

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 in attendance: Selectman Sami Baghdady and Selectman Mark Paolillo

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1.1 The School Committee entered Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting strategy with respect to collective bargaining sessions 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 explained that the School Committee had been in Executive Session and would return to Executive Session at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting.

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Slap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.3 Citizens' Concerns

2.4 Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2.5 Chair's Report

Ms. Slap welcomed everyone back after the summer. She thanked the principals and teachers for their words of welcome to their families. She noted that the School Committee and Leadership Council will be holding a joint meeting on September 24th.

Ms. Slap updated the School Committee on recent and upcoming events in the town, in particular the upcoming Dan Scharfman Memorial Run.

2.6 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative in attendance.

2.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phelan thanked the facilities staff for all the work they did over the summer to prepare the schools for the new school year. He updated the School Committee on renovations that took place in some of the schools. The field house floor at Belmont High School was replaced using private funds. Superintendent Phelan thanked to Chris Messier and John Carson for organizing the fundraising. The Boosters raised money for the painting and renovation of the work-out room at Belmont High School and the Butler Playground was renovated using CPA money. Superintendent Phelan noted that this project was led by Andy Rojas and thanked him for donating his time. He thanked the maintenance staff for the renovations to the modulars behind Belmont High School. He also thanked Chenery Principal St. George and Head Custodian Gene O'Brien for their work re-configuring the Chenery Library for use as a computer lab. This will allow the computer lab to be used as classroom.

Superintendent Phelan updated the School Committee on the enrollment issues that have been ongoing. He provided them with enrollment numbers from June 2015 and September 2013.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

4. **MAJOR BUSINESS**

4.1 Introduction of Elizabeth Baker, Director of Science, Mary Conant-Cantor, Nursing Coordinator, Sarah Forrey-Pettit, Wellington Assistant Principal, Jonathan Hartunian, Chenery Middle School Assistant Principal

Superintendent Phelan introduced Jonathan Hartunian, Chenery Middle School Assistant Principal, explaining that Jon had been a teacher at Chenery for 15 years. He then introduced Mary Conant-Cantor, Nursing Coordinator. Mary has past experience working in public schools as well as state experience. Superintendent Phelan introduced Sarah Forrey, Wellington Assistant Principal. Sarah is a former Assistant Principal in Somerville. He then introduced Elizabeth Baker, Director of Science. Elizabeth was a former director in the Boston Public Schools. Superintendent Phelan welcomed them to Belmont.

4.2 Hockey Rink Presentation – Exhibit A

Mr. Robert Mulroy provided a presentation to explain the plans for a new hockey rink/recreation center. Mr. Mulroy explained this proposal is a joint venture that will use private financing. The hope is for the formation of a new non-for-profit with representation from the School

Committee, Recreation Department, Belmont Youth Hockey Association and private funders to oversee the running of the facility.

Mr. Mulroy explained the various options available for the new rink stating the current rink is 45 years old and has a failing infrastructure. The new facility could potentially house a hockey rink as well as space for other sports such as baseball, soccer and lacrosse. There would also be interior space for art shows and other events. Mr. Mulroy stated that the goal at this time is to gain consent from the School Committee on the concept of the project. Ms. Slap suggested the School Committee not take a formal vote at this time, but each member expressed interest in continuing to discuss the project.

4.3 Superintendent's Self-Assessment – Exhibit B

Ms. Slap explained that the School Committee is mandated by the State to evaluate the Superintendent's performance each year. The first step is the self-assessment, which is done by the Superintendent. The School Committee then provides feedback at a future meeting. Superintendent Phelan then provided a brief overview of the documents he provided to the School Committee showing evidence to support the completion of his goals as well as documents supporting his self-assessment. These documents included a list of accomplishments as well as ten artifacts to his Action Steps and Bench Marks. Ms. Slap asked the School Committee to provide feedback using the templates that Superintendent Phelan provided.

4.4 Strategic Plan – Exhibit C . SEL Presentation

Ms. Darias provided an overview of the work done on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). She explained that this work is a result of the Student Life Modeling Group Report.

Ms. Darias explained that the definition of Social and Emotional Learning comes from the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, www.CASEL.org. Their definition is:

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Ms. Darias explained the Five Core Competencies:

1. Self-awareness: recognizing one's emotions, values, strengths, and limitations
2. Self-management: managing emotions and behaviors to achieve one's goals
3. Social awareness: showing understanding and empathy for others
4. Relationship skills: forming positive relationships, working in teams, dealing effectively with conflict
5. Responsible decision-making: making ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior

Ms. Darias explained that SEL competencies are necessary to function successfully in school and life. SEL is a framework encompassing multiple layers such as classroom practice, school-wide practices and structures, direct instruction, infusion and content, events and family engagements.

Ms. Darias stated that Rachel Poliner of Leaders and Learners Consulting provided training for Belmont staff. She will be attending the joint meeting of the Leadership Council and School Committee on September 24th. The Belmont faculty will be taking part in SEL professional development on September 30th.

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

5.1 Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Caputo stated the Finance Subcommittee had met this morning. They discussed the FY16 budget including the Special Education budget. He thanked Mr. DiCologero for his help with this work.

5.2 Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee met over the summer to work on the issue of naming rights and advertising. They have created a document which will be presented to School Committee at a future meeting for a broader discussion. Ms. Graham explained that the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee plans to form a committee made up of town administrators and other committee members. This committee will work on the issue of naming rights.

5.3 Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee

The Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee has not met.

5.4 Capital Budget Committee

The Capital budget Committee met today.

5.5 Warrant Committee

The Warrant Committee will hold their first meeting on September 30.

5.6 Wellington Building Committee

The Wellington Building Committee has not met.

5.7 Financial Task Force

The Financial Task Force has not met.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Consent Agenda - none

6.2 Personnel Items - none

6.3 Business Items – None

6.4 Approval of Minutes

June 22, 2015

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of June 22, 2015 and July 7, 2015 as amended.

7. **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Upcoming Meetings:

September 24, 2015
School Committee/Leadership Council Joint Meeting
Wellington Community Room – 2:00 p.m.

September 29, 2015
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
SAB Conference Room – 7:30 a.m.

September 29, 2015
School Committee Meeting
CMS Large Community Room – 7:00 p.m.

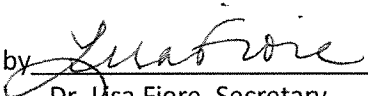
8. **ENCLOSURES**

2015-2016 Calendar
September 3, 2015 Enrollment
June 1, 2015 Enrollment
2015-2016 PLT Brochure

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Slap announced that the School Committee would be returning to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by


Dr. Lisa Fiore, Secretary