

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM  
APRIL 28, 2015**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair  
Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox  
Mr. Thomas Caputo  
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary  
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

Also present: Max Davidowitz, Student Representative

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Citizens' Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns.

1.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

1.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming events in the Schools and Town. Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on upcoming budget meetings and plans for the May 12 budget presentation as well as Town Meeting.

1.6 Student Representative Report

Student Representative Max Davidowitz updated the School Committee on some upcoming events at Belmont High School. The last day of school for seniors is May 15. The BHS prom is also May 15. Max announced the upcoming Belmont Spring Fest Music Festival, which will be held on June 12.

## 1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan noted that the Belmont High School Latin students returned safely from Italy where they spent April vacation touring cities and ruins. The Rugby team also traveled that week to Portugal where everyone had a wonderful time. Superintendent Phelan congratulated the following teachers who received the Foundation for Belmont Education's first Teacher of the Year Award:

- Burbank – Katie Caritey, Grade 2
- Butler – Audrey Ruddock, Kindergarten
- Wellington – Steven Tenhor, Grade 4
- Winn Brook – Danielle Pandolfo, Grade 3
- Chenery – Ben Ligon, Grade 6 Math
- High School – Suzanne Lijek, Science (Biology)

Superintendent Phelan announced that the formal FY16 budget presentation will take place at the May 12 School Committee meeting.

## 2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## 3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

### 3.1 Professional Learning Team Report – Exhibit A

The following Chenery Middle School grade 6 science teachers provided an overview of the PLT titled Using Backwards Design to Develop, Align, and Document Curriculum.

- Lizz Gentes
- Andy MacAulay
- Lauren Glanville

The group explained how they spent the last school year aligning the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum to the Common Core standards and the Massachusetts frameworks. They explained the principles of backward design, such as: identify desired results, determine acceptable evidence, and plan learning experiences and instruction. The group shared examples of tests they have created and explained the benefits of backward design, including more opportunities for reading and writing non-fiction; clear connections between learning experiences and assessed skills; opportunities for higher order thinking; common learning experiences throughout the grade. The work that the team has engaged in has informed the work of other grades at the Chenery Middle School and sparked conversation among the science educators.

### 3.2 FY15 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update

Mr. DiCologero explained that in the first and second quarter the deficit was \$500,000. Now in the third quarter, there is a similar deficit amount of \$536,000 in the general fund. The amount is

largely due to the increased cost of out of district placements, transportation and student service mandates.

Superintendent Phelan and Ms. Slap expressed their appreciation for the efforts of all the BPS staff who worked to control costs which saved \$400,000. They explained that the deficit would have been higher if not for these efforts.

### 3.3 Plans to Address FY15 Deficit

Superintendent Phelan explained the plan to request the full amount of the stabilization fund. He stated that it takes 2/3 of the town meeting to put any money into this fund and it takes 2/3 vote to release the money. Superintendent Phelan stated the request will be made to the Warrant Committee tomorrow night and then a formal letter will be sent requesting the transfer.

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

### 4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee will meet on May 5.

### 4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee will meet on May 4 to discuss naming rights.

### 4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on June 1 to discuss a library seminar for students.

### 4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on April 30.

### 4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meeting on April 29 to finalize the subcommittee reports.

### 4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

### 4.7 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force will meet on May 11.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2015

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

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of April 14, 2015.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

April 29, 2015

Joint Meeting of the School Committee/Board of Selectmen/Warrant Committee  
CMS Large Community Room – 7:30 p.m.

May 5, 2015

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

May 12, 2015

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

May 12, 2015

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

8. **ENCLOSURES**


None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:10 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