

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
MAY 26, 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
Mr. Anthony DiCologero, Director of Business, Finance and Operations

Absent: Ms. Janice Darias, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Also present: Belmont High School Student Representatives, Sarah Stewart, Daniel Vernick, Thomas Zembowicz

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

Ms. Slap called the meeting to order at 7:04 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. She also reminded the School Committee that the FY16 budget will be voted on at Town Meeting on June 1 and June 3.

Ms. Slap stated that she, Dr. Fiore and Superintendent Phelan attended a recent Joint Labor Management Meeting last week where they had a productive conversation about challenges facing the schools.

Ms. Slap stated that the School Committee had just returned from the Community Service Award Ceremony where students received awards for the number of community service hours they performed. She thanked Ms. Alice Melnikoff, Community Service Director for her work.

Ms. Slap thanked everyone involved in the recent Memorial Day events.

1.6 Student Representative Report

The Belmont High School Student Representatives reported on the following events at Belmont High School such as the one act plays taking place next week. They also congratulated the Belmont High School Rugby Team on a great year. Seniors are looking forward to the Senior Week Cruise and barbecue. Senior Service Day is coming up and everyone is looking forward to graduation and the all night party.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked Belmont High School administrators as well as Gerry Boyle and the Facilities Department staff for the great job done renovating the high school library. He also mentioned there was a small fire in a closet at the high school over the weekend and thanked Chief Frizzell and the Belmont Fire Department as well as the Facilities Department for their work to ensure that students were able to attend school on Monday.

Superintendent Phelan spoke about the barbecue that was held for the member of the Town and Schools facilities departments. Mr. David Kale, Town Manager had suggested the idea as a way of thanking the staff for all the work they did over the difficult winter.

Superintendent Phelan thanked everyone involved in the Memorial Day events, stating that the holiday provides special moments for Belmont to recognize their veterans. He also thanked everyone involved in the Professional Learning Team Conference that took place on May 21.

Superintendent Phelan congratulated the students who received the Lillian Blacker Award at the recent ceremony at Belmont High School. He also thanked Lindsey Rinder for organizing the event.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

3. MAJOR BUSINESS

3.1 Trip Proposals:

Ms. Colleen Foley, Director of Foreign Language provided the School Committee with an overview of the planned trips to China, France and Spain for next year. The students will visit various cultural sights and be required to speak the target language throughout the trip. They will also be required to complete a project while visiting the countries. Ms. Foley explained that the company facilitating the trips will provide one full scholarship for each of the trips and the money can be split among more than one person if necessary.

Mr. John Muldoon, Assistant Principal at Belmont High School, and Dr. Jeff Shea, Social Studies Teacher at Belmont High School, provided the School Committee with information on the Global Student Leaders Summit Tour. They explained that the trip is intended for students who are members of the Student Leadership Team. Students will learn about the role of leaders and leadership in conflict resolution. The students will also be required to complete a project while traveling.

China Trip – Exhibit A-1

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Trip to China for students of Chinese and Social Studies in April 2016.

France Trip – Exhibit A-2

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Trip to France for students of French in April 2016.

Spain Trip – Exhibit A-3

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Trip to Spain for students of Spanish in April 2016.

Global Student Leaders Summit Tour Proposal – Exhibit A-4

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Student Leadership Team trip to The Hague in June 2016.

3.2 Full Day Kindergarten Tuition Update

Superintendent Phelan explained that although the state has provided a full day kindergarten grant for approximately 8 years, the Governor announced in February that the grant would be partially cut from the budget. Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero explained that, consistent with figures shared at budget presentations that Belmont residents were invited to attend, work done by the Financial Task Force and Finance Subcommittee informed the decision to increase the full day kindergarten tuition to \$3300 per year from \$2900 per year.

3.3 Rental Fees Update

Superintendent Phelan and Mr. DiCologero updated the School Committee on the history of rental fees for the Belmont Public Schools (BPS). They explained that groups like the After-Care Programs and Belmont Aquatics are regarded as partners with the BPS. Because rates have not been increased for over 5 years and programs are currently operating and below market rate, it has been

decided to increase the fees for the rental space used by these groups. The Financial Task Force and Finance Subcommittee has been studying the fee structure for some time and it was also their recommendation that fees be raised. The current plan is to phase in some of the cost increases over time. The School Committee will be required to vote on the new fee structure at their June 9 meeting.

3.4 General Student Fees Update

Superintendent Phelan explained that Dustin O'Brien, Director of Food Service for the BPS, has been instrumental in transforming the food service program in Belmont to healthier eating and partnering with local farms. He has struggled with the need for capital improvements that have not been funded over the years. The decision to increase the school lunches by 25 cents will allow all the food program revolving accounts to have a self-sustaining capital program. The School Committee will be required to vote on the increase in lunch prices at the June 9 meeting.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES (as needed)

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee has been meeting regularly to prepare for presentation of the FY16 budget.

4.2 Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee has met twice since April. They are focusing on drafting a short term naming rights committee or task force that will include members of the community as well as town officials.

4.3 Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Monday, June 1.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will meet tomorrow to review the last of the proposed articles for Town Meeting.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

4.7 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force has not met.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 Consent Agenda - none

5.2 Personnel Items - none

5.3 Business Items – None

5.4 Approval of Minutes

May 12, 2015

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

June 1, 2015

Town Meeting Prep

Chenery Middle School – Room 103 – 6:00 p.m.

June 1, 2015

Town Meeting

Chenery Middle School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

June 2, 2015

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

June 3, 2015

Town Meeting Prep

Chenery Middle School – Room 103 – 6:00 p.m.

June 3, 2015

Town Meeting

Chenery Middle School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

June 9, 2015

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

SAB Conference Room – 7:30 p.m.

June 9, 2015
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room
Retiree Reception – 6:00 p.m.
Retiree Recognition – 6:30 p.m.
Business Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

8. **ENCLOSURES**

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:48 p.m. on a motion offered by Ms. Graham and seconded by Mr. Caputo, it was

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary