 with one absence and one abstention to approve the Springtime in Paris Trip, April 2014 – Exhibit C

3.3 Vote to appoint EDCO representative for 2013-2014 – Exhibit D

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee is required each year to appoint a representative to EDCO. She stated that although she has enjoyed this role for several years and would be happy to continue, she wanted to offer someone else the chance to representative the Belmont School Committee if anyone was interested.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence to appoint Ms. Anne Lougée as EDCO Representative for 2013-2014.

3.4 Vote on School Committee Meeting dates for 2013-2014 – Exhibit E

Ms. Graham explained that the School Committee is required to vote on the meeting calendar for each year.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence to approve the School Committee Calendar dates for 2013-2014.

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

4.1 Wellington Building Committee

Ms. Graham reported that the committee has met and that there has been ongoing work to get real-time access to systems information. It is expected that the permanent occupancy permit will be issued soon.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Slap reported that the committee has met and continues to develop a model for 3-5 year planning. She also noted that the committee will meet with the members of the Warrant Committee Education Subcommittee on July 11th.

4.3 Policy Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy Subcommittee.

4.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

4.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee met last night with the Board of Selectmen. They reviewed a tool that the Committee had worked on last year to help filter criteria and make decisions on Capital Budget projects. The tool would be used in establishing ranking or prioritization of projects.

4.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Graham, who substituted for Ms. Slap, stated that the Warrant Committee met with members of the Capital Budget Committee to review the above-referenced tool for ranking or prioritizing capital projects.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Consent Agenda

5.2 Personnel Items

5.3 Business Items

5.4 Approval of Minutes

May 21, 2013 (Finance Subcommittee)

May 21, 2013

June 3, 2013

June 4, 2013

The May 21, 2013 Finance Subcommittee minutes were voted on previously by the Finance Subcommittee.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence to approve the minutes of May 21, 2013 as amended.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence to approve the minutes of June 3, 2013.

Ms. Graham announced that the School Committee would vote on the June 4, 2013 minutes at the June 21st School Committee meeting.

6. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 21, 2013
School Committee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

7. **ENCLOSURES**

June 1, 2013 enrollment
June 1, 2013 enrollment indicating changes

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Graham announced that this was the last official Tuesday evening School Committee meeting of the 2012-2013 school year. She also noted that the School Committee and various subcommittees would continue to meet on an ad hoc basis over the summer.

At 9:05 p.m. on a motion offered by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Lougée, it was

VOTED 5-0-1 with one absence to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by


Anne Lougée, Secretary