

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
APRIL 14, 2015**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
Mr. Thomas Caputo
Dr. Lisa Fiore
Ms. Laurie Graham
Ms. Elyse Shuster
Mr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The School Committee met in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to 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. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A. **REQUIRED MATTERS**

1. Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. explaining that the School Committee had been in Executive Session and would now reconvene for their Organization Meeting.

2. Nomination/Election of Chair

Ms. Slap asked for nominations for School Committee Chair.

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

VOTED unanimously to elect Ms. Laurie Slap as School Committee Chair.

3. Nomination/Election of Secretary

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED unanimously to elect Dr. Lisa Fiore as School Committee Secretary.

3. **OPENING BUSINESS**

3.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap announced that the School Committee would now hold their regular Business Meeting.

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

3.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap welcomed new member Susan-Burgess-Cox, stating the School Committee was very excited to have her join the team. Ms. Slap stated she was very pleased with the results of the Proposition 2 ½ override last week noting that it was good to have an infusion of funds into the system. She explained that the School Committee and School Department will continue to work to control costs.

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming meetings and events in the Town and Schools.

3.6 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phelan welcomed new member Susan Burgess-Cox to the School Committee, thanking her for the time she put in attending meetings prior to the election.

Mr. Phelan announced that the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) has chosen a *Teacher of the Year* for each school and the winners will be announced tomorrow. The FBE will hold a Teacher of the Year Ceremony on April 30 at Chenery Middle School.

Ms. Darias explained announced that the FBE has awarded 13 Learning Excellence Grants that were put forth by teachers and administrators across the district. Ms. Darias also announced that the FBE has awarded a Special Initiative Grant to help support funding for the 8th grade student trip activities.

Ms. Darias announced that the Professional Learning Team Conference will be held on May 20 this year.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1 There was no unfinished business.

5. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

5.1 FY16 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Phelan stated he was grateful to the community for supporting the Financial Task Force Budget. He explained that he and other administrators had presented the FY16 budget approximately 13 times over the last few months. Superintendent Phelan explained that meetings have already taken place with the high school and middle school principals to outline what positions will be put in place. Superintendent Phelan stated that the FY16 Budget Hearing will take place on May 12.

5.2 2015/2016 School Calendar Vote – Exhibit A

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is required to vote on the calendar each year. She noted that the calendar being presented is a revised calendar showing the September 23rd Yom Kippur Holiday. Superintendent Phelan explained that the Union needed time to review the revisions to the calendar and that is why it's being voted on a second time.

On a motion offered by Dr. Fiore and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar – Exhibit A

5.3 School Choice Vote – Exhibit B

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is required to vote each year on whether Belmont Public Schools will offer School Choice. Belmont has not participated in the program for several years.

On a motion offered by Ms. Burgess-Cox and seconded by Ms. Graham and in accord with MGL Chapter 76, Section 128, Belmont Public Schools,

VOTED unanimously to decline participation in School Choice for the 2015-2016 school year.

5.4 Last Day of School 2014-2015 Vote

Superintendent Phelan explained that the State rule requires the School Committee to vote on the last day of school after April 1.

On a motion offered by Ms. Shuster and seconded by Ms. Burgess-Cox, it was

VOTED unanimously to approve June 23, 2015 as the last day of school.

5.5 Finance Subcommittee report-out – Fee’s Structure – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan explained that the Financial Task Force had recommended an update of the fees that are charged for renting space in the 6 schools in Belmont. The Finance Subcommittee, in conjunction with school administrators, began to evaluate what spaces were rented and how to alter the fee schedule to increase revenue. Superintendent Phelan explained that the rental should be revenue neutral for town partners and revenue positive for all other groups. The Finance Subcommittee reviewed the categories of renters such as profit, non-profit, town departments, etc. They will be recommending new fees and the district will communicate with our renters to notify them of a potential change in the fees charged for FY16 beginning on July 1, 2015.

5.6 Adoption of School Committee Policies and Rules

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is required to vote each year on the School Committee Policies and Rules.

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

VOTED unanimously to adopt the School Committee Policies and Rules

5.7 School Committee Assignments (draft) – Exhibit D

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

6.1 Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Slap explained that the Finance Subcommittee has been working on updating the fees as well as reviewing budget questions from the Warrant Committee. She stated that they have also been discussing the 3rd quarter budget report that will be presented to the School Committee at the April 28 School Committee meeting.

6.2 Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Graham explained that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting after the April break. Ms. Graham thanked Ms. Burgess-Cox for agreeing to join the Policy Subcommittee.

6.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee has not met.

6.4 Capital Budget Committee

Ms. Burgess-Cox stated that the Capital Budget Committee met earlier in the day to discuss the meetings they had with all the departments. Superintendent Phelan talked about some the Capital needs such as the fire alarm system at Belmont High School and security measures that should be put in place at the schools.

6.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet on April 15 to review Town Meeting Articles.

6.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

6.7 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force has not met.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Consent Agenda - none

7.2 Personnel Items - none

7.3 Business Items – None

7.4 Approval of Minutes
February 24, 2015

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

VOTED 4-1-1, with 2 abstentions to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 21, 2015

Board of Selectmen's Meeting re: Minuteman
Beech Street Center – 7:30 p.m.

April 28, 2015

Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

April 28, 2015

School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

April 1, 2015 Enrollment
April 1, 2015 Enrollment indicating changes
Schedule for Memorial Day Exercises
Letter to BAR

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:06 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Shuster, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary