

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
OCTOBER 28, 2014**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair  
Ms. Anne Lougée, Secretary  
Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
Dr. Lisa Fiore  
Ms. Laurie Graham  
Ms. Elyse Shuster (left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.)  
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent  
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Also present: Thomas Zembowicz, Student Representative; Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The School Committee met in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations 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 at 7:35 p.m. explaining that the School Committee had met in Executive Session prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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

Ms. Slap suggested the Student Representative provide his report immediately after the Chair's report.

## 2.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming events throughout the town. She remarked on the great turnout at the October 21<sup>st</sup> School Committee meet which was held in Boston at the Central Boston Elder Services location. She stated that the School Committee enjoyed meeting with the Boston parents at a reception prior to the meeting. Ms. Slap also noted that a major concern voiced by parents is the need for transportation for Boston students who participate in sports and extra-curricular activities.

Ms. Slap announced that Mr. Cunningham's resignation would go into effect November 15<sup>th</sup>. She explained the process for submitting a letter of interest regarding the School Committee vacancy and stated that the deadline for submission is November 12<sup>th</sup> and that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee will meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to interview candidates and then vote on the new School Committee member.

## 5.1 Student Representative Report

Thomas Zembowicz informed the School Committee of recent events at Belmont High School including various fundraisers that have been held for Breast Cancer Month. He announced that the Arlington-Belmont Crew team won the fall state championships. Mr. Zembowicz stated that students are looking forward to the "no homework" weekend on November 8 and 9.

## 2.6 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on recent sporting events and extra-curricular activities in Belmont. He also stated that the Health, Safety and Security Committee has been split into two groups: Safety and Security and Health and Wellness. Mr. Phelan explained that the newly formed groups had their first meeting recently and he thanked Chief McLaughlin and Assistant Chief MacIssac of the Belmont Police Department as well as the other volunteers for their commitment to the safety and wellness of students and staff in Belmont.

## 2.7 First Quarter Report

Mr. DiCologero presented the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget-to-actuals report for FY15. He explained that in preparing the budget information for the remainder of the year, he used actual information wherever possible but some of the expenses are estimates. Mr. DiCologero explained that at this time there is a projected deficit of \$500,000 for the end of FY15. He explained that some of these cost overruns are due to additional staff and student services performed (including custodial overtime to complete the high school library project, home tutoring and translation services), as well as Special Education outside placements. Mr. Cunningham noted that a lot of the increased expenditures can be tied to an increase in enrollment. Mr. Phelan explained that the Finance Subcommittee has been keeping the Warrant Committee apprised of the expected deficit.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 ELL Update

Ms. Lindsey Rinder, Director of English Language Arts and Reading, presented a report on the growth in the English Language Learner (ELL) population in Belmont schools. Approximately 18% of students in the schools speak a language other than English at home. Ms. Rinder compared ELL enrollments from past years to FY15 explaining that there has been a 30% increase since last year, and a 115% increase over the past two years and that Chinese is currently the dominant language for the ELL population. Due to the increase, some of the changes in instruction for FY15 in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program have been increased structure for grades 5-12, larger instructional groups for grades K-12, a new secondary ELD curriculum and additional elementary ELD curriculum. Teachers are also required to get an additional endorsement – Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) – on their license. In order to receive this endorsement, they are required to take an SEI course.

4.2 Superintendent's Goals – Exhibit A

Superintendent Phelan explained his goals to the School Committee. He stated that his involvement with the Superintendents Induction Program has provided him with coaching and mentoring as a new Superintendent. He explained that he meets with his mentor approximately 3 times per month. Superintendent Phelan explained that the goals he presented tonight are recommended for Superintendents by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

4.3 M.A.S.C. Resolutions – Exhibit B

Ms. Slap explained that the MASC/MASS Joint Conference will take place in November and Ms. Lougée has been selected to represent the School Committee as a delegate. As a School Committee delegate, Ms. Lougée will be required to vote on 7 resolutions that will be presented at the Conference. The School Committee discussed each resolution and then voted as to how they recommend Ms. Lougée vote on behalf of the Committee.

**Resolution 1:** Greater Transparency and Accountability For Out of District Placement Costs

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

**VOTED** 5-0-0 to authorize the School Committee Delegate to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Resolution 2:** Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts

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

**VOTED** 5-0-0 to provide no recommendation on this resolution.

**Resolution 3: Charter School Reform**

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

**VOTED** 4-0-1 with one abstention to authorize the School Committee Delegate to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Resolution 4: Fingerprinting**

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

**VOTED** 5-0-0 to authorize the School Committee Delegate to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Resolution 5: Reinstitution of Earmarking**

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

**VOTED** 5-0-0 to provide no recommendation for this resolution.

**Resolution 6: Unfunded Mandates and New Testing**

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

**VOTED** 3-2-0 to authorize the School Committee Delegate to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Resolution 7: Assessment System in Massachusetts**

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

**VOTED** 4-0-1 with one abstention to authorize the School Committee Delegate to vote in favor of the resolution.

4.4 EDCO – Articles of Agreement

EDCO Articles of Agreement – Exhibit C-1

Memo Re: Summary Points in Articles – Exhibit C-2  
Districts Who Have Voted – Exhibit C-3  
PowerPoint Explanation of EDCO Responsibilities – Exhibit C-4  
Memo Explanation of Voting Language – Exhibit C-5

Superintendent Phelan presented 5 articles of agreement which EDCO has asked School Committees to vote on. He asked the School Committee to review the documents and be prepared to vote on each on at the November 18<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

- 4.5 First Reading of Policies:
  - 0005 Criminal History Information – Exhibit D-1
  - 0006 Bullying and Hazing – Exhibit D-2
  - 4006 Resignation, Retirement, Dismissal and Reduction in Force – Exhibit D-3
  - 5010 Student Fees, Fines and Charges – Exhibit D-4

Ms. Mary Pederson, Human Resources Director for the Belmont Public Schools reviewed some changes in four of the School Committee policies. The School Committee will vote on the policies at a future School Committee meeting.

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

5.1 Student Representative

The Student Representative presented his report earlier in the meeting.

4.2 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee met this morning to discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget report. The budget creation process will begin soon.

5.3 Policy Subcommittee

There was no report from the Policy Subcommittee other than the presentation for a first reading of several policies.

5.4 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

There was no report from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

5.5 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will have a joint meeting with the Warrant Committee and the Board of Selectmen tomorrow to review the Belmont Center Redevelopment Plan.

5.6 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will initially be meeting with the Capital Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen tomorrow to discuss the Belmont Center Redevelopment Plan and thereafter to review 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter results.

5.7 Wellington Building Committee

There was no report from the Wellington Building Committee.

5.8 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force will meet on Friday.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes  
October 7, 2014

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

**VOTED** 5-0-0 to approve the minutes of October 7, 2014, as amended.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

November 18, 2014  
Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
SAB Conference Room – 8:00 a.m.

November 18, 2014  
School Committee Meeting  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

none

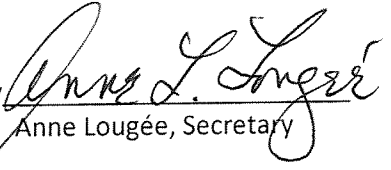
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:55 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Lougée and seconded by Mr. Cunningham, it was

VOTED

5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

  
Anne Lougée, Secretary