

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 27, 2014**

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

Absent: Ms. Lisa Fiore

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:09 p.m. the School Committee entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel given that a discussion in Open Session may have a detrimental impact on the School Committee's bargaining position.

2. **OPENING BUSINESS**

2.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order 7:31 p.m.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chairman's Report

Ms. Slap updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town. Ms. Slap also acknowledged the Memorial Day Services that were held in several of the schools on Friday before the Monday holiday.

2.6 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kingston announced May 31st as the rescheduled date for Town Day in Belmont Center. He updated the School Committee on last week's visit from members of the Federal Department of Education who were auditing ways in which Massachusetts schools used Race to the Top Grant money. He reported that the examiners commended the Belmont Public Schools for such well kept financial records. Dr. Kingston thanked Mr. DiCologero and the staff of the Business Office for their work.

Dr. Kingston updated the School Committee on the problem with Crystal Bus Company the night of the prom. One bus was close to two hours late coming to the high school causing many students to miss part of the prom. Dr. Kingston stated that Principal Richards is working to have the bus company provide a refund to the students who were not picked up in time. He also noted that Crystal Bus Company will no longer be a vendor for the Belmont Public Schools. Dr. Kingston thanked Assistant Principal John Muldoon and teacher Ben DeLorio for going to great extremes to make students comfortable while they waited for the bus.

Dr. Kingston explained that Superintendent elect John Phalen has been having transitional meetings with members of the staff and School Committee and will be meeting with members of the Leadership Council in the upcoming weeks. After his official start on July 1st, Mr. Phalen will be having a series of conversations with other Town Administrators.

Ms. Darias updated the School Committee regarding the PARCC versus MCAS assessments. She is preparing a presentation for the School Committee on June 10th when they will have to vote to endorse one test or the other.

2.7 Director of Finance, Business and Operations' Report

Mr. DiCologero explained that although the School Department has been able to manage 3/5th of the unanticipated expenses incurred this year due to the sizeable increase in enrollment district-wide, he projects that there will be a \$220,000 deficit. He noted that a request has been submitted to the Warrant Committee for a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$200,000 and that he and the Finance Subcommittee have been working to address questions submitted by the Education Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee about the transfer request. Mr. DiCologero further explained to the School Committee that he is working to mitigate the remaining \$20,000 deficit by freezing non-discretionary spending for supplies and materials (unless they are critically mandated) and restricting facilities maintenance repairs (unless there is a safety issues involved).

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3.1 There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 2014-2015 Belmont High School Student Handbook – Exhibit A

Belmont High School Principal Dan Richards provided the School Committee with an updated Belmont High School Handbook for 2014-2015. He pointed out some changes in language regarding student suspensions that were made due to changes in state law. He also indicated new additions to the handbook regarding e-cigarettes and iPads.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with 1 absence to receive the 2014-2015 Belmont High School Handbook.

4.2 Foreign Language Plan of Action Presentation

- Internal Report – Exhibit A
- Belmont Visiting Team Report – Exhibit B-2
- Goals – Exhibit B-3
- Presentation Handout – Exhibit B-4

Ms. Colleen Foley, Director of Foreign Language presented the Foreign Language Plan of Action. She explained that beginning in 2007 Foreign Language teachers identified questions they had about the language program and created a Foreign Language Steering Committee to write surveys, request funding for assessments and determine how the assessments would take place. In 2013 a Visiting Team was selected and invited to evaluate the Belmont Foreign Language Program. After reviewing the final report of the Visiting Team, the Steering Committee created the Plan of Action. Ms. Foley explained how the actions steps align with the goals and initiatives of the Belmont Public Schools.

4.3 Proposals for Overseas Trips

- Italy – Exhibit C-1
- Spain – Exhibit C-2

Ms. Darias explained that Latin students and teachers have taken this trip to Italy for many years and that the trip to southern Spain will involve band and orchestra students. The Belmont Public Schools has used the travel company for many years and is satisfied that they do a very good job with their programs.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with 1 absence to approve the trip to Italy for Latin Students during the 2015 April vacation and to Spain for the Belmont High School Band and Orchestra during the 2015 February vacation.

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

5.1 Student Representative

There was no student representative in attendance.

5.2 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Cunningham explained that the Finance Subcommittee has been meeting with administrators about the request to the Warrant Committee for transfer funds. They have also been preparing for the budget presentation to Town Meeting on June 2.

5.3 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee has not met.

5.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was not report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

5.5 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Lougée stated that the Capital Budget Committee met last Thursday in preparation for Town Meeting, and is scheduled to meet again on June 19th.

5.6 Warrant Committee

Ms. Slap stated that the Warrant Committee met last week to discuss articles for Town Meeting. They will be meeting again on June 2 before Town Meeting.

5.7 Wellington Building Committee

There was no report from the Wellington Building Committee.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – none

6.4 Approval of Minutes

May 13, 2014

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

VOTED 5-0-1 with 1 absence to approve the minutes of May 13, 2014.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

May 29, 2014
School Committee Executive Session
Wellington Community Room – 3:00 p.m.

May 29, 2014
School Committee-BEA Negotiations
Wellington Community Room – 4:00 p.m.

June 2, 2014
School Committee Executive Session
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

June 3, 2014
School Committee-BEA Negotiations
CMS Large Community Room – 3:30 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

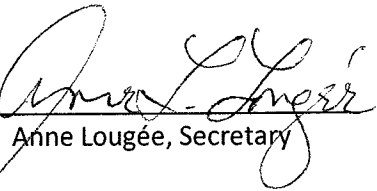
No enclosures

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Lougée, it was

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

Respectfully submitted by



Anne Lougée, Secretary