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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.  
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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March 14, 2014

Daniel E. Richards  
Principal  
Belmont High School  
221 Concord Avenue  
Belmont, MA 02478

Dear Mr. Richards:

The Committee on Public Secondary Schools, at its January 26-27, 2014 meeting, reviewed the Special Progress Report of Belmont High School and continued the school's accreditation. While the Committee acknowledges the school's progress as noted below, until all concerns have been satisfactorily resolved the school remains on warning for the Standards for Accreditation on Curriculum and Community Resources for Learning.

The Committee was pleased to learn of the following:

- the application submitted to MSBA seeking funding to renovate the building
- the comprehensive plan for submitting and tracking building maintenance and repair issues
- the repurposing of existing space at the school including, but not limited to: under-utilized spaces adapted to additional classroom space; the provision of common learning space in the library; the creation of an "innovation and collaboration laboratory"; the provision of new meeting space and a conference room; and the redesign of the guidance suite equipped with additional student computers and the creation of meeting space
- the improvements to plumbing and floor improvements in Rooms 213 and 247, including the installation of new tile, new sinks, drain pipes, and cabinets
- the improvements in the girls' locker room facility, including upgrades to the ventilation system, renovations to the shower area, the availability of a new secure storage area, and a new direct-access entry door to the gym space
- the ongoing repair to the public address system to ensure it functions in all areas of the school
- the work to ensure that the ladders on the auditorium stage are OSHA compliant
- the repair of the leaks in the walk-in freezer
- the implementation of an integrated pest management system


- the comprehensive needs assessment of all town buildings conducted by the recently hired town-wide facilities manager
- the inclusion of a request in the FY15 budget to increase the hours in the media center

In addition to responding to the eight (8) recommendations highlighted in the Committee's February 22, 2013 notification letter, the school's Two-Year Progress Report, due October 1, 2014, should include detailed information on action taken to address the additional highlighted recommendations:

- update the long-and short-range plans to address all facilities issues, including space, health and safety concerns
- report the status of the budgetary request to increase the hours the library/media center is available to teachers and students

The school's warning status will be reviewed when the Committee considers the Two-Year Progress Report. Consistent with the Committee's follow-up procedures, the Two-Year Progress Report should include an electronic signature of the principal and chair of the school's Follow-Up Committee and be sent electronically to the Committee office at the following address: [cpssreports@neasc.org](mailto:cpssreports@neasc.org). As well, please notify the Committee office immediately of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to [cpss-air@neasc.org](mailto:cpss-air@neasc.org).

Sincerely,



Janet D. Allison  
JDA/mms

cc: Thomas S. Kingston, Superintendent, Belmont Public Schools  
Laurie Graham, Chair, Belmont School Committee  
Robert E. Littlefield, Chair, Committee on Public Secondary Schools