

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

Present: Ms. Laurie Slap, Chair
 Ms. Susan Burgess-Cox
 Mr. Thomas Caputo
 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: Ms. Mary Pederson, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary

RECEPTION:

Ms. Pederson thanked everyone for coming to honor the 17 teachers who are receiving professional status. She also recognized the string students who entertained during the reception. Ms. Pederson invited each teacher to come up and receive a small gift and certificate of appreciation for their dedication to the students of Belmont. The teachers who received professional status were:

Jennifer	Aller	High School	T - Math
Danielle	Bayardi (Sardella)	Chenery	T - Grade 5, Math/Science
Catherine	Bresnahan	Chenery	T - Special Education
Kristen	Colavito	Wellington	T - Grade 1
Lindsey	Costa	High School	T - Science (Chemistry)
Lindi	DeLorio	Elementary	T - ELL
Caitlin	Elgert	Winn Brook	T - Grade 4
Elizabeth	Gentes	Chenery	T - Science, Grade 6
Jennifer	Hebert	High School	T - Math
Jacqueline	Kaiser	High School	T - Foreign Language (French)
Yasmin	Khan	Chenery	T - Grade 5, Math/Science
Christa	Lesiczka	Wellington	T - Grade 3
Lianne	McCann	Chenery	Speech & Language Pathologist
Meghan	McGovern	Winn Brook	T - Grade 2
Daniel	Moresco	High School	T - Math
Allison	Ruane	Chenery	T - Social Studies, Grade 6
Mina	Vahedi	Wellington	T - Kindergarten

1. **OPENING BUSINESS**

1.1 Call to order

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 announced that the Dan Scharfman Memorial Run/Walk which was held last Sunday was a great success and she thanked all of the participants, sponsors and the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) as well as other town departments for all they did to make the day a success.

1.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

1.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan announced his second newsletter would be coming out on Friday with recent updates on the Belmont Public Schools. He thanked everyone involved in putting together the reception tonight and thanked all the teachers being honored for their dedication and hard work.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the recent staff development day where teachers and staff learned more about Social Emotional Learning. He also noted he and Ms. Darias had visited some schools over the past two weeks and expressed how happy he was to see all the teachers and students so engaged in learning.

2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

3. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

3.1 Food Service Update – Exhibit A

Mr. Dustin O'Brien, Director of Food Service provided the School Committee with an update of what has been taking place in the Food Service Department at Belmont Public Schools. He stated that the Food Service Department has been trying to buy local as well as offering meatless Mondays which

have both been very successful. Mr. O'Brien also discussed the new initiative of offering food choices from other cultures. He explained the updated website that allows parents and students to receive balance alerts and menus as well as see the nutritional information for all the foods offered in the program. Mr. O'Brien discussed the new nutritional guidelines which require school lunch programs to provide more fruits and vegetables and less sugar and fat. Mr. O'Brien explained that the lunch fees have been increased to help offset the cost of improving the meals as well as providing the ability to purchase needed equipment.

3.2 Enrollment Update – Exhibit B-1 & Exhibit B-2

Superintendent provided an update on the Belmont Public Schools enrollment. He noted that from October 1, 2010 to October 1, 2015 enrollment increased from 3877 students to 4222 with a projected enrollment of 4705 by October 1, 2019. Belmont currently has two building projects planned with a potential timeline for impact of fall 2017. Taking into account the increase in enrollment combined with the potential number of new students enrolling due to the building projects, there is a projected number of 374 additional students who will be attending school in Belmont by 2019.

Superintendent Phelan explained that in addition to enrollment increases due to new students moving to Belmont, there has also been an increase in students who are non-English speaking (ELL) and students on IEPs who receive their services through out of district placements. He explained the changes made by the State to the pre-K and K language screening. These changes have reduced the number of Level 1 (59 percent English proficiency) and Level 2 (21 percent English proficiency) students in the elementary schools. Superintendent Phelan explained that the state now requires 90-135 minutes per day for Foundational level students. These are students who are at Level 1-3.5. The state now requires 45 minutes per day for Transitional Level students. These students are at Level 3.5 – 5.9. There are currently 32 students district-wide who do not speak any English at all.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the numbers of out of district students for the first two months of the school year. There are a total of 98 students who receive services out of district which is an increase of 1 from September.

Superintendent Phelan explained the current enrollment implications. At Belmont High School, there are three modular classrooms currently in use and 20 teachers sharing rooms. At the Chenery Middle School a grade 5 classroom was created which caused the displacement of a computer lab. Another computer lab was turned into a library. There is currently no space for meetings or small group instruction at the Chenery. At the Butler school, a small classroom is being used for grade 1 and no other traditional classroom space is available at this level.

Enrollment Update

Superintendent Phelan provided the School Committee with information on enrollment and class sizes across the district. In 2014-2015 the total number of students was 4222 and as of October 1, 2015 the total is 4303 with an increase of 81 students. He stated there are an additional 34 students at the elementary level this year; 38 additional students in the middle school; an additional 9 students at the high school level. He then went on to explain the breakdown for each grade. Superintendent Phelan stated he would be assembling a Space Task Force Advisory Committee to work on ways to alleviate the class size issue. He also explained that within the next year or so, he expects the district will be adding modular classrooms to some of the schools.

3.3 FY16 Budget Update – Exhibit C

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the allocation of the funds received from the override. He explained that the Belmont Public Schools created a three year plan for increasing staff to reduce class size as well as providing courses for the many students who were spending time in study halls. He explained the plan to hire additional teachers at specific grade levels and how it would impact each class. He further explained how the override funds would help to alleviate some of the increasing costs of out of district placement, SPED transportation, and contracted services. Superintendent Phelan stated he was grateful to the community for supporting the override which has allowed the district to have a three year spending plan.

3.4 Superintendent's Goals – Exhibit D

Superintendent Phelan presented a draft of his goals for the 2015-2016 school year. He explained that the Strategic Plan Goal is meant to lead the district through the strategic plan this year. It has been in place for the last year and a half and worked on by the Leadership Council. It will also allow the district to obtain a facilitator to create a feedback survey involving the staff and the community to prepare the next strategic plan which will cover three and a half years.

Goal 1: Effective Strategic Planning

The implementation of year two strategic plan and to lead the process of securing a facilitator to facilitate the district strategic planning process to ensure that by early spring, the district will have broad agreement from key stakeholder groups about the district's most critical needs, the strategies and goals that will address them most effectively, and the measures that will be used to assess progress.

Superintendent Phelan explained his Student Learning Goal will help to facilitate the achievement gap work

Goal 2: Student Learning Goal

To conduct a review of the Belmont Public Schools ability and capacity to support "all students" by commissioning an Achievement Gap Task Force charged with an analysis of our student data, a literature review of the research, and a study of best practices.

Superintendent Phelan stated he will continue his participation in the New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP) which is a three year program. The group met 8 times last year and he had 18 coaching sessions with his mentor. He explained that he was able to get good advice and guidance on how to transition to a new district.

Goal 3: (Professional Practice) New Superintendent Induction Program Year 2

Develop skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by completing the second year of the New Superintendent Induction Program and earning at least Proficient ratings on each major assignment.

3.5 Election of MASC Conference Delegate

Ms. Slap explained that each year the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) holds a joint conference with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). The School Committee is required to appoint a delegate to vote as a representative of the School Committee at the annual business meeting which will take place at the conference.

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

VOTED 5-0-1 to appoint Susan Burgess-Cox as the MASC Conference Delegate

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

4.1 Finance Subcommittee

No report.

4.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet on October 13.

4.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

No report.

4.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital Budget Committee met on Thursday for a discussion on the hockey rink proposal. They will meet again on October 15.

4.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee met on Wednesday work on the FY15 school department closeout. They also discussed pension liabilities. Ms. Slap announced that the free cash will be replenished.

4.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee will meet on October 7.

4.7 Financial Task Force

No report

4.8 Community Path Update

The Community Path Committee will meet on October 14, 21, and 28 to prepare a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

4.9 Library Long Range Planning Committee

The Library Long Range Planning Committee will meet tomorrow. They will plan an open forum for November 18.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

September 29, 2015

Ms. Slap suggested postponing the vote on the minutes until the next meeting and all School Committee members agreed.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

October 20, 2015

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

October 20, 2015 – Meeting with Boston Parents

School Committee Meeting
Shelburne Community Center
2730 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA

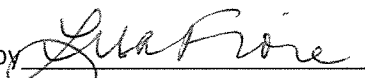
8. **ENCLOSURES**

No enclosures

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by 
Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary